

# Chicopee Register

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COMMUNITY



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Mayor John Vieau, Systems Analyst Dawn Fortin and Senior Systems Analyst Tammy Shafer from the city's Information Technology Department pose for a group photo with the mayor's proclamation during the Breast Cancer Awareness Month Flag Raising on Oct. 11.

## Chicopee raises pink ribbon flag for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
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CHICOPEE - Residents, community members, local and state elected officials and more gathered outside city hall on Oct. 11 to raise the pink ribbon flag for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month, commemorated in October, is a time dedicated to educating the public about breast cancer and promoting screenings and prevention.

Mayor John Vieau said, "It's really not just about wearing pink, it's about education, it's

about support and it's about hope for those who are affected by this devastating disease."

"Survivorship is increasing and that's something I think we need to note because of the fact that there's so much awareness and there's so much generosity from communities like Chicopee, Western Mass, the Commonwealth, for those who donate in an attempt to help not just to raise awareness, but to find a cure," Vieau said.

State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee) shared how 360,000 individuals will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year alone and it "is becoming more and more prevalent, more

common."

"While advancements in medicine are ongoing, prevention--right?--early detection is key for survivability. A lot of us here either know someone, personally been impacted, by this disaster of a cancer that is so aggressive that it changes everyone's lives," Arriaga said.

State Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield) reminded attendees that breast cancer can also affect men, reflecting on a good friend he lost to breast cancer.

"Outside of our women's community, I encourage our

See **BREAST CANCER**  
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COMMUNITY

## Chicopee High Pacers support Rays of Hope



TURLEY PHOTO BY AMANDA MUNSON

The Chicopee High School Pacers Varsity Volleyball team showcased their support to Midje Theulen and breast cancer awareness by wearing pink t-shirts while also raising money in the fight against breast cancer.

By Amanda Munson  
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - At Chicopee High, the Pacers girls Varsity Volleyball team presented a check with Monica Nevez to Midje Theulen, a 26-year breast cancer survivor, to support Rays of Hope and help fundraise the fight against breast cancer on Oct. 8.

The funds were raised during the Cancer PINK game against Chicopee Comp that took place last month.

Meeting before the game, Dawn Shirely, mom of Hannah Shirely, who is a senior on the varsity volleyball team, spoke highly of Nevez and how the volleyball team was doing this season.

"The team has been doing very well now and picking up steam. They seem to be coming

together. I met Monica at the high school, she's been doing boosters for awhile now, her sons are on football and her daughter is on the volleyball team. Monica put herself out there, it's not just about her own kids, she goes above and beyond for all the kids. She's a great booster leader," Shirely said.

When talking about breast cancer awareness, Shirely said this.

"Everybody knows someone, I have people in my family and I don't think there is anyone who hasn't been affected by cancer. Breast cancer or any cancer, it's a shame. Our leader Monica Nevez will be presenting the check to Midje today," said Shirely.

The presentation happened

See **PACERS** page 6

COMMUNITY

## Aloha from the Polynesian Show at RiverMills

By Kristin Rivers  
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CHICOPEE - The community gathered at the senior center on Oct. 10 for the Mokihana-Hawaii Calls Polynesian Show, bringing back fond memories of the Hu Ke Lau to its attendees.

The event featured a traditional Polynesian show with dancers, music performed by Joe Pereira and Atoa Ripley that transported attendees to the cultures of Hawaii, Polynesia, Samoa, Tahiti and more, fire dancers on the patio outside and a 50/50 raffle.

The dinner was catered by Kiyomi.

Mayor John Vieau, who attended the event and was later brought out as The Big Kahuna during one of the dances, shared, "Welcome back to the Hu Ke Lau!" in opening remarks.

"There's nothing better than revisiting our past, especially

on a night like tonight here, and having an opportunity to--what I call--step back in time and go back to the Polynesian show and have it right here with some of the original cast members," Vieau said. "So, I want to thank Atoa and his family for doing this and creating a special memory for all of you."

Atoa Ripley shared he, Lou Arasate and Vieau got together three months earlier to plan the event, thrilled with the turnout and, also, thankful to them and the senior center for their support.

"We were happy about that. It reminds us of the Hu Ke Lau back in the day. It's nice that the people here remember the Hu Ke Lau," Ripley said. "Him (Vieau) and Lou were the ones that were responsible for all this and wanted to bring back the Hu Ke Lau."

Ripley hopes the shows can be brought back, sharing he misses the people since the Hu Ke Lau's closure in 2018.

"The people were so nice



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Soso Tautalatasi performs a fire dance during the Polynesian Show at the RiverMills Senior Center on Oct. 10.

here in Chicopee, in Springfield, the Western Massachusetts area. That's what I miss most: the people," Ripley said.

Michael Wilk, the president of the Friends of RiverMills Cen-

ter, was ecstatic about the show, sharing it brought back memories for many people, including himself as he had worked at the Hu Ke Lau when he was 14 years old washing dishes and

later, a busboy and doing lights for the shows.

"It was great. It was great. It touched something in everybody, which is our goal. We want people--when we put these events on--we want people to come and we want people to be touched, we want people to have memories, we want them to leave happy," Wilk said. "And based on everything I saw; everyone had a great time."

Reflecting on the Hu Ke Lau, Wilk misses the family the most, especially the Yee family.

"They were close friends with my parents and I grew up with them. Johnny Yee, who's a legend in Chicopee, Andy Yee, who's a legend in Chicopee. I still see Edison," Wilk said. "They're an amazing family and that's what I remember the most. How much they did for the city and brought people together and the events and just the bonding.

See **POLYNESIAN SHOW** page 6

# City Council approves binding commitment for 22 Grove Ave. TIE agreement

By Kristin Rivers  
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CHICOPEE - City Council approved--with the approval of Mayor John Vieau--to enter a binding commitment for a tax increment exemption agreement for 22 Grove Ave. on Oct. 16.

The property is the red house behind Falls Pizza.

The TIE is with RT Commercial LLC and through the Housing Development Incentive program, which provides Gateway Cities with tools to develop market-rate housing while increasing residential growth, expanding diversity of housing stock, supporting economic development and promoting neighborhood stabilization in designated areas.

The program provides two tax incentives for developers to undertake new construction or substantial rehabilitation of properties for lease or sale as multi-use market-rate residential housing.

Vieau explained HDIP requires a local-option real estate tax exemption "on all or part of the increased property value resulting from the improvement" of the increment "if the developer is to receive state tax credit for qualified project expenditures which are called QPES."

"Whereas, the City Council has supported the productive reuse of the property located at 22 Grove St. to create four units of market-rate housing within the approved HDIP zone," Vieau said. "Whereas, RT Commercial LLC is investing over \$700,000 in the property renovations of an 1890 Queen Anne-style house. Now, therefore be it ordered, the City Council, the City of Chicopee--with the approval of the mayor--hereby makes a binding com-



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

The property at 22 Grove Ave. was discussed as part of a tax increment exemption agreement during the Oct. 15 City Council meeting.

mitment to enter into a tax increment exemption agreement with RT Commercial LLC."

Vieau added that subject to the terms and conditions of the agreement, the TIE to be applied to the project premises follows stated percentages that will be utilized "in calculating the real property tax due with respect to the premises for such respective fiscal year."

"And you'll see the increments go for the first year of 90% of the increase over the current assessed and taxed amount to where in the tenth year it would be at 50%," Vieau said. "It allows for the opportunity for them to develop the property, to speak on behalf of this TIE and this HDIP program."

City Assessor Laura McCarthy said the property's base value and the current

assessed value is \$350,000.

"That was, also, the purchase price of the property one year ago. Any value that's added after that is the increase that we would be taxing and that would be applied on this order," McCarthy said. "But, the project is a mix of four residential units and commercial space on the first floor."

McCarthy added the increment "would only apply to the increased value" due to the "resident units on the property."

"As it's outlined, it's 90% is exempt for five years and then it's on a scale of 80 down to 50% exempt for the remainder five years," McCarthy said.

After Vice President/Councilor-at-Large Robert Zygarowski clarified the actual address is 22 Grove Ave.--after Vieau and McCarthy had stated Grove Street--Ward 8 Councilor Gary Labrie

asked this.

