

Chicopee Register

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COMMUNITY

Puerto Rican pride shown at Puerto Rican Heritage Celebration

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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CHICOPEE - The community gathered at Market Square from 4 to 8 p.m. on Nov. 14 for the Second Annual Puerto Rican Heritage Celebration.

The festivities took place after the Puerto Rican Heritage Month Flag-Raising held across the street at City Hall Plaza.

Throughout the evening, attendees enjoyed face painting, live Latin music, performances from Bomba de Aquí with Brendaliz Cepeda and El Trío Nuevo, a free salsa dancing class, food trucks including El Sabor de Mami and Las Papi Platanos, Tempest's Temptations with their mobile cheesecake bar and vendors including Key-food Marketplace, VCare Adult Day Health Center, The Q 99.7, Tapestry, Alianza Domestic Violence Services and more.

Also, vejigante masks designed by Bellamy Middle School students were on full display, a symbol of Puerto Rican heritage and culture.

The festivities were spon-



A group photo with members of the Puerto Rican Heritage Committee, City of Chicopee employees, attendees and Bomba de Aquí with Brendaliz Cepeda during the Second Annual Puerto Rican Heritage Celebration in Chicopee on Nov. 14.

sored by the Chicopee Cultural Council and the Mass Cultural Council.

Monica Torres, Community & Constituent Liaison for the City of Chicopee and member of the Puerto Rican Heritage Committee, expressed gratitude

to everyone coming out for the festivities.

"We're happy to have you out here celebrating, celebrating our heritage. We are here in Chicopee and we are proud to be part of Chicopee and being always seen, helping the com-

munity and this is what it's all about: coming out to the community, come out and see all these special resources that we have available," Torres said.

Jessica Martinez, owner of Gigi's Gourmet Gateau, was selling her baked goods, hearing

about the event through the police department's C3 Unit.

Martinez enjoyed connecting with attendees.

"The community, being

See **PUERTO RICAN PRIDE** page 6

COMMUNITY

Give back this holiday season with Tree of Life



TURLEY PHOTO BY AMANDA MUNSON

President of the Friends Michael Wilk showed off the Tree of Life in the foyer of RiverMills Senior Center.

By Amanda Munson
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - Have you ever noticed the Tree of Life at the senior center? Walking into the foyer, looking on the left-hand side, the wall is full of leaves that are ready to be engraved. Sitting down with Michael Wilk on Nov. 19, President of the Friends of RiverMills Senior Center, Wilk talks about the recognition of honoring those who have given back to the Friends.

"Each leaf is a \$500 donation and you can put anything you want on the leaf. If you want to put a memory of

somebody, the name of your business, yourself if you want to donate. It's a great way to support the senior center and, also, get some recognition and acknowledgement for your donation here. My goal is to fill that tree, there are a lot of spaces open, so we have plans to get the word out. We hope that businesses reach out, fill out a form, and donate and come visit the center," Wilk said.

Wilk doesn't want it to be a simple transaction, emphasizing how he wants to create lasting memories. Elaborating on the ceremony that happens

See **TREE OF LIFE** page 9

COMMUNITY

City Council sets tax rate for FY25

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - City Council set the tax rate for fiscal year 2025 on Nov. 4 when they held their tax classification hearing.

Assessor Laura McCarthy shared a presentation and packet with the councilors reviewing assessed value for all properties--residential and commercial--in the city along with new growth to residential and commercial properties for FY25.

Assessors Victor Anop and Brian Suchy were unable to attend and had notified the councilors ahead of the meeting.

After McCarthy explained to the councilors the tax levy amount that will be raised by real estate taxes is \$108,114,221, which is \$5,950,835 lower than the levy limit allowed to be raised under Proposition Two and a Half, she highlighted new growth.

"Our residential growth has been stable. 9.5 million for single-family homes last year compared to 9 million this year," McCarthy said. "But, our commercial growth from 2024 to 2025 went down substantially. So did the industrial and so did the personal property."

What happened, McCarthy said, is that the commercial percentage for total assess value dropped from 37.7% to 34.8% over the past five years.

"But, this new growth is used--on the next page, page



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

The City Council set the tax rate for FY25 during a special meeting on Nov. 4.

five, halfway down the page--it's used to determine our levy limit under Proposition Two and a Half. So, our levy limit is basically \$114 million," McCarthy said. "Again, we have historically not raised the levy limit--the amount that we're allowed to raise, by law--we have not raised that amount in real estate taxes. We have raised a lower amount."

McCarthy added a \$3 million item was applied by the City Council and Mayor John Vieau to reduce the tax rate.

Councilor-at-Large Tim Wagner asked McCarthy about how the residential tax rate "stacks up against other communities."

er, but will that stack up against the ability to actually pay it?" Wagner said.

McCarthy referenced the last page of the packet, which showed Chicopee as "one of the lowest average residential tax bills."

"The comparing rate isn't a way to compare, because communities that have higher-valued homes that are mostly over a million dollars--maybe like with Granby--it's going to have a lower residential rate," McCarthy said. "The best way to look at how we compare to other communities is to look at the average residential tax bill."

Ward 6 Councilor Samuel

See **TAX RATE** page 9

Puerto Rican Heritage celebrated at Puerto Rican Flag Raising

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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CHICOPEE - Residents, community members, local and state elected officials and more gathered outside city hall on Nov. 14 to raise the Puerto Rican flag for Puerto Rican Heritage Month.

Celebrated in November, Puerto Rican Heritage Month recognizes the culture, history and contributions of Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rican community.

In his remarks to attendees, Mayor John Vieau said how there's an easy way and the Chicopee way to raise a flag, and then there's the Puerto Rican way by raising a flag and having a festival.

"Puerto Rican culture, we love to party and celebrate, so I'm excited to be here on this memorable day for me and, also, for the Puerto Rican Americans who are joining me," Vieau said.

Vieau later presented his proclamation to Ashley Batlle, the owner of Beauty Battles Lounge.

State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) explained how the State Legislature was in the middle of session that day, mentioning State Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield) and State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee) having Puerto Rican heritage and are proud Puerto Ricans.

Oliveira also noted the energy as passersby cheered from their cars.

"It's very fitting to be recognizing this and the strong connection that this region has with the Puerto Rican community, so on behalf of the delegation, it's an honor to represent them today and to raise this flag on City Hall Plaza," Oliveira said.