"The bottom line is we're still going to get our tax on a 350?" Labrie said.

Vieau and McCarthy replied, "Correct."

Ward 4 Councilor George Balakier said it's "an opportunity for new development in the city" and noted how Falls Pizza is right next door.

"So, this is going to enhance the neighborhood and the city and, hopefully, this is going to spur other people to do likewise projects so that we can get more going in the city of Chicopee," Balakier said.

Zygarowski shared he serves on the TIF Committee for approving an item like this and he knows the property.

"It's going to be a positive thing for our city and I wholeheartedly hope the council approves all the items on it," Zygarowski said.

After Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello wondered if other projects "would be considered for this creative incentive," McCarthy confirmed yes, with Vieau adding they are taken on a case-by-case basis and are reviewed.

"And this particular case, the applicant had requested that we consider," Vieau said.

Costello was satisfied with the answer.

"What I'm hoping for is that this isn't the only project and that we can do it in the future as well to be as creative and it looks like it's going to be successful," Costello said. "And that's why I like to see more."

The motion to enter a binding commitment for the TIE agreement with RT Commercial LLC for 22 Grove Ave. passed 13-0.

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# School Committee meets facilitation leads for strategic planning

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
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CHICOPEE - School Committee met the facilitation leads from the Collaborative Educational Services that will be assisting the district on strategic planning on Oct. 16.

Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware shared how the district has teamed up with CES to help begin strategic plan work, part of the results from his entry plan actions presented last year.

The facilitation leads are Dr. Becky Mazur and Dr. Safire DeJong.

"I have invited Dr. DeJong and Dr. Mazur this week--this evening--to actually speak about some of the preliminary work we've been doing in our meetings as well as what are some of the next steps," Ware said.

After Mazur shared the theme is "Everyone's Invited" and introduced herself and DeJong, she provided an overview of the strategic planning process with four steps: assemble an inclusive design team, engage the Chicopee Public Schools community, draft a strategic plan and invite ownership.

"One of the first things we'll be starting to do is assemble an inclusive design

team. These are the people who will really be the main thinkers and drafters. The main users of the data that already exist in the district and from Dr. Ware's entry plan," Mazur said. "We'll use that data to create the vision and the plan that comes forward and we're thinking this may be a larger team in this case. Maybe even in the neighborhood of 30 people or more, though we may need some subgroups to work on some things and have slightly different roles. And that's something that we're hoping that some members of the School Committee will be a part of."

Engagement with the community will focus on listening to people about their hopes, challenges and experiences, with Mazur explaining they will range from a brief survey to listening sessions in the community and schools.

For drafting the strategic plan, the focus is on existing and collected data to conduct root causes and ripple effects mapping and look at engagement, which the design team will do. The design team will create the plan while CES offers its support.

Hosting ownership, meanwhile, will be hosting sessions and inviting people "to see where they can see themselves in the plan that emerges."

"And how every person who inter-

acts with it can kind of contribute to that plan for the future of the district," Mazur said.

Mazur said the planning "will draw heavily" from DESE's planning for success model "about how they think a lot of districts will be best served in going about a strategic planning process."

"We're using quite a bit from that but, we are also, flexing it and customizing it to Chicopee's needs for a number of reasons," Mazur said. "Part of that is that we're including district-level visioning in this work. There's currently not really a broad--broadly accepted--whole district and a portrait of a graduate or things like that. Not saying we'll exactly make a portrait of a graduate. A lot of those decisions will be up to the design team in conjunction with our support. But, we need to do some visioning to guide the plan that emerges."

For the timeline, Mazur explained assembling the design team is about to begin this fall along with "thinking about how we start to dip our toes into the listening part and the data collection."

"Into the winter, we will continue doing that data collection and the design team will start to conduct the analysis of that data. Again, with our support..." Mazur said. "So that by the spring, we

can present the plan to you all and to the community..."

Ward 1 School Committee Representative Deanna Rousseau appreciated the overview and expressed excitement at partnering with Mazur and DeJong.

"So, I just wanted to understand the design team itself. Is that both of you or is that broader, including members of our community?" Rousseau said.

Mazur replied the design team is supported by them, but "it's much broader than us."

"We are hoping that it includes members of the community, including the school community, including teachers, the students, parents, people from local government and municipal offices," Mazur said. "So, it's really, hopefully, a broadly inclusive group."

On Rousseau's next question around whether CES has worked with other communities or similar school districts and similar strategic plan processes--as the strategic plan will be tailored to Chicopee--Mazur said yes.

"CES works with a lot of school districts in strategic planning capacity really across the state. Small districts, larger districts, but we are bringing a customized process," Mazur said.

## Chicopee Public Library announces upcoming programming

CHICOPEE - Here are some of our upcoming library programs.

**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 in *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 presenta-

tion 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](mailto: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. 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](mailto:cpl@chicopeepubliclibrary.org) and 594-1800 x3.

## 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 October 2024.

Storytime will be held in the children's program room on Wednesdays, Oct. 30 at 10:30 a.m. Storytime 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.

On Tuesdays, Oct. 22 at 10:30 a.m. in the community room, the library will have a Little Kid Dance Party geared for kids 5 and under and their caregivers. Older kids are welcome, as well. There will be songs, dancing and big movement!

Chess Club with Andy Morris-Friedman will be on Thursdays at 4 p.m., Oct. 24 and 31. Learn chess skills and practice your moves. For big kids and teens. Children 10 and under need to attend with an adult. Space is limited,

contact the Children's Room to sign up.

The library will host a Meet-up for Homeschooling Families on Thursday, Oct. 24 at 11 a.m. Homeschooling families can meet each other and hang out. Chicopee's point person for AHM (Advocates for Home Education in MA) will be there. Library staff will provide a craft.

Read to a Dog on Wednesday, Oct. 30 at 4 p.m. Meet Lina, a two-year-old chocolate lab trained as a pediatric therapy dog. She will be here to listen to kids practice reading. Therapy dogs are good listeners with calm energy and can help kids who struggle with reading aloud. For ages 5 and up. Space is limited, contact the Children's Room to Sign up.

The library will also offer some programs for teens this October. All teen programs are for middle and high school students.

The library's Anime Club will have its first meeting of the season on Tuesday, Oct. 22, 3 to 4:30 p.m. Participants will enjoy some fun crafts with fellow anime fans and help plan events and activities for future meetings.

For more information about the library and all of the upcoming events, visit [www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org](http://www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org)

## St. Stanislaus Basilica to host Annual Parish Bazaar on October 19


CHICOPEE - St. Stanislaus Basilica will host their annual Parish Bazaar on Saturday, October 19, from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at St. Stanislaus School, 534 Front Street, Chicopee.

The Bazaar will feature a Polish-American kitchen serving a Polish plate with pierogi, golombki, kielbasa, and kapusta. They will also have hamburgers, hot dogs, and kielbasa grinders fresh from the grill along with home baked pastries.

Various activities including games of chance, basket raffles, items from Poland, religious items, holiday decorations, and children's games will be avail-

able. Heritage "Pops" Polka Band and a DJ will provide entertainment for adults with Polish and American music; "Magic AI" and a balloon-making clown will entertain children. Also, We will have representatives from Wreaths Across America accepting donations to decorate veterans' graves in December and a van from the PNCU collecting non-perishable food for our local soup kitchen. Everyone is invited for good food and fun times with free admission and free parking.

For more information, contact the Parish Office at (413) 594-6669 or email at [contact@ststansbasilica.org](mailto:contact@ststansbasilica.org).



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GUEST COLUMN



**Canada geese in flight**

The beginning of this week I heard Canada geese honking as they flew over my house. Often they land in nearby beaver ponds.

The Canada goose is 25 to 45 inches long and is the most widespread and commonly seen goose. It has a black head and neck with a white chinstrap. The body is brownish gray except for a whitish rump.

They vary widely in size, with the smallest forms living farthest north. These geese feed on the ground and in the water. They eat submerged vegetation, grasses, winter wheat, clovers and other grain especially corn.

Canada geese nest at edges of ponds, lakes or swamps on rocks or grass hummocks out in the water. The female lays four to seven white eggs in a nest made of sticks, moss and grasses.

Some Canada geese that used to migrate now overwinter because food is provided for them by people at local ponds. This creates problems in many parks, golf courses and public lands where the geese fowl lawns, overgraze and become aggressive during breeding season. The male gives "ahonk" and the female has a higher "hink" call.

**Northern harrier**

I received an email on Oct. 5 from a Warren resident, who said, "My husband and I saw a hawk kill a squirrel in our yard last week. It was large and impressive. We had no idea what it was and no Google searches of hawks in Massachusetts mentioned the northern harrier. But now, after looking at many pictures, we believe that's what it was. Very exciting to identify another bird." She lives near the pond where a Brimfield resident saw a northern harrier. She said New Reed Street is now called Brook Road.

She plans to visit the pond in hopes of seeing the kingfisher the Brimfield resident mentioned

**Brimfield resident**

The Brimfield resident reported seeing a dark eyed junco on Oct. 1 in his yard. He related a story of a trip to Alaska. "In 2003 my wife and I signed up for a Alaska tour with the American Birding Association. Since we were going to Alaska and might never get back we did a mini pre-tour visit to Nome on our own. The flight to Nome was via Kotzebue and about a third of the passengers were trying to return to Kotzebue. They had been trying to get there for three days, but the planes couldn't land because a river near town was creating ground fog and the planes had to abort their landings. Our flight began its decent and the pilot announced the situation and he would try to land. Suddenly the pilot applied full power and began to climb, no landing at Kotzebue that day. My wife and I heard a nearby native woman say 'we are going to have to kill a raven to get home.' We flew on to Nome, not sure when or if the folks ever go back to Kotzebue."

After returning from his Alaska trip, he did some research about birding in and around Nome. One thing I came upon was a report of a Christmas Count for Nome. I don't recall the year of the report but the folks braved harsh condition and their total for the day was two ravens.

**Other birds**

The Brimfield resident reported great egrets, great blue herons and Eastern blue-

GUEST COLUMN



**Seeds among the weeds**

If there is a consolation from having a garden gone wild, there was one today.

You see, I went out for a walk to assess the garden and decided it was time to clean up my overgrown perennial beds. Lo and behold, there were seed pods galore, just waiting for taking!

I gathered up a bunch of envelopes and got busy. There were some really interesting native plants that had dry but intact seed heads, including Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), Blue Cardinal's Flower (*Lobelia siphilitica*), and Native Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*).

I also had classic cottage garden specimens, including beautiful but poisonous Wild Foxglove (*Digitalis pupurea*), Rusty Foxglove (*Digitalis ferruginea*) and then the oh so fragrant Clove Pink (*Digitalis caryophyllus*). A walk in the backyard yielded seed for the biennial Honesty, better known as Money Plant (*Lunaria* annual.)

Saving the seeds of this species is way more fun than just tapping a "pepper shaker" like I did with the others. *Lunaria* references the moon. Once you rub off the outer part of the seed head you are left with a silvery-white papery orb.

Some call it Money Plant because the orbs resemble silver coins. As I clipped branches and began rubbing off the sides between my fingers, they fell to the ground, each containing two-four seeds.

It was so much fun to gather all of these different seeds, and economical too, when you think about the cost of seed packs. You can extend seed saving beyond perennial or biennial flowers.

In fact, I got my start way back in the 1970s, learning the tricks of the trade from my mom, when we grew annual flowers together each summer.

Sure, I loved all the flowers that we exhibited in local fairs and cut for arrangements throughout the house, but what I'm thinking about right now are the seeds saved from all of the flowers that had gone by. Every May we would take the shoe box out of the "cellar way" and open up plastic film vials that she re-purposed as seed storage containers.

Cleome, marigold, zinnia, bachelor button, calendula, balsam were stored there – the names of the flowers in our garden keep coming back to me! She would write these names on a little piece of paper and use scotch tape to mark each vial.

How I wish I could go back there for a minute as we began our garden planning. Maybe next weekend I'll venture out to my patch of flowering annuals and see if any seed heads have browned and dried, and save a few of these seeds too, just for old time's sake.

Of course, you have to be certain that the plants you save the seeds from are open-pollinated and not F1 hybrids. Saving seeds of hybrids could give you something with the trait of each parent but not exactly what you originally grew.

You may also get a cross from an open pollinated and another open pollinated of the same type of flower. For example, one year I grew two different, large flowered zinnias side by side. "Grandmother's Garden" and "Berry Basket" come to mind as the name of the varieties.

They were beautiful and I saved the seeds from them. Well, let's just say I call them "Large Flowered Zinnia" going forward, because who knows what they are anymore.

If you are interested in saving seeds of heirlooms for the purpose of continuing and preserving a specific variety, do your homework first and learn how you might isolate your plants from one another. I think it is a bit easier to manage growing flowers that result in seeds that are true to type by planting one named variety of each flower type each year.

Most seeds are viable for a couple years, so technically you could swap them out by growing one set one year and another set of favorites a year later. I encourage you to try seed saving; it's one positive outcome of an unmanicured garden, that's for certain.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. 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.*



birds at the Warren Ponds. He also saw two common ravens, nine mallards, 10 rock doves, six yellow-rumped warblers and a northern flicker.

He had white-throated sparrows show up in his yard; they are the most common migrating sparrow he sees there. The other day a male Eastern Towhee and four white-throated sparrows taking baths

together. He saw 52 Canada geese and 2 wood duck at Wheeler. There were also lots of

turtles taking advantage of a warm sunny day. While sitting in his yard for about an hour he saw a male common yellowthroat, a black-throated blue warbler, two blackpoll warblers and a catbird.

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

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# Cancer Screening Success Story: Chicopee Fire Captain back on job

*Free Screening Through Fire Academy Credited in Early Detection of Kidney Cancer*

CHICOPEE - Capt. Zachary Vozella of the Chicopee Fire Department wasn't experiencing any symptoms when he signed up for a free ultrasound through the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, but he knew that firefighters are at higher risk of developing occupational cancer.

"I think I read about it in an email and it seemed like a good idea," Capt. Vozella said of signing up for the screening. "I met the criteria. I'm 43, I've been on the job for 12 years, and I knew the screenings were available through the Academy. So I figured, why not?"

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy delivers a robust cancer awareness, prevention and early detection program on behalf of the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services. Ultrasounds and mammograms

were added to the screening options just last year, joining skin cancer screenings, PSA blood tests, and chest CT scans - all of which are available at no cost to eligible career, call, volunteer, and retired firefighters.

"Occupational cancer is the leading cause of death in the fire service," said State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine. "Firefighters are more likely to develop cancer, to develop it at younger ages, and to receive a late diagnosis. Our cancer screening program reflects a statewide commitment to support our firefighters' health and safety, and I encourage every firefighter in every Massachusetts fire department to take advantage of it."

Captain Vozella contacted the MFA, filled out a questionnaire, and got a phone number for Mercy Medical Center in Springfield, where he set up an appointment.

"It was very easy," he said of the process. "Mercy did my intake over the phone and set up the appointment, and I showed



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Capt. Zachary Vozella of the Chicopee Fire Department was diagnosed with kidney cancer after a free ultrasound screening through the Department of Fire Services. He returned to the job last week after successful surgery this summer. (Courtesy Zachary Vozella)**

up and did it. It was totally painless."

Captain Vozella got the results the same day through Mercy's patient portal - and got the wind knocked out of him.

"They said that the ultra-

sound showed something concerning, a neoplasm, and that I should get it checked out," he said. "I was scared. I was nervous. It was nerve-wracking. I got an appointment at my doctor's office the next day."

A week later, he had a CT scan and followed up with a visit to a specialist.

"He told me it was cancer based on the imaging and behavior of the growth," Captain Vozella said. "He told me I was really lucky I had the screening when I did. I had no symptoms, and I probably wouldn't have had symptoms until it grew and spread and started causing problems. It could have ended up killing me."