Ward 2 City Councilor Shane Brooks reflected on his work as the vice president of



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Flor Diaz of WIC at Valley Opportunity Council, Ashley Batlle, owner of Beauty Battles Lounge, Monica Torres, Community & Constituent Liaison for the City of Chicopee, Ricardo Diaz, owner of Faded Barber Lounge, Ofc. Elly Rodriguez and Mayor John Vieau in a group photo at the Puerto Rican Heritage Month Flag Raising.

the Gándara Center, a nonprofit organization promoting the well-being of Hispanics, African-Americans and other culturally diverse populations through behavioral health, prevention and educational services.

"Our work spans across all of the Greater Springfield region, but we are also very proud to have a significant footprint here in the city of Chicopee. So, on behalf of myself and the Gándara Center, thank you so much for all you do and the riches you bring to our community," Brooks said. "You don't go recognized enough, so thank you very much."

Aleyana Ramos, the daughter of Batlles, then stepped up to the podium to sing the Puerto Rican National Anthem, followed by Ofc. Elly Rodriguez, chair of the Puerto Rican Heritage Committee, cranking the lever to raise the Puerto Rican flag.

Batlles was thrilled with the

flag-raising.

"Today is meant to be able to bring the community together and celebrate our Puerto Rican culture and to, also, be able to join in with people that are not part of the Puerto Rican community to educate and teach and share our culture with them," Batlles said.

She also expressed surprise at receiving the proclamation from Vieau.

"I was extremely surprised and I'm very honored to have received it," Batlles said.

Ramos was honored to sing the Puerto Rican National Anthem at the ceremony.

"It's an honor to sing it because I'm Puerto Rican and although I don't know much Spanish, I like to share it and I love to sing," Ramos said. "So that was really good."

Batlles stressed the importance of the community supporting one another, including attending the Puerto Rican Heri-

itage Month Celebration at Market Square.

"I think it's very important to show support for whenever the community is trying to put an effort into being able to bring different things to the community," Batlles said. "In Chicopee especially. We're not predominantly known for our Puerto Rican community and we want to start showcasing that and sharing that, especially when we have so many of our downtown business owners being Puerto Rican. Not many of us may live in Chicopee, but we do have our businesses here and we want to continue to see Chicopee grow and, sometimes, culture is part of the growth that we want to achieve as well."

Batlles encourages the community to check out the Puerto Rican Heritage Committee to support future events and help them grow.

"The message for everyone is the closer we get and the more



Ofc. Elly Rodriguez cranks the lever to raise the Puerto Rican flag.



Ashley Batlle, owner of Beauty Battles Lounge, receives the mayor's proclamation from Mayor John Vieau during the Puerto Rican Heritage Month Flag Raising ceremony on Nov. 14.

we're able to grow and the more we're able to bring to one another," Batlles said.

Following the flag-raising, attendees went across the street to Market Square for the Puerto Rican Heritage Celebration.

Readers can learn more about the celebration in this week's edition.



THANKSGIVING REVIEW

"Hi Paul, she was great! Lots of plump meat and just enough fat to help prevent her from drying out. We will be having leftovers for a very long time."
— Beth from Belchertown

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Chicopee Public Library hosts events for kids and families

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

Storytime will be held in the children's program room on Wednesdays, Nov. 27 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.

Saturday Playgroup will be held at 1 p.m., on Saturdays, Nov. 23 & 30. Come play at the library! The playspace will be open for families with kids of all ages to meet up and play.

For more information about the library and all of the upcoming events, visit www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org.

Art Show and Sale at the Chicopee Library

The "Artists at the Crossroads" would like to invite you to view and enjoy their artwork that is hanging in the gallery downstairs at the Chicopee Public Library on Front Street in Chicopee. The show will hang for the month of November during library hours. Most pieces are for sale. Ask at the desk.

Hundreds attend Give Thanks Dinner with Dave Colucci

By Amanda Munson
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - "The dinner and entertainment was fantastic!" Trays and carts full of piping hot food were continuously rolled out to the dining room, employees and volunteers were seen helping out guests with raffles and drinks, with more in the kitchen creating plates of food for hungry members.

Due to its popularity, the Give Thanks Dinner was spread out in two sections, lunch and dinner with the same scrumptious menu on Nov. 19.

Dave Colucci performed at the dinner show and sang the classics, with everyone enjoying the lively atmosphere and attentive senior center staff.

Through the business of the night, Executive Director Sherry Manyak of the RiverMills discussed how the night was going and her involvement through it all.

"This is our seventh year doing the Thanksgiving dinner, we even did it during the pandemic and made to-go dinners. During that time, we served over 1,200 meals total. Tonight, we are serving turkey, green bean casserole, stuffing, mashed potatoes, pumpkin pie, gravy and cranberry sauce," Manyak said.

When asked about if there were any changes to the menu, Manyak said this.

"There were no changes, everything is the same from last year. For lunch time, it was the same menu but we didn't have entertainment with Dave Colucci. We did put games on the table which people really enjoyed," Manyak said.

Talking about the holiday season and family traditions, members reflected that this event was a tradition that they loved to attend every year. When asked, multiple guests came specifically for Dave Colucci's singing performance and the homemade meal.

For Manyak, her job is easy because she enjoys it. Reflecting on her position at RiverMills, she remarked that she gets to have fun every day alongside her staff.

"We just love doing this. My staff and I love putting these kinds of events on. Somebody asked who catered this food and I had to say, 'We did!'. They didn't realize we made it, we just love giving back to them and making them happy," Manyak said.

Talking about the upcoming holiday season, Manyak gave an update on the Bright Nights Bus Trip event on Dec. 4



Roland, Marie, and Gail spoke highly about the RiverMills staff for the delicious, homemade dinner! and Dec. 5.

"It is already sold out. We are making spaghetti and meatballs from scratch. We are having rolls and salad from Texas Roadhouse, that is something different for Bright Nights. We haven't actually had food with Bright Nights since a couple of years before the pandemic, we are bringing it back," Manyak said. "Normally this is done at the Knights of Columbus, but we are bringing it back here because this is their home."

Talking about other events, Manyak added what else is to come.

"Thursday and Friday we are having a meatball rolling party which should be fun. We are having our holiday dinner soon, seats are limited...the meat will be prime rib!" Manyak said.