Captain Vozella had surgery to remove his left kidney on July 30, about four weeks after his initial visit. The pathology report after the surgery revealed the cancer was stage 1B chromophobe renal cell carcinoma.

"They got me in pretty quickly," he said, adding that he was grateful throughout the or-

deal for the support he got from his family at home and at the Chicopee Fire Department.

After returning to work on Sept. 27, Captain Vozella is urging his brother and sister firefighters to recognize the risk of occupational cancer, discuss those risks with their doctors, and most importantly put their health front and center.

"I found from talking to the doctors that a lot of them are unaware of the dangers we face, as far as cancer goes," he said. "So many people I've talked to have asked why I even got checked. They have no idea what we're exposed to, and they're not going to know unless you talk about it. So it's really important to be an advocate for your health. You have to take the initiative."

"We're thrilled and relieved that Zach is recovering," said Chicopee Fire Chief Daniel Stamborski. "We've lost too many of our brother and sister firefighters to cancer, and we

See **FIRE CAPTAIN** page 8

**BREAST CANCER** from page 1

men's community to really go out and get tested as well. To not feel that you guys are in the dark as well, because the stigma of this can't happen to us either," Gomez said.

State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) shared how he lost his grandmother to breast cancer 36 years ago, reflecting on how when Vieau asked how many people were impacted by breast cancer--whether personally or knew a loved one or friend who was--nearly every hand in the audience gathered went up.

"36 years later, to see the work in each and every one of our communities, to raise dollars for research, to raise dollars and awareness so people get screened in an earlier process, I just can't help but think if she was diagnosed with that today, her survival rate probably would have been much higher because of the work of organizations like Rays of Hope and for organizations that continuously encourage screening for breast cancer in both women and men," Oliveira said.

The mayor's proclamation was presented to Systems Analyst Dawn Fortin and Senior Systems Analyst Tammy Shafer from the city's Information Technology Department, with Fortin and Shafer cranking the lever to raise the pink ribbon flag.

After attendees enjoyed refreshments on the third floor of city hall and a Tea Cup Raffle hosted by the IT Department, Fortin and Shafer shared they both participate in the Rays of Hope Walk and the event after the flag raising was a Dress Down Day to raise money for Rays of Hope.

Fortin was diagnosed with breast cancer this year and is a survivor.

"It's helped us raise a lot of money. I think we're coming up on almost \$1,000 raised," Fortin said.

Shafer was moved by the community support, later sharing her spouse was diagnosed in 2002.

"I just think it shows



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

**State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee) reflects on supporting breast cancer awareness and research.**

how many people are truly touched by breast cancer. Either they've received a diagnosis themselves or they know somebody who has been diagnosed. Everybody has been touched by it in some way and, so, awareness is very important to everyone," Shafer said.

Shafer encouraged the community to get tested and have regular screenings and mammograms, sharing this message with survivors.



**State Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield) shares how men can, also, be affected by breast cancer, having lost a friend to the disease.**

"Rays of Hope is there. There's many services they offer to survivors and get out there and walk and raise money," Shafer said.

Fortin stressed never forgetting those lost to breast cancer.

"The good thing is we're making a lot of strides so that there are less and less of us that are passing away every year. So, that is a very good thing, but there are so many women--and men--that have come before us



**The pink ribbon flag in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month blows in the breeze outside Chicopee City Hall on Oct. 11.**

that didn't have the technological advances that we have to help us in our walk as warriors, so, they are the backbone that all of our research should be started upon. When we think about why we're doing it, it's those people that went before us that should be our driving force, not just those of us that are surviving with it, but the people who didn't have what we have, the technology that we have," Fortin said. "So, we need to make sure that for the next group, we take those steps forward with the technology and

with all the research and stuff to try and make it so they don't even have to deal with what those of us that have already been diagnosed have to deal with."

This year's Rays of Hope Walk and Run takes place on Oct. 27 at the Temple Beth El in Springfield from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

To donate to Fortin's page, visit [bayhf.convio.net/goto/Um-WhoMe1972](http://bayhf.convio.net/goto/Um-WhoMe1972).

To learn more about this year's walk, visit <https://www.baystatehealth.org/events/rays-of-hope>.

**New Anglican Church in Belchertown**



**St. Barnabas Anglican Church**

Saturday, 4:00

18 Park Street (on the Common)

Rev. Thomas T. Stockton • Rt. Rev. Brian R. Marsh

[stbarnabasbelchertown.org](http://stbarnabasbelchertown.org)

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# FunnyRaising Comedy Show to Benefit Harmony House

CHICOPEE - Harmony House of Western Massachusetts, a home for the terminally ill located in Chicopee, will be the beneficiary of a "FunnyRaising Comedy Show," presented by Jess Miller Comedy Shows. The event is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 9, and will be held at the Moose Club Family Center located at 244 Fuller Road. Doors will open 6:30 pm with the show beginning at 8:00 pm. Tickets are \$25 per person and can only

be obtained at [www.funnyraising.com](http://www.funnyraising.com). This show is rated R for adult content and language and people must be aged 21 or older to attend.

It will be a great evening of fun while supporting the mission of Harmony House. The FunnyRaising Comedy Shows are "Built on Laughter and Sustained by Kindness." The headlining comics in this show will be Jess Miller, who has performed at Caroline's on Broadway,

Peaches Rodriguez who has performed at the Apollo Theatre in New York City, and Linda Belt, who has performed on Royal Caribbean Cruises. Get ready to laugh!

There will be a raffle with great prizes along with a 50/50 raffle. All proceeds go directly to Harmony House of Western Massachusetts. A cash bar will be available, and patrons can bring their own dinner and snacks. Tables of 8 are available to reserve with pre-payment.

Harmony House is a local organization whose mission is to provide a loving home providing compassionate care for the terminally ill. Harmony House is primarily staffed by trained volunteers including licensed nurses, caregivers, companions, and others.

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).



TURLEY PHOTO BY AMANDA MUNSON

The team, coaches, present and past faculty members and Midje Theulen were happy to catch up and support the Chicopee High Pacers in their volleyball game on Oct. 8, where Theulen was presented with a check to support Rays of Hope.

## PACERS from page 1

right before the varsity game, catching everyone's attention and allowing Theulen to say a few words about her journey and her breast cancer experience, signifying the clinical trial that saved her life and where she is now.

Theulen previously served as the PE & Health Department supervisor at Chicopee High.

"I was diagnosed in April of 1998. Doctors told me not to worry, that it was microscopic and it wouldn't be in my lymph nodes. It came back in six of 19 lymph nodes and automatically put me at stage two breast cancer. Luckily I got in at the D'Amour Center for Cancer Care, with Grace Mecarri Judson, who got me into a clinical trial. It was an extra aggressive chemo treatment, 24-hour drip every other week for 19 weeks, but I had a 5-year-old and a 7-year-old at home. I didn't want to die," Theulen said. "Even though it made me really sick. I was testing a drug called taxol, which is now the standard chemo treatment for breast cancer patients. There is an increase in 35% survival rate using taxol, as opposed to what was used before. I had six weeks of radiation and in 2001, they found a spot in the same breast, so I got them both off and had reconstruction done at the same time. That is what I did and here I am."

Theulen shared where she is today.

"I am clear and good. I had estrogen receptive breast cancer, which is very aggressive, but the doctors say once you

make it past five years, you are usually good. I wanted to make sure that once I got through it, I would do a lot of fundraisers and programs in breast cancer research," Theulen said. "My very last appointment with my oncologist--it was a week after my last chemo treatment--there was a pamphlet for the Rays of Hope Walk. I told my oncologist that I wanted to do it and I did it. It took me two hours to walk, along with friends who helped me walk to the finish. I've been helping with the Rays of Hope ever since (and) I was the chair in 2016 and 2017."

When asked about the significance of being invited back to Chicopee High, Theulen remarked on the warmth and support of the community.

"It makes my heart proud and brings tears to my eyes. Because when I was here working at the school, I would do all the fundraising with the clubs and teams. It's great to see that fundraising is still going on. Darlene, who was my past coworker, is selling the Rays of Hope bracelets for me at the school," Theulen said.

Theulen is now an advocate and support person to newly diagnosed breast cancer patients, giving them a person the perspective of someone who's been through it before.

The Rays of Hope Walk and Run toward the cure of breast cancer is happening on Oct. 27, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., starting at 979 Dickinson St. in Springfield at Temple Beth El.

To learn more, visit [baystatehealth.org/events/rays-of-hope](http://baystatehealth.org/events/rays-of-hope).

# Saturday Playgroup with Learn in Motion

CHICOPEE - Learn in Motion provides exciting games and movement activities. Kids two to eight and their caregivers are invited to get active, be social, practice teamwork and have fun!

Saturdays at 1 p.m. Oct. 5 - Nov. 9 in

the Chicopee Public Library Community Room. All are welcome!

This program is supported by Headstart's Fatherhood Initiative, so dads, grandfathers and male caregivers are encouraged to come!



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Joe Pereira plays music as Mokihana Ripley and Lisa Thorpe perform a traditional dance during the Polynesian Show. Thorpe, was trained and taught by Ripley and danced with the Hu Ke Lau since 1996.

## POLYNESIAN SHOW from page 1

Great family, great family."

Wilk also credited the senior center and their staff for supporting events like this for the community, adding the Friends are always looking for new members to join and more businesses to sponsor events.

"Sherry and her staff do such an amazing job. They are so fantastic for the seniors in this city and I can't praise them enough for all that they do," Wilk said.

Mokihana Ripley was glad to do the show and that it was held in Chicopee.

"It was so nice seeing some familiar faces we saw; it was so nice seeing Mayor Vieau again and Mike Wilk. We felt like we were back in our childhood again," Ripley said.

She also enjoyed doing the dances. "I just love the smile on the people's faces. Even their eyes, even their eyes were smiling. I love the response to the dances and the music. I just love the reaction that I saw," Ripley said. "I'm sure they brought back memories for a lot of them over the years, spending all those years at the Hu Ke Lau at the Polynesian show."

On the Hu Ke Lau, Ripley misses the food, performances, the staff, owners, customers and family unit.

"It always felt like you weren't in a restaurant. It always felt like a huge liv-



The Hawaiian Wedding Song Dance was performed by Mokihana Ripley.



Mayor John Vieau as The Big Kahuna during the Polynesian Show at the River-Mills Senior Center.

ing room where everybody comes and gathers together, celebrating all kinds of celebrations over the years. That's what I love about the Hu Ke Lau. It really felt like family. We were one big family," Ripley said.

Ripley's message to the community--along with gratitude for their support--was this.

"I just want them to keep up their island spirit," Ripley said.



Atoa Ripley and Joe Pereira perform a traditional song.

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# Sports

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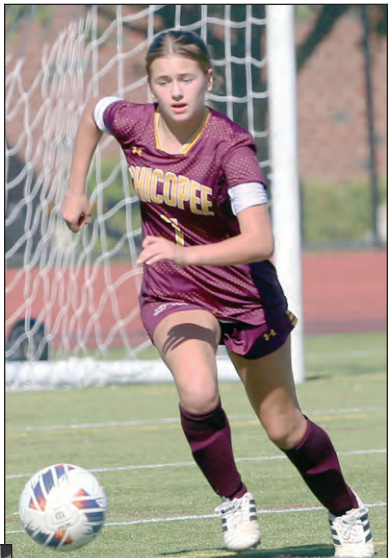
TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Cassidy Pytel advances up the field.

## Chicopee falls to Ludlow

CHICOPEE – Last Saturday morning, Chicopee girls soccer fell 11-0 to visiting Ludlow. The Pacers also lost 3-1 to Palmer and 7-1 against Granby. With three games remaining, the Pacers are 2-11.

Lousia Stefanelli heads toward the right side.



Ashley Galica makes her way out of the defensive end.



Cayla Riberio dribbles near mid-field.

## Wrisley notches hat trick in win

CHICOPEE – Last week, Chicopee boys soccer improved to 11-0-2 with three more wins in the past week. The Pacers defeated Monson 7-3 in one of those wins, with Griffen Wrisley scoring three times in the game. The Pacers complete the regular season this week and will likely qualify for the Western Mass. tournament, which gets going late next week.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Jason Gregoire chases after the ball



Matheus Lima Callegari plays the ball of his chest.



Dominic Garcia goes low to take possession



Tiago Destapado gets the stop on defense.

## Colts swept by Agawam

CHICOPEE – Last Wednesday evening, Chicopee Comprehensive girls volleyball suffered its third straight sweep, and fourth in five games, falling 3-0 to Agawam. The Colts have also lost to Ludlow and Minnechaug as well and are now 4-12 on the season. The Colts have a matchup with Lee on Oct. 18 at 5 p.m.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Olivia Warren serves for the Colts.



Brielle Bennett bumps the ball straight up.



Alexa Huber returns the ball over the net.



Lorianys Vazquez makes a bump back over the net

# T-Birds settle for split on opening weekend

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (1-1-0-0) could not get their offensive rhythm going on Sunday afternoon and dropped a 4-1 decision to the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins (1-1-0-0) at the MassMutual Center.

The visiting Penguins came out with a purpose less than 24 hours after dropping a 7-6 barnburner to Charlotte in their home opener. In outshooting the T-Birds 8-0 in the opening nine minutes, they also chipped in the first goal of the contest at the 5:00 mark when defenseman Nate Clurman was gifted with an open net after a Jimmy Huntington shot ricocheted off the end boards and back in front of Colten Ellis' net.

The T-Birds responded with much better pressure in the back half of the period, but rookie Penguins

netminder Sergei Murashov made all 12 saves he needed to make in his first AHL period of play.

It was a similar story in the second, as the Penguins went right to work in the offensive end, causing chaos around the Springfield net. Sam Poulin eventually extended the lead as he received a centering pass from Emil Bemstrom and elevated it over the blocker of Ellis to make it 2-0 at 3:21 of the period.

Just 2:05 later, Avery Hayes added his second goal in as many games, arriving at the far post to chip a rebound into the top shelf after an initial bid by Joonas Koppanen. The lead ballooned to 3-0 for the visitors.

MacKenzie MacEachern finally



got Springfield on the board at 12:00, thanks to a fortuitous bounce off the end boards from a Hunter Skinner shot attempt. Corey Schueneman also picked up an assist on the play, his first point as a Thunderbird.

The T-Birds never could get back in rhythm, though, as they mustered a scarce amount of scoring chances in the final period. Boris Katchouk put the game away with a power play goal at 15:47 of the third to close out the scoring, and Murashov picked up his first AHL win with 27 saves.

The T-Birds take to the road for the first time this season on Friday night as they visit the Hartford Wolf Pack at the XL Center for a 7 p.m. puck drop.

# Bonsignore scores win at Thompson Speedway

THOMPSON, Conn. – Justin Bonsignore was in Thompson Speedway victory lane again on Sunday afternoon. For the 14th time in his career, Bonsignore captured victory on the high-banks in Connecticut - leading the most laps and taking the lead back late after a pit road miscue to rocket to another win.

The victory was Bonsignore's 43rd career on the Whelen Modified Tour, giving him sole possession of third place all-time. His 14th career Thompson win also put him just one off Mike Stefanik's record of 15.

"We worked hard all summer, but haven't had the best car," Bonsignore said. "We brought back 'Old Faithful'. This car has been sitting bare bones since the last Martinsville race and we finally got it back together. It got us back into Victory Lane at Thompson and the guys did a great job today with the quick turnaround. It's humbling to be around Reggie and Teddy and to have your name mentioned with them is really special. Obviously we try not to think about that stuff while we're still racing, but it is really awesome

to have that much success in this series over the 15 years that we've been here. Hopefully we've got another 14 or 15 years in us if we can stay competitive."

With the win, Bonsignore closed within five points of Ron Silk in the championship battle with two races remaining. The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour will return to the track at North Wilkesboro Speedway on Sunday, October 20. The series will then visit Martinsville Speedway on Saturday, October 26, for the season-finale.