The Holiday Dinner on Dec. 17 will serve a prime rib meal with entertainment from The O'Tones.

Manyak shared what she loves best about serving the seniors.

"The best part about this is the patrons that come in every day. I love my job, I have the best job in Chicopee. I know the mayor says that all the time but I think I do. Who gets to do this all the time? It is like this every day," Manyak said. "There is always something happening, something going on, everyone just makes each other happy. We see new people who come here for the first time and then in just months, they have a table full of friends. It's their home away from home and I am glad to be part of that. It's very rewarding."

To learn more about upcoming events, check out the senior center newsletter, Facebook page or call 413-534-3698.



Gail and Carol were very happy with the Thanksgiving dinner, but even more excited to get a slice of pumpkin pie.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY AMANDA MUNSON

RiverMills Senior Center employees were hard at work keeping the night flowing smoothly.

Belcher School Library presents Local Author Day

CHICOPEE - The library at Belcher School will be presenting a Local Author Day with three local authors reading aloud to students on Nov. 26.

"We want to welcome and celebrate a few local authors that we know and love. We think you will love them too. This is why I have invited them to Belcher School to read their books to your chil-

dren," they said. "How can you show your support? You can read about and purchase these books for your own kiddo and they can enjoy it any time they like. Plus, you would be supporting these wonderful authors and encourage them to keep doing what they love."

The three authors are Jason Perkins, Kathy Picard and Naomi Fredette.

Porter and Chester Institute Chicopee dental assisting students bring Holiday Cheer to families in need

CHICOPEE - Porter and Chester Institute's Dental Assisting students are stepping up to make a difference in their community this holiday season. Beginning November 16th, and running through December 10th, students will collect toys and diapers for The Gray House, a non-profit organization in Springfield dedicated to helping families in need.

Collection boxes will be available at the Chicopee Campus, and all donations will go directly to supporting local families during the holidays.

"This initiative is a great way for our students to give back while spreading holiday cheer," said Sheri-Lynn Toner - Campus Director of Operations and Education "It reflects our commitment to community

service and the values we instill in our students."

The Gray House has been a cornerstone of the Springfield community, offering critical resources to families facing economic hardship. The generosity of donors ensures these families experience the joy and warmth of the holiday season.

Join us in making this holiday season brighter! Donations can be dropped off at the Porter and Chester Chicopee Campus.

For more information about the drive or to learn more about Porter and Chester's Dental Assisting program, visit www.porterchester.edu.

Let's come together to make a difference!



BABY'S FIRST CHRISTMAS



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January 25, 2023
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Deadline for photos and forms is Monday, December 16, 2024

GUEST COLUMN



Why does the government raid Social Security?

Dear Rusty
The Social Security program is funded by employees and their employers.

The federal government does not contribute to the program, right? So why does the federal government feel they have the right to raid the fund? All the money sent to Ukraine and other unnecessary programs could have been used to pay back what they owe to Social Security.

Signed: Disgruntled Senior

Dear Disgruntled Senior

You are correct that the Social Security program is mainly funded by payroll taxes on employee earnings and by employers, who match those employee contributions.

FYI, some additional SS revenue is received from income tax on Social Security benefits, as well as from interest on the special issue government bonds held in the Social Security Trust Fund. But the assertion that the Federal Government used (raided) the Social Security Trust Fund for any other purpose is a myth.

All Social Security revenue received since the program began in 1937 has been accounted for and all excess funds are contained in a special Trust Fund in the form of interest-bearing government bonds, reserved to pay future benefits. FYI, the interest on those bonds contributed about \$67 billion to the Trust Fund reserves in 2023. Social Security revenue, today, is not adequate to pay all benefit obligations and the extra money needed to pay full SS benefits for everyone is obtained by redeeming Trust Fund reserves. Redemption of those Trust Fund bonds is how the federal government "pays back" the cash loaned to it by Social Security.

The excess SS money received from contributions was loaned to the Federal Treasury by the SS Trust Funds, interest-bearing bonds were issued by the government in return for the cash received and the bonds issued are redeemable as needed by Social Security to pay benefits. FYI, the average interest on the 2023 bonds in the Trust Funds was about 4.125%, whereas the average rate of return on all bonds held in reserve was about 2.387%. This transaction is the same as for any other investment vehicle except the bonds in the Trust Funds are redeemable at any time without penalty. Said another way, all excess money ever received by Social Security is/was invested in special-issue government bonds and resides in reserve to pay future benefits, as needed.

"Paying back" the money represented by bonds held in the Trust Funds would not be a wise financial move because it would eliminate all future interest earned by those bonds again, that interest was about \$67 billion in 2023). Federal money spent for other purposes e.g., Ukraine is from the general U.S. Treasury and not from the Social Security Trust Fund, which is held totally separate from the U.S. Treasury. Since inception, all money ever contributed to Social Security has been and is used for one purpose and one purpose only to pay Social Security benefits to those eligible, which, by the way, does not include "illegal aliens" or anyone else who is not a legal resident of the United States.

For clarity, Social Security does have a future financial issue because annual benefit obligations are now greater than annual Social Security revenue and money from the SS Trust Fund is now used to make up the difference. Unless the program is reformed soon, the Trust Fund reserves about \$2.8 trillion as

See **SOCIAL SECURITY** page 5

GUEST COLUMN



Wrap it up!

I spent this past weekend trying to wrap things up. Before we know it the holidays will be upon us and there will be little time to spend in the garden.

I had, and sadly still have, areas yet to clean up, last minute bulbs to plant and statuary and tools to put into storage. One major concern is how dry it is.

Read on to learn about some chores that should be tackled before the ground freezes.

Honestly, in all my years of gardening I have never felt the need to water in spring bulbs after planting them. This year is the exception.

What about our newly planted perennials, trees and shrubs? Just to be safe, get out the hose and give them a good soaking.

If weather permits, move a slow running hose from shrub to shrub over the course of a few hours. This is especially critical for our broad leaf evergreens such as rhododendrons, azaleas, and Pieris.

Remember the damage on older rhododendrons a few winters back? Some large specimens lost a third or more of their overall size!

Much of that was caused by excessive cold and winter winds that desiccated (removed moisture from) the foliage and left it susceptible to injury. Antidesiccant sprays are available from nurseries and garden centers. These products leave a waxy layer of film over the leaf, locking in its moisture.

Did you purchase any shrubs, roses or otherwise that were so beautiful you couldn't resist, even though they were only marginally hardy in our area (zones 6 or higher)? These need special attention.

Pound some stakes into the ground just outside the drip line of the plant. Wrap the stakes with burlap and stuff it full of straw, salt marsh hay, or shredded leaves, anything that will insulate yet not pack down and cause rot.

Never use plastic; this material creates a greenhouse of fluctuating temperatures that will surely kill the plant. Climbing plants such as roses or clematis can be removed from their trellises, tied in loose bundles and wrapped in a similar fashion as above.

Many of our evergreen shrubs suffer

under the weight of ice and snow. Smaller specimens can be protected by making "A-frame" tents out of plywood and placing them over the susceptible plant. Use hinges rather than nails to construct them; storage during the off-season will be a breeze.

These types of enclosures also provide a great deal of wind protection. Paint them to blend in with the landscape.

Other articles have covered the importance of winter mulch to protect strawberries, fall mums, garlic, and spring flowering bulbs among others. Large evergreen branches do well to cover bigger areas. I have used them successfully to weigh down other light mulches such as straw or chopped leaves for twice the protection.

Remember, this task is best accomplished after the ground freezes, with our goal being to keep it frozen, thereby avoiding thawing spells that heave plants from the ground.

During the winter voles and field mice can wreak havoc on young fruit trees by tunneling through the snow to the bark in search of food. Their gnawing will girdle the tree and if excessive enough will eventually kill it.

Remember, the layer of tissue just below the bark is the tree's "plumbing"! Protect the trunk by wrapping it with one-quarter inch hardware cloth or commercially made trunk protectors. Remove the protectors in the spring.

Unfortunately, I neglected to protect young trees one fall and that was all it took. A poor tree was gnawed almost completely around the trunk. I was surprised it had enough energy to leaf out the following spring, but less surprised to see it wither and die not a month later.

In case you were wondering, yes, my bulbs for Old Sturbridge Village did finally come in. I wish they could talk. What a story they would tell.

I think they have honestly traveled more in the last six weeks than I have in my entire life. Holland to New York to Alabama to the Bahamas to New Jersey and then to a shoe store in New York City. Yes, a shoe store.

A good Samaritan saw my name on the packing slip and called to say she received them. Regardless, I am happy they finally arrived in Sturbridge. I am hopeful that they will all be planted (and watered in) within the next couple of days!

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.

Chicopee Register TEAM



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CPD partners with Boys & Girls Club for mentorship program



CHICOPEE - Over the past 10 weeks, officers from the Chicopee Police Department have partnered with the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee to run a mentorship program. This program was geared towards at risk youth and paid for by the Charles E. Shannon Grant. Members from the teen center were provided

with an opportunity to write a resume, go on mock job interviews, meal plan on a budget, housekeeping, working out/ functional fitness as well as cooking. They were also given a block of instruction on basic automotive skills, such as how to check the oil, tire pressure and jump start a car. Other key topics covered in



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CITY OF CHICOPEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

this program were communication skills, money management and finances.

On Oct. 29, the group had the opportunity to go to Dress for Success Western Mass and Suit Up Springfield, where they were given new suits and business attire. We are very pleased with how this pilot program has turned out and look

forward to running another one in the future.

If you have a teen that is a member of the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee who may be interested in hearing more about this program please email Captain Doug Lambert at DLambert@Chicopeepolice.com

CPD congratulates Students of the Month



PHOTO AND CAPTION COURTESY OF CHICOPEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHICOPEE – The police department congratulated the September and October Students of the Month at Stefanik Elementary School recently. As a reward, the students received Willimansett C3 Brag Tags from the C3 Unit.

Belcher Bazaar Craft Fair to be held on Nov. 23

CHICOPEE - On Saturday, Nov. 23 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Belcher School will be putting on a first time EVER Belcher Bazaar Craft Fair. The fair will have raffle prizes, trendy crafts and even some snacks and goodies.

The admission is free to come and browse. It will be held in the Belcher School cafeteria. Raffle tickets for door prizes cost \$5.

The event is a fundraising event by the Belcher School PTO.



We hope this holiday finds you surrounded by those you love and hold dear. Thank you for giving us so much to be grateful for this holiday season and all year; we appreciate your loyal support.

Chicopee Register

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SOCIAL SECURITY from page 4

of 2023 will be depleted and benefits for all Social Security recipients will be cut by about 23% starting in 2033 or 2034 according to the Trustees of Social Security and the Congressional Budget Office.

Congress needs to act soon to enact Social Security reform to restore the program to fiscal solvency. The Association of Mature American Citizens is steadfastly lobbying Congress to enact the needed Social Security reform as soon as possible.

The Association Mature Citizens

Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

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Chicopee Register



Brendaliz Cepeda strikes a pose doing a dance during the Second Annual Puerto Rican Heritage Month Celebration in Chicopee.

PUERTO RICAN PRIDE from page 1

with the Puerto Ricans. I'm Hispanic also myself, so this makes me feel like I'm back at home," Martinez said.

She was thrilled with the turnout.

"It's good that a lot of people came. More people from this year came than last year," Martinez said.

Ofc. Elly Rodriguez serves as chair of the Puerto Rican Heritage Committee, expressing excitement to have the event back for its second year.

"Recognizing the Puerto Rican heritage, it's a big deal to us. We're a community that likes to stick together and bring our old, ancient roots here to the States and just keep the tradition going and

alive," Rodriguez said. "You don't see it much and we figured we'd do more for the Puerto Rican community. Not only Puerto Rican, but the Hispanic, Latin community in the city."

Rodriguez had volunteered for the committee to help showcase that Puerto Rican pride.

"When I was asked to take over as chair, it was my honor to be able to represent the Puerto Rican community. We're going to be doing amazing things with Puerto Rican, Spanish heritage throughout the community," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez was also honored to raise the Puerto Rican flag at the flag-raising.

"I wasn't aware I was going to be chosen for that, but it was my pleasure to do so. I've been to many flag raisings and I've seen many people raise the flag and I guess today was my turn to raise the Puerto Rican flag, which was an honor," Rodriguez said.

Reflecting on her heritage and Puerto Rican Heritage Month, Martinez loves making the food.