# Railers scored win over Mariners

WORCESTER – The Worcester Railers HC (1-1-0-0) beat the Maine Mariners (1-1-0-0) on Saturday night by the final score of 4-0 in front of a crowd of 700 at the Fidelity Bank Worcester Ice Center. The Railers open the regular season next weekend when they take on the Reading Royals at the DCU center on Saturday, October 19th at 6:05 p.m.

Worcester jumped out to a 2-0 lead with goals from Jordan Kaplan (1-1-2) who struck at 3:43 and Justin Gill (1-0-1) scoring just a minute later in the first period. Worcester continued their scoring in the second. Connor Welsh (1-0-1) scored at 13:55 to make the score 3-0 Worcester. Worcester finished the scoring off by notching one more in the

third. Joey Cipollone (1-0-1) scored the final goal of the night, which made it 4-0 when the final buzzer sounded.

Worcester wasted no time striking first tonight as Jordan Kaplan (1st) found the back of the net 3:43 into the first period. He was shortly followed up by Justin Gill (1st) who got one by Maine's Ryan Bischel just under a minute after Kaplan got a dish from Matt DeMelis. Worcester had an opportunity to score on the power play following a tripping penalty with just under 5 minutes in the period, but couldn't find the back of the net. Worcester went into the first intermission with the 2-0 lead. Shots favored the Railers 14-5.

Worcester's penalty kill got to work early killing off two penal-

ties. The first on Anthony Repaci 30 seconds into the second followed by Jordan Kaplan at the 12-minute mark. The Railers got their own opportunity on the power play with 6:20 to go in the second and Connor Welsh (1st) cashed in on passes from Jordan Kaplan and Anthony Callin to make it 3-0 going into the third. Worcester outshot Maine 14-7.

Worcester wasn't done yet as Joey Cipollone (1st) scored on a re-directed shot 6:08 into the third. The penalty kill would continue their perfect weekend after shutting down two Maine power plays. The Railers went eight-for-eight on the penalty kill against Maine in the pre-season. Cipollone's goal would be the final score of the night, cementing the Railers 4-0 shutout victory.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHICOPEE FIRE DEPARTMENT

# CFD "Fill the Boot" to support the Muscular Dystrophy Association

CHICOPEE – The fire department held a Fill a Boot event to raise funds and awareness for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The fire department expressed their thanks to the community for their support in a post on Facebook.

"Thank you to everyone who stopped by this weekend to visit with us, learn about the Muscular Dystrophy Association, and/or donate to this important cause. Several of our friends at the Chicopee Police Department also stopped by to offer their support. Thank you to our members who volunteered their time to make this event a success."



# Fall Wood Walk!

CHICOPEE - Step into Nature's classroom and embark on a fun-filled exploration of our local plants and animals.

Our nature hike is the perfect chance for kids to connect with the great outdoors, learn about the fascinating plants and animals that call our community home.

The walks are as follows:

Oct. 19, Nov. 2, Nov. 9, and Nov.16, Nov. 23

Things to bring

- \*Comfortable shoes to walk in
- \*Water and snack will be provided
- \*Bring a want to explore

Location: Ashley Reservoir, Whitney Ave Holyoke Saturdays 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Rain or Shine!

Contact [wrights@headstart.org](mailto:wrights@headstart.org) or call 413-310-1632

Sponsored by the Holyoke Chicopee Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grant from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

**FIRE CAPTAIN** from page 6

don't want one more family or firehouse to go through that pain. Please, take advantage of these screenings. And if you're a fire chief, please recommend them to your personnel. As this case shows, they could save a life."

To learn more about the cancer awareness, prevention, and early detection programs that the Department of Fire Services offers firefighters at no cost through the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, visit <https://www.mass.gov/occupational-cancer-in-the-fire-service>.

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

## CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

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

Special Permit application under Chapter 275-53 (c)(6) for the purpose of creating 1 buildable lot with frontage reduced to 20 ft and 60 ft. located at 0 Chicopee Street Lot D (Parcel ID 0471-0028B). Applicant – Vyatcheslav Tsukanov, 37 Pequot Rd., Southamptn, MA.

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

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

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street., (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>.) You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email [aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov](mailto:aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov). 10/11, 10/18/2024

## CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

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

Zone Change application from Bus A to CBD for +/- 4530 SF of property at 0 Chicopee Street (Parcel ID 0582-00004) for the purpose of removing a split zoned parcel and to advance mixed used development. Applicant – Gleb Leiderman, 35 Fletcher Circle, Chicopee, MA 01020.

Special Permit application under Chapter 275-30 (B) for the purpose of storage container material storage located at 0 Chicopee Street (corner of Chicopee & Blanche) (Parcel ID 0582-00004). Applicant – Gleb Leiderman, 35 Fletcher Circle, Chicopee, MA 01020.

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

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

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street., (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>.) You may also

call (413) 594-1435 or email [aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov](mailto:aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov). 10/11, 10/18/2024

## CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

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

Special Permit application under Chapter 275-67 for the purpose of redevelopment of a portion of the property. Waiver requested – reduction in parking (105 vs 95); building height (52'9" vs. 40); building permit & construction fees; and EV spaces (5 vs 3) located at 0 Main Street (off Fiske Lane) (Parcel ID 0174-00018). Applicant – David Spada, DS Development, LLC, 1 Wildflower Lane, Weston, MA 02493.

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

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

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street., (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>.) You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email [aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov](mailto:aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov). 10/11, 10/18/2024

## CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

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

Special Permit application under Chapter 275-9 (L) (3) for the purpose of renewing the existing special permit for a proposed multi-family development with waiver of parking requirements from 88 to 75 spaces at 0 Oak Street (Parcel ID 0147-005H). Applicant – Culper Properties, LLC, Gregory Szyluk, 444A N. Main St. #125, East Longmeadow, MA 01028.

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

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

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street., (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>.) You may also

Applications.) You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email [aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov](mailto:aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov). 10/11, 10/18/2024

## CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

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

Special Permit application under Chapter 275-30 (B) for the purpose of installation of (4) Conex storage containers for additional storage at the company's fabrication facility. Two containers are 40x8 and two are 20x8 located at 85 Lemay Street. Applicant – Notch Mechanical Constructors – c/o Karla Gerliep, 85 Lemay Street, Chicopee, MA 01013.

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

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

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street., (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>.) You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email [aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov](mailto:aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov). 10/11, 10/18/2024

## CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE

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

Special Permit application under Chapter 275-67 & 62 for the purpose of mixed-use development including up to 600 new, residential units and up to 400,000 sq. ft. of commercial space within the former Cabotville Mill Complex under the City's Mill Conversion and Commercial Overlay District located at 165 Front Street. Requesting the following waivers:

1. A waiver of 275-67 K 1 (b) (d) for screening of mechanical equipment and loading areas, and interior vehicular use. While we plan to use landscaping and possibly some screening that is attractive, fits within the overall design and is cognizant of the environment we feel that these specific standards may create an unnecessary burden.

2. A waiver of 275-67 K 3 (a) for parking. Our engineer projects parking usage of up to 1,550 spots that we are required to supply 70% (1,085) in the Overlay District. Since commercial use will be needed during working hours and residential use will be needed outside of working hours we believe the up to 50% waiver is applicable. We are requesting a 44% waiver of the 1,085 so that the

623 spot capacity can cover the requirement. A higher ratio could limit the number of units.

3. A waiver of 275-67 K3 (d) (f) for parking areas being screened, for location of lots only to rear and side, for shade trees, shrubs, etc., While we plan to make parking areas attractive with appropriate landscaping, we feel these standards may create an unnecessary burden. The existing Ames Privilege and planned Lyman Mills are both Mill projects within the zone so we feel screening is not necessary.

4. A waiver 275-67 K 7 (a) for specific noise level. We plan to use materials such as Coretec flooring that uses noise resistant cork and rubber. We have used Coretec flooring at other residential and mixed-use buildings that are former mills. Further, the residential and commercial spaces will be separated by existing wood as thick as 6 ft in addition to Coretec flooring so we feel the specific noise level standard may create an unnecessary burden.