"I love making the treats. I love when my family always asks for our Hispanic treats every time it's the month and it's the holiday season so this is the time that we bring out tres leches, tres bloques, all the Spanish treats out," Martinez said.

Rodriguez said people told him the event is something the Puerto Rican and Spanish communities have been waiting for.

"Even though this is our second annual, but I feel that this location and all the networking we did for this one event today, it went pretty well. The word spread pretty far," Rodriguez said. "We have people from Holyoke, Springfield, I saw some people from Connecticut that also showed up. It's awesome. It's great to see the Spanish community and have a great time on a night like this."

Martinez thanked the community for their support.



Vejigante masks designed by Bellamy Middle School students on full display during the celebration.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

VCare Adult Day Health Center in Chicopee was also in attendance, with their staff posing in this fun group photo.

"Thank you for coming, thank you for supporting us Puerto Ricans. We enjoyed ourselves and I'm looking forward for next year," Martinez said.

Rodriguez's message was this.

"We're here. We're here to stay. We're here to make a difference in any way possible alongside all the other cultures. We bring a piece of the pie within every other culture here in the city and this is an amazing event," Rodriguez said.

Alba Valdes and Carmen Nieves, executive director at Alianza Domestic Violence Services, were amongst the vendors.



Attendees also had the opportunity to learn salsa dancing during the festivities on Nov. 14.

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Colts, Pacers seek the 'Sword' on Turkey Day



Mayor John Vieau presents the Sword to the captains of Chicopee Comp football last Thanksgiving.



Calvin Kagan takes on a long rush.



Josiah Feliz jukes before heading up the middle.

CHICOPEE – Six years ago, Thanksgiving rivals shifted as Holyoke and Chicopee ended their 100-year Turkey Day rivalry in favor of Chicopee and Chicopee Comprehensive holding their "Sword Game" on Thanksgiving.

For the first time in several years, Chicopee High enters the holiday game with a record of .500. The Pacers went a perfect 4-0 to start the season, plus picked up a win in non-playoff action. Unfortunately, they did only win one conference game.

The Colts, which have dominated the Thanksgiving matchup, have held Chicopee High to 14 points or less in all six Turkey Day games.

This year, however, the Colts went 4-6, with two of those wins coming against smaller schools during the nonplayoff phase in Weeks 9 and 10.

The Pacers defeated Palmer on Nov. 15 on the road in a nonplayoff game in Week 10.

This year's game will be on the turf at Chicopee Comprehensive with a kickoff of 10:15 a.m.



Hayden Courchesne kicks an extra point.

CHICOPEE vs. CHICOPEE COMPREHENSIVE Chicopee Comprehensive leads series 6-0

- 2023: Chicopee Comprehensive 38-0
 - 2022: Chicopee Comprehensive 28-10
 - 2021: Chicopee Comprehensive 46-14
 - 2020: No game - COVID
 - 2019: Chicopee Comprehensive 42-6
 - 2018: Chicopee Comprehensive 54-6
 - 2017: Chicopee Comprehensive 21-12
- ***Note – Record reflects matchups played on Thanksgiving Day. Chicopee and Chicopee Comprehensive have been playing a "Sword Game" for several decades.



Cyair Charles attempts to make a tackle for the Pacers.

Chicopee Football (5-5)

- Friday, Sept. 13 – Chicopee 30, Greenfield 6
- Thursday, Sept. 19 – Chicopee 42, SICS 22
- Friday, Sept. 27 – Chicopee 26, Commerce 20
- Thursday, Oct. 4 – Chicopee 30, Taconic 0
- Friday, Oct. 11 – Pittsfield 54, Chicopee 18
- Friday, Oct. 18 – Putnam 30, Chicopee 18
- Friday, Oct. 25 – Ludlow 34, Chicopee 26
- Friday, Nov. 1 – South Hadley 47, Chicopee 20
- Friday, Nov. 8 – Smith Vocational 28, Chicopee 14
- Friday, Nov. 15 – Chicopee 40, Palmer 26
- Thanksgiving Game
- Thursday, Nov. 28 – at Chicopee Comprehensive 10:15 a.m.

Chicopee Comprehensive Football (4-6)

- Friday, Sept. 13 – Agawam 30, Chicopee Comprehensive 14
- Friday, Sept. 20 – West Springfield 54, Chicopee Comprehensive 6
- Friday, Sept. 27 – Chicopee Comprehensive 22, South Hadley 8
- Friday, Oct. 4 – Central 55, Chicopee Comprehensive 0
- Thursday, Oct. 10 – Longmeadow 38, Chicopee Comprehensive 6
- Friday, Oct. 18 – Chicopee Comprehensive 23, Holyoke 12
- Friday, Oct. 25 – Westfield 44, Chicopee Comprehensive 6
- Friday, Nov. 1 – Minnechaug 24, Chicopee Comprehensive 14
- Friday, Nov. 8 – Chicopee Comprehensive 42, Amherst 18
- Thursday, Nov. 14 – Chicopee Comprehensive 51, Ludlow 0
- Thanksgiving Game
- Thursday, Nov. 28 – vs. Chicopee 10:15 a.m.



Colin Chechile completes a tackle for the Colts.



Jacob Lozado takes off down the sideline..



Braeden Siano calls out a change in play



Hector Adorno heads toward the sideline on a carry during last year's Turkey Day game.



Anthony Claudio makes a block.

Pacers season ends in state tournament



Tiago Destapado switches directions to head up the field.

CHICOPEE – The outstanding season for the Chicopee High School boys soccer team came to an end on Nov. 10 at North Reading High School. After an undefeated regular season, the Pacers won two sectional playoff games as well as a state tournament game. But on Nov. 10, the Pacers were defeated by North Reading 3-0 in the Round of 16. Overall, the Pacers went 17-2-2.

In their state tournament win over Newburyport 3-1, Griffen Wrisley had two goals for the Pacers on Nov. 6.



Brandon Langevin makes the throw-in.



Yousif Hamid receives a pass as he stays on the run.



Jason Gregoire makes his way up the field

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Late goals get T-Birds much-needed win

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (6-8-1-0) got a clutch late-game goal from their captain en route to a 4-2 win over the Charlotte Checkers (7-4-0-1) on Saturday night at the MassMutual Center. Springfield picked up its first set of back-to-back wins this season in the process.