5. A waiver of industrial zoning 275-62 (D) for signage restrictions, if any, such as setback so we can install signage that clearly identifies the property. We plan to use up to 12 signs at ground of first floor level of varying sizes but not to exceed 12 ft x 4 ft near 165 Front St. at the corner of Front and Springfield and both sides of the entrance from Springfield St. closest to the river. Further, we plan to use signage that fits within the overall design and respects the historical quality of the property.

Applicant – 165 Front, LLC, 3 E Evergreen Rd., Unit 101, New City, NY 10956.

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

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

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street., (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>.) You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email [aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov](mailto:aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov). 10/11, 10/18/2024

## CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE

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

Special Permit application under Chapter 275-67 for the purpose of developing existing property for residential and commercial use. Project shall include the addition of ten (10) new apartments on the second level of the existing structure. Apartments consist of six (6) one bedroom, three (3) two bedroom and one (1) studio units. First level will be renovated to accommodate

commercial establishments. Waiver requested – applicant requests a waiver for traffic impact study located at 232 Exchange Street. Applicant – Albert Babadzhanov, 232 Exchange Street, Chicopee, MA.

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

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

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street., (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>.) You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email [aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov](mailto:aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov). 10/11, 10/18/2024

## CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

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

Special Permit application under Chapter 275-50 C (2) (b) for the purpose of installation of an electronic sign on front lawn of Chicopee Public Library. Waiver requested – setback from 25' to 18' located at 449 Front Street. Applicant – Dave Rice, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013.

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

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

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street., (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>.) You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email [aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov](mailto:aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov). 10/11, 10/18/2024

## CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, Section 5-304 Docket No. HD24P2120GD Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court, Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street, Springfield, MA 01103

In the matter of:  
**Aiyanna Kailee Carter  
of Indian Orchard, MA**  
RESPONDENT Alleged  
Incapacitated Person  
To the named Respondent  
and all other interested per-

sons, a petition has been filed by **Department of Children and Families of Springfield, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Aiyanna Kailee Carter** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Department of Children and Families of Springfield, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate.

The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

**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 AM on the return date of **11/12/2024**. 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: October 04, 2024  
Rosemary A. Saccomani,  
Register of Probate  
10/18/2024

## 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 October 18th, 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.

2015 GMC Yukon Denali  
Vin: 1GKS2CKJ6GR415098  
Carvan Inc  
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Tempe, AZ, 85281

10/04, 10/11, 10/18/2024

See more legals  
on page 11



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

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**Students, Homeless Shelters**, anyone in need of good used furniture **FREE**.

Every Saturday in October, 9am-5pm, Maple Tree Industrial Park, Rte. 20, Palmer.

## CRAFT FAIR

### FALL CRAFT & VENDOR FAIR

Pine Valley, 281 Chauncey Walker St., Belchertown (off Rte. 21). **Saturday, Oct. 26, 9-3.** 36 crafters & vendors, indoors & out. Snack/lunch bar. Rain or shine.

## FIREWOOD

### FIREWOOD

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All hardwood.  
Tree length available  
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### FALL CLEAN-OUT YARD SALE!

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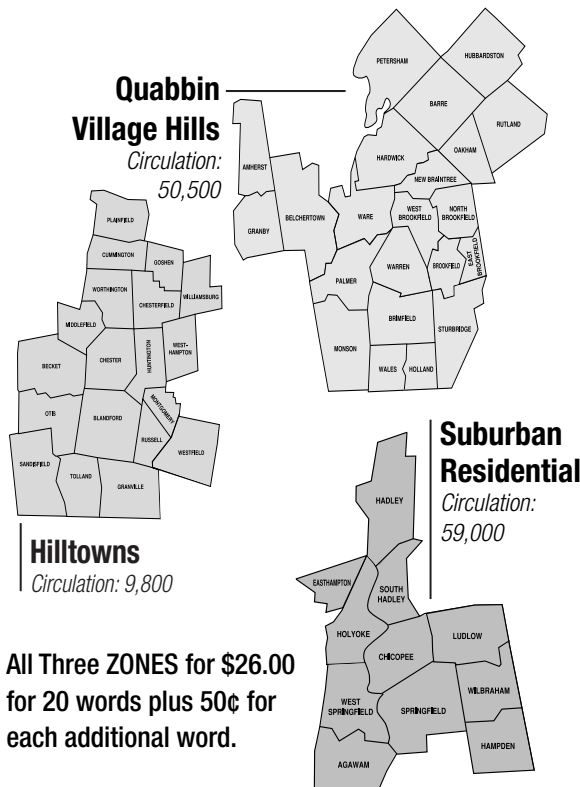
**CLASSIFIED DEADLINES MONDAY AT NOON**

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DEADLINES: MONDAY AT NOON

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13	14	15	16
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**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 November 1st 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.

2008 Infiniti G37  
 VIN: JNKCV64E98M122639  
 Edwin Llorens  
 49 E Hooker St APT 49  
 Springfield, MA 01107

2018 Nissan Altima  
 VIN: 1N4AL3AP3JC182954  
 Mamadie Cisse

2018 Nissan Altima  
 228 W Mentor St,  
 Philadelphia, PA, 19120

2003 Honda Accord  
 VIN: JHMCM566X3C059729  
 Tania Cruz- Montanez  
 7 Beverly st,  
 Springfield, MA, 01109

2006 BMW 330xi  
 VIN: WBAVD33566KV61364  
 Edwin J Vera  
 5 Temple St APT 603  
 Springfield, MA, 01105

2007 Nissan Murano  
 VIN: JN8AZ08W37W622025  
 Robert Ortiz  
 47 Shepherd st,  
 Chicopee, MA 01013

2019 Kia Soul Plus  
 VIN: KNDJP3A59K7006482  
 Jacqueline Barbara Carr  
 3560 Cheryl Dr  
 Fairfield, OH, 45014

2013 Hyundai Sonata GLS  
 VIN: 5NPEB4AC6DH822228  
 Dwaine Cook  
 100 Norway St, Apt 307  
 Boston, Ma, 02115

2008 Dodge Grand Caravan SE  
 VIN: 1D8HN44H68B184275  
 Tru Care Transportation Inc  
 129 s Munn Ave,  
 East Orange, NJ, 07018

2009 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo  
 VIN: 1J8GS48K79C535708  
 Harry Amanatidis  
 2072 32nd st,  
 Astoria, NY, 111  
 10/18, 10/25, 10/31/2024

**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 October 25, 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.

2023 Belmont Dump Trailer  
 VIN: 50PAD1425PL006608  
 Oussama Awkal  
 4 Tall Timber Drive  
 Wilbraham, MA 01095  
 10/04, 10/11, 10/18/2024

**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 **October 25, 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.

2008 Ford Explorer  
 Vin: 1FMEU74858UA23793  
 Russel & Jennie Cleaver  
 580 Kelly Lane,  
 Newport, PA, 17074  
 10/11, 10/18, 10/25/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD24P2147EA**

**Estate of: Joan Marie Martin Also Known As: Joan M. Martin Date of Death: 8/20/2024 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**  
 To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of  
 Petitioner **Carolyn M Martin of Chicopee, MA**  
 Petitioner **Kimberly A Thompson of Chesapeake, VA**

a fall has been admitted to informal probate.  
**Carolyn M Martin of Chicopee, MA**  
**Kimberly A Thompson of Chesapeake, VA**  
 has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
 10/18/2024

## Chicopee Police Department Launches Community Connect Program

*Residents and businesses in Chicopee are invited to participate in this exciting new public-private crime mitigation and safety initiative*

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Police Department today announced the official launch of its latest public safety initiative—a Real Time Crime Center in the Cloud platform designed to provide critical and actionable information that speeds up investigations and emergency response and keeps residents and businesses safer. Powered by Fusus, the new platform includes a camera registry—an online portal for citizens to register their security cameras in order to help solve crimes in the community. The Chicopee Police Department is hoping that citizens will register their cameras and help create a community-wide public safety ecosystem.

“Everybody knows that public safety is paramount to the success of Chicopee, and we believe that this tool will keep Chicopee even safer.” said Mayor John Vieau.

By setting up a voluntary camera registration process, the need for door-to-door canvassing is eliminated and valuable time can be used elsewhere. The Chicopee Police Department is enabling their investigators to know almost immediately if video evidence might be available at a particular location and who to contact to retrieve it. Registering a camera with the Chicopee Police Department is quickly and easily done through the self-service portal at ([www.connectchicopee.org](http://www.connectchicopee.org))

Both residential and commercial property owners and businesses are invited to register their security cameras. Registrant information and any video files provided will be kept confidential and only used in the event of a criminal investigation or emergency incident.

Camera registration does not give

live video access to the Chicopee Police Department. It only gives them camera location information for use when an incident occurs. Investigators will contact camera owners only if they need assistance collecting camera footage. In the event of a theft for example, police may request from a store owner a recorded video to quicken the process of evidence gathering.

“Fusus is going to allow the Chicopee Police Department to operate more efficiently, effectively and with improved operational intelligence.” said Eric Watson, Deputy Chief of the Chicopee Police Department. “Connected communities are safer communities.”

In addition to the camera registry, the Chicopee Police Department is offering residents the option to upgrade their video security systems to include live video feeds to the department. By installing a small CORE device on their network, residents and businesses can share live video feeds with the Chicopee Police Department in emergencies to improve employee safety and police response. To preserve privacy, live video can optionally be shared only on alert, using a smartphone app or manual trigger button, at the camera owner's discretion. This upgrade can be requested following the camera registration process online.

In order to help members of the community register their cameras as part of this voluntary program, the Chicopee Police Department will also be conducting a community outreach program by phone. Community Connect Advocates will be reaching out to local businesses to inform them about the program, and registering cameras over the phone if the owners wish to participate.

To register or integrate your camera system with the Chicopee Police Department or to learn more about Connect Chicopee, please visit ([www.connectchicopee.org](http://www.connectchicopee.org)) and follow the instructions.

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#### PART TIME SNOW PLOW DRIVERS NEEDED

Part time snow plow drivers are needed for the Town of New Braintree for the 2024-2025 season. Positions available for both CDL (\$30/hr) and non-CDL License (\$25/hr).

If you are interested, please contact Highway Superintendent Richard Ayer at (508) 867-2451 or email [secretary@newbraintree.org](mailto:secretary@newbraintree.org).

**SHORT ORDER COOK**, breakfast/lunch. John's Corner in Ludlow. Call John 413-537-2455.

The Town of Huntington is seeking a part-time **HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** for 16 hours per week. Applicants must be proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook. Hours are flexible, but must be worked during the regular highway department hours of Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to assist the Highway Superintendent. Application and complete job description are available online at [www.huntingtonma.us](http://www.huntingtonma.us) or by emailing [admin@huntingtonma.us](mailto:admin@huntingtonma.us). Position is open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Read your local newspaper online at [www.newspapers.turley.com](http://www.newspapers.turley.com)

## New Monument Commemorates Franco-Americans

CHICOPEE - If you have a French name, chances are your relatives were among the one million French Canadians who immigrated to New England between 1840 and 1930, seeking employment in the mills.

There are deep roots among those in Chicopee, the surrounding communities, and New England with musical French names. Our ancestors stepped into the unknown future when they came to New France—the journey continued from Canada to the United States. Franco-Americans inherited a rich culture, history, and heritage that must never be forgotten.

French heritage will be remembered and celebrated on Sunday, October 27 at 1 p.m., with the dedication of a new monument. The rain date will be Sunday, Nov. 3.

The project, which began in August of 2023, was made possible by the former French Heritage Center. Funds were raised through various French lectures, events, donations, and membership.

The custom-made monument was carved in India and inscribed in Vermont.

The monument will stand in recognition of the contributions made by French Canadians and the generations of Franco-Americans that followed. In their adopted country, French Canadians became a major force in all walks of life. The vast array of their contributions affected every aspect of their new homeland.

Chicopee's four French parishes will also be memorialized. Assumption of the

BVM Church, Nativity Church, and St. George Church were closed in 2009. Ste. Rose de Lima Church remains active. These parishes played an important role in keeping French language and culture alive.

The ceremony will take place at the Aldenville Commons, 688 Grattan St., Chicopee, Massachusetts. Those who attend are advised to bring their own chairs. Marie Proulx Meder, former director of the French Heritage Center, and former Assistant Director, Jeanne Proulx Hebert, will officiate the ceremony.

The guest speaker will be Denis Ledoux, author of "French Boy". Born in Lewiston, Maine, Denis was raised on a farm. He has taught Franco studies at the University level, and lectures on Franco culture and history. He has won the Maine Fiction Award, and was also named

Life-writing Professional of the Year. Denis is the director of The Memoir Network, and serves as a Maine Touring Artist, leading programs on personal history preservation, and Franco-American culture. The dedication will conclude with a monument blessing by Father Bill Tourigny.

Come join us for this special occasion as we gather to celebrate, acknowledge, and embrace the rich heritage of our forefathers, thereby preserving the past for future generations. The French "Joie de Vivre" spirit lives on in all of us who are proud to say "I am French Canadian".

# Seniors celebrate Ocktoberfest with festive dinner

By Amanda Munson  
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – The senior center held an Oktoberfest German dinner catered by the Munich Haus and The Eddie Forman Orchestra playing a wide range of music on Oct. 16.

The attendees were satisfied with the delicious dinner, listening and dancing to the beat, while anxiously waiting for the 50/50 raffle to announce the lucky winner.

With over 140 guests in attendance, the senior center employees and volunteers were busy and making sure the night ran smoothly.

Sitting down with Azael Diaz, an employee and veteran, he discussed his love for the work and his gratitude for his coworkers, while working as a custodian.

“I volunteered for the city almost a year and a half ago, volunteering with emergency management, until I was offered a position here in facilities management. I volunteered at the RiverMills for a few weeks before starting the job I have now. When I was volunteering, I got to know everybody and fell in love with what they were doing for our citizens and community. I just couldn’t wait to be part of that,” Diaz said.

The Oktoberfest German dinner had a cash bar, traditional flags and decor hung up around the venue and a 50/50 raffle.



Volunteers were happy to assist in the 50/50 raffle on Wednesday night, while also enjoying the Munich Haus meal.

“This crowd is what we typically have every day, we have delicious lunches for our senior citizens for only \$2 a meal, and get around the same amount of guests daily. We set up the chairs, tables, decorations for the members and they get to enjoy what life has to offer. They deserve it. They are the backbone of our society and now it’s our turn to take care of them,” Diaz said. “My job as a custodian in particular is just whatever they need support with. I find myself in many support positions in my life, anybody who needs support, I am there. The best part about my job is seeing members leave the building with

a smile.”

The E.F.O. has been performing before audiences since 1968, with the leader of the assemble, Eddie Forman, starting out in the music world at only 15 years old.

Born in Hadley, Forman has been sharing his love for music and Polish heritage for over 50 years and was excited to perform at the senior center again this year.

“The folks here called me to play the Polish dinner and it worked out very well. What a lovely turnout it was and it was really nice. Oktoberfest is a lot of German music, drinking music



The E.F.O. were dressed to impress, playing energetically throughout the night.

actually, but we played all types of things. We gear our music to the crowd we are playing in front of. We had them sing along and that’s great, they feel good about themselves,” Forman said. “I feel good about them singing because I know they are having a good time. I like venues like this because we are close together, you make a lot of eye contact and you can communicate with the audience easily. It’s all about having a good time.”

When asked about what his favorite aspect of being in a band for 56 years is, Forman said that it’s the music. In high school, Forman started his band and has

been stuck since.

“I still enjoy it and they are still calling me, so I’ll play for a little while longer. My band members have changed over the years, I am a bit older than the guys here. Bob Frydryk, the trumpet player, has been with me since 1998 and the drummer, John, has been with me since 2004. The group gets along very well and knows what their job is. There are times where you have to take things seriously, but we know when to have fun. We are a nice, cohesive unit,” Forman said.

To learn more about upcoming events, check out the senior center newsletter.



Dancing the night away was Carol Forman, wife of Eddie Forman, who’s almost always dancing at every event the band plays at.



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