The T-Birds played a stout defensive opening period against the AHL's most potent offense, keeping the Checkers to just nine shot attempts and one unsuccessful power play opportunity. Vadim Zherenko has a stable start to his night, denying each Charlotte shot that reached the blue paint.

At the other end, former T-Birds head coach Geordie Kinnear also had his team locked in defensively. The Checkers also killed off one Springfield power play, and Ken Appleby had answers for each of the T-Birds' seven first-period shots.

2:30 into the second, one of the newcomers to North America got Springfield the night's first tally. Leo Loof brilliantly maneuvered himself down the right wing into the slot, moving the puck to his forehand and rattling a shot off the post. While

Loof did not have luck on his side, his fellow Swede Simon Robertsson did, as the rookie arrived in the slot, found the loose puck, and snapped it past a fallen Appleby to give Springfield the 1-0 lead. It was Robertsson's first AHL goal, and it marked the first time in three games that Springfield tallied the first marker.

The Springfield power play, which had not scored since Nov. 2, got into the action next at 5:57, as Aleksanteri Kaskimaki uncorked a one-timer from the right circle off a setup from Samuel Johannesson. Marcus Sylvegard parked himself in front of the net and deftly tipped the shot past Appleby for his second man-advantage goal of the season, and the T-Birds lead moved to 2-0.

A late penalty and subsequent unsportsmanlike conduct call put Charlotte on the power play for four minutes at the tail end of the middle stanza. With just 1.8 seconds left in the frame, Trevor Carrick held a clearing attempt in and snapped a shot past Zherenko to bring the Checkers to within a goal heading into the third.

The visitors built off that goal at the 2:23 mark of the third when

Marek Alscher moved up from the blue line to find a loose puck in a scramble and score his first AHL goal to tie the game, 2-2.

The stalemate carried into the back half of the final frame, and a pair of matching minors set the teams up at 4-on-4 hockey with less than six minutes to play. Almost immediately, the T-Birds rose to the occasion. Hunter Skinner raced to the right point to hold a puck at the blue line. With no hesitation, he whipped a pass diagonally to a streaking Matthew Peca on the left-wing side. Appleby denied Peca's first attempt with the pad, but the captain corralled the rebound and swept it into an empty net, restoring the T-Birds lead, 3-2, with 5:29 to go.

With Appleby pulled in the closing minutes, Charlotte kept pressing the issue, but Zherenko and the T-Birds defense stiffened. Dylan Peterson blocked a last-ditch effort, cleared the defensive zone, and tapped the puck into the empty cage to wrap up Springfield's win.

Zherenko earned his first win since Oct. 12 with 25 stops on the night, while Appleby had 22 saves for Charlotte.

Railers notch road win in Canada

TROIS-RIVIÈRES, QC— The Worcester Railers HC (6-6-0-0 12pts) beat the Trois-Rivières Lions (5-3-2-0, 12pts), on Saturday by a final score of 5-4 in front of a crowd of 1,936 at the Colisée Videotron. The Railers are back on the ice next at the Colisée Videotron taking on the Trois-Rivières Lions on Sunday, November 17th at 3:00 p.m. EST.

It was Trois-Rivières who scored first when Jakov Novak (2-1-3) scored on the power play at 15:30 in the first making it a 1-0 score going into the second. Jakov Novak found the back of the net for a second time in the second period 12:03 into the frame. The Railers then made it 2-1 with a power play goal from Matthew Kopperud (1-1-2). Under a minute into the third Riley Piercey (2-0-2) scored on the power play to tie the game up at 2-2. The Lions took the lead 3-2 9:41 into the third with a goal from Logan Njihoff (1-0-1). Jonathan Yantsis (1-0-1) then added another on making it 4-2. Anthony Repaci then got one through (2-2-4) 13:02 into the third. Anthony Repaci struck again making it a tie game at 4-4 17:44 into the third. Riley Piercey got the game winner with 22 seconds remaining in overtime making the final score 5-4.

Trois-Rivières scored a power play goal for the lone first period goal. Jakov Novak (6th) got one by John Mose of Worcester to make it a 1-0 game. The Lions would go back on the power play later in the period following a hooking call on Connor Welsh, but the Railers penalty kill was able to successfully kill the penalty off. Shots favored Trois-Rivières 11-7 in the first period.

The Railers had to start the second period off on the penalty kill following a slashing call on Griffin Loughran late in the first. Although the Railers successfully killed this penalty off to start the second, the Lions extended their lead to 2-0. It was Jakov Novak (7th) scoring again for the Lions as he ripped one through from the right circle. Matthew Kopperud (4th) cut into the Trois-Rivières lead with his power play goal making it 2-1 Trois-Rivières. Neither team would score through the rest of the second leaving the score at 2-1 headed into the third. Shots favored Worcester 11-9 in the second.

The Railers got another power play opportunity in the second and were able to tie it up at 2-2 as Riley Piercey (5th) tapped in a rebounded shot just 52 seconds into the third. The Lions went on to take the 3-2 lead with a goal from Logan Njihoff (2nd). Jonathan Yantsis (1st) went on to make it 4-2 Trois-Rivières with his goal 11:21 into the third. The Railers cut the Lion lead to one with a goal from Anthony Repaci (8th) 13:02 into the third period. Anthony Repaci (9th) was not done there as he scored again on the power play to tie the game at 4-4 with 2:16 remaining in the third. With his goal, Anthony Repaci passed Barry Almeida at 150 for the franchise record in points scored with 151 (74G, 77A). Repaci's goal would be the final score of the third, forcing overtime. Shots were even at 17 for both teams.

It took almost the entire overtime period for a team to win this one. Matthew Kopperud had an opportunity late into the overtime period but his shot hit off the left post. Riley Piercey (6th) then took the puck down all alone and scored the game winner, giving the Railers the 5-4 overtime win. Worcester outshot Trois-Rivières in overtime, and Trois-Rivières outshot Worcester 40-39 in the game.

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Chicopee Register

Craft Fair and Bake Sale to benefit Cancer patients

CHICOPEE—Come enjoy our 3rd Annual Craft Fair and Bake Sale for some holiday shopping with 40 crafters on Nov. 23 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The craft fair and bake sale will be at the Family Moose Lodge, 244 Fuller St., Chicopee.

There will be food to purchase for lunch and baked goods. There will be a raffle for everyone to participate in. Proceeds benefit American Cancer Society, Quabog Valley Relay for Life., which will be held on May 31, 2025, on the Belchertown Common.

TREE OF LIFE from page 1

after a business donates, they will receive a leaf and be able to tour the senior center and see where the donation actually goes.

"In the form, there are spaces that the business or person can put whatever they would like to be engraved. We are going to have whoever does the donation, invite them in and present the engraved leaf," Wilk said.

When showing off the stack of leaves that have already been sold, Wilk shared an example.

"Daigle's Truck Masters on Fuller Rd. did a \$1,000 donation for example. We will have them visit, put the leaf on the tree, and post on social media for the company that has donated. To shout out those who have donated and supported the senior center," Wilk said.

The digitally imprinted inscription is centered on the leaf, creating a sharp and bold lettering when viewed on the wall. Whether it is anonymous or a well-known business, the donations from the Tree of Life is a unique way to give back.

"It's important for those donors to come in so they can see where their money goes. To see the gift shop, the Festival of Trees,

the travel bulletin boards with upcoming trips. It shows the transportation that we have that is only \$1 to \$2 for a ride. They can see the outdoor patio, cafeteria, classrooms, and facilities," Wilk said. "Plus, it shows the people who come here the businesses that support the senior center. For example, Rocky Construction or people who have done 'In Memory', people will be able to view it and know that it will always be there. Members can come in and bring in guests, see the leaves, it's good to show that love and respect. It goes to a great organization."

From the Friends, purchasing a leaf on the Tree of Life is a wonderful way to become part of the senior center at RiverMills Senior Center to recognize, honor, memorialize or thank someone special in a permanent and meaningful way.

This purchase will help support RiverMills Senior Center and the valuable services provided to older adults for years to come.

"Hopefully the businesses realize the importance of this senior center and having a great place in programs and find it in their heart to give," Wilk said.

For more information, please call the FRIENDS office (413) 534-3698 Ext. 107.

Community joins PNCU for coffee hour event



PHOTO COURTESY OF CITY OF CHICOPEE MAYOR'S OFFICE

CHICOPEE – When Veterans Week kicked off on Nov. 11, the community had the privilege of joining The Polish National Credit Union (PNCU) at Goodworks Coffee HOUSE for a coffee hour dedicated to supporting the families of Westover veterans.

Thanks to the partnership with the Chicopee Department of Veterans Services the event was made possible

thanks to the sponsorship of PNCU and the invitation from the Westover Galaxy Community Council.

The focus of the morning was giving back. Guests contributed donations of non-perishable items to help families in need, especially with the holiday season approaching. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who participated and made these generous contributions.

A special thank you goes to the Chicopee Police Department for collecting the donated items. Thanks to the efforts of the C3 Unit—Sgt. Gazda, Ofc. Hevey, and Ofc. Rodriguez—all items were transported to Westover, ensuring they'll reach families who need them.

Thank you to everyone involved for a memorable morning of community, kindness, and support!

TAX RATE from page 1

Shumsky asked about sending tax bills to the residents.

"Right now, we send out our tax bills twice a year. Is there a way that we can possibly make that quarterly to help with the burden on the taxpayers?" Shumsky said.

McCarthy said yes.

"It would take one or two years to switch our system because we change the way we process when we process abatements and how we gather the information to get it out in July," McCarthy said.

As an example, McCarthy said it would be a tax bill sent out July 1, Oct. 1, Jan. 1 and April 1, with the Jan. 1 bill as the largest and July 1 "the same as the prior cycle."

"It's been discussed with the mayor, the city treasurer, collector, about putting that into operation in the next year or two. It's gathering how does the city do it. I don't have that at this time," McCarthy said.

After Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello asked about the decrease in commercial property growth, she mentioned the former Cabotville and Uniroyal properties.

"Was that commercial property or was that residential property? Because it seems the city is moving toward commercial property, say, at Cabotville, that was industrial. That wasn't residential. It was employment," Costello said. "And now, the new developer is looking at tak-

ing that. It will not be used for manufacturing. It appears to be, but it looks like it's going to be residential at 600 units. So, as the city transitions to a new idea of old buildings that were once used for industrial use and employment, does that affect the commercial property growth?"

McCarthy said Cabotville would still be classified as commercial or industrial.

"It has not been changed to residential because (there) are not residents in there," McCarthy said.

She noted how some residential properties have been proposed for vacant land recently "but that would be adding value and taxes."

"But we need more commercial land in areas where we've had it. On Westover Air Force Base or other areas where there's commercial development," McCarthy said.

Ward 1 Councilor Abigail Arriaga talked about how there were numerous conversations "about the burden not falling on the taxpayers" and "this shows you that our commercial growth is just not there and it's going to fall on the taxpayers."

"So, every time we've voted, the first thing I've said is who's going to have to pay for this and it's going to be the taxpayers, and this is the proof," Arriaga said.

Arriaga is excited about rebuilding things in the city--including fixing streets--but cautioned "We also need to start being a little bit more busi-

ness-friendly."

"This shows we're not just growing where we need to as a city," Arriaga said. "I appreciate Councilor Mary Beth Costello's comments about the buildings because it does make sense and I liked where she was going with this, so I actually would like to further that conversation at a later date, also, because it does raise a lot of good questions. So, I just hope you are all aware that like I've been saying, this falls on the taxpayers."

Ward 2 Councilor Shane Brooks asked McCarthy if there were undeveloped parcels within the city in terms of commercial growth, noting Arriaga's point about taking the burden away from the taxpayers.

"So, what do you think would be the amount of commercial growth that we would need to generate in order to, at least, help offset what the burden on our homeowners and taxpayers would be?" Brooks said. McCarthy replied it's hard to say what the amount would be.

"I can just say that over five years, it's gone from a percentage of 37% or 38% being commercial value down to 34.5%. Bringing in any large commercial building or healthcare business, pharmaceutical business is helpful," McCarthy said.

President/Councilor-at-Large Frank Laflamme also agreed with Brooks and Arriaga, noting the industry and bringing in business pages having figures going from \$61 mil-

lion down to \$31 million, which includes commercial, industrial and personal property altogether.

"That's a huge one is the personal property. That's monies we're not going to have and so, we have to start looking," Laflamme said.

Laflamme stressed finding ways to help the city get industrial and commercial in.

"We got to be very careful," Laflamme said. "It's just something that I'm going to look at as I move forward in my next year is to try to find ways that we can bring business into the city because we're going to need it. We don't want to burden the residents. It's what we don't want to do and in order to help that, we need to start looking at the \$30 million we're losing plus, and that's just a part of it."

After Wagner also expressed frustration, Ward 8 Councilor Gary Labrie brought up the maximum shift.

"I think once in my 11 years we didn't go to the maximum shift, we went to, like, 172 or whatever it might have been," Labrie said.

McCarthy said for last year it was 31.78 per thousand for Chicopee, while West Springfield was 29.80.

"It was lower, but Holyoke and Springfield were higher," McCarthy said. "Westfield was lower by pennies, only 31.39."

Councilor-at-Large Jerry Roy asked about the dollar amounts.

"What is this going to mean

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at 6:30 PM*** in the Auditorium, 3rd floor, City Hall, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Special Permit application under Chapter 275-58 (C 7) for the purpose of operating a towing and storage business located at 78 West St. Applicant – Cruise Control Transportation, Inc., Joshua Roy, President, 210 Charton Rd., Sturbridge, MA 01566.

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

The December 11, 2024 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. Zoom credentials are available upon request by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>.) You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov. 11/22, 11/29/2024

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL LICENSE COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The License Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Monday, December 2, 2024 at 6:30 PM** in the Auditorium, 3rd floor, City Hall, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Application for a Home Occupation License for the purpose of baking bread and cookies, delivering them to customers located at 21 Emerson St., 2. Applicant – Francheska Santana, 21 Emerson St., Chicopee, MA 01013.

The December 2, 2024 License Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. Zoom credentials are available upon request by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30

AM – 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013. You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov. 11/15, 11/22/2024

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL LICENSE COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The License Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Monday, December 2, 2024 at 6:30 PM** in the Auditorium, 3rd floor, City Hall, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Application for a Home Occupation License for the purpose of doing frozen desserts located at 34 Riverview Terrace. Applicant – Alexander Delgado, 34 Riverview Terrace, Chicopee, MA 01013.

The December 2, 2024 License Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. Zoom credentials are available upon request by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013. You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov. 11/15, 11/22/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts County of Hampden The Superior Court Hampden, ss CIVIL DOCKET# 2379CV00211

U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Trustee for the RMAC Trust, Series 2016-CTT v. Heirs, Devisees, and Legal Representatives of the Estate of Bertha A. Blanchard et. Al.

ORDER OF NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

T o : H E I R S , DEVISEES, AND LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ESTATE OF MAURICE J. BLANCHARD

GREETING:
WHEREAS a civil action

has been begun against you in our Superior Court by **U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Trustee for the RMAC Trust, Series 2016-CTT** wherein it is seeking to deposit surplus funds with the Court following a foreclosure sale.

We **COMMAND YOU** if you intend to make any defense, that on 12/27/2024 or within such further time as the law allows you do cause your written pleading to be filed in the office of the Clerk of Court at the Hampden Superior Court at 50 State St., P .0. Box 559, Springfield, MA 01102 further that you defend against said suit according to law if you intend any defense, and that you do and receive what the Court shall order and adjudge therein.

Hereof fail not, at your peril, or as otherwise said suite may be adjudged and orders entered in your absence.

It appearing to this Court that no personal service of the Complaint has been made on the defendant a deputy sheriff having made a return on the summons that after diligent search he can find no one upon whom he can lawfully make service and whose present whereabouts is unknown, it is ORDERED that notice of this suit be given to them by publishing in the **Chicopee Register**, a newspaper of general circulation in Chicopee, Massachusetts once a week for 3 successive weeks, the last publication to be at least 20 days before said return day.

Dated at Hampden this 25th day of September, 2024.
Judge Hodge, Justice

Shana M. Wilson
Assistant Clerk of Courts
11/15, 11/22, 11/29/2024

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 December 6, 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 Honda Cr-V Lx
VIN: 3CZRE38368G709767
Robert Austin Lingerfeldt

117 Rocky Hill Rd,
Hadley, MA 01035

2009 Jeep Grand Cherokee
VIN: 1J8GS48K79C535708

Harry Amanatidis
2072 32nd st,
Astoria, NY, 11105

2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee
Laredo

VIN: 1J4RR4GG6BC510727
Matthew Oneglia
66 Riggs Ave,
W Hartford, CT, 06107

2003 Ford F150
VIN: 1FTRF17WX3NA62373

Lisa Baillargeon
46 Lyman St,
South Hadley, MA, 01075

2005 Ford Ranger Super Cab
VIN: 1FTZR45EX5PA68541

Philip White
39 W Sand Lake Rd

Wynantskill, NY, 12198

2012 Nissan Rogue S/SV
VIN: JN8AS5MV2CW702134

Marcus Kinchen
15 Girard Ave Apt 106
Springfield, MA 01109

2014 East Manufacturing
Base

VIN: 1E1D2S389ER051348

Kylegrenier Enterprise
18 Chace Rd,
East Freetown, Ma, 02717

2002 Honda Accord ex/se
VIN: JHMCG66832C005766

Juan Rivera
40 Wayside St #1
Springfield, MA, 01118

2013 Chevrolet Equinox LT
Awd

VIN: 2GNFLEEK2D6407122

Wanfel Aristy Alcantara
80 Pine St,
Chicopee, MA, 01020

2007 Mercedes Benz C280
VIN: WDBRF92HX7F910077

Josiah Wells
35 Upsala St APT 2
Worcester, MA, 01610

2015 Nissan Altima
VIN: 1N4AL3AP5FC264790

Reyna Dismney
465 Chicopee St,
Chicopee, MA, 01013

11/22, 11/29, 12/06/2024

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 November 22, 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.

2011 Subaru Outback 2.5i

Premium
VIN: 4S4BRBCC0B3311800

Robert H Irwin Motors Inc
59 Bisson Ave.
Laconia, NH 03246

2007 Hyundai Santa Fe Se/
Limited

VIN: 5NMSH73E57H033975

Ronald Hill
48 George St.
West Springfield, MA 01089

2010 Audi A5 Premium Plus
Lvin :

WAUCKAFR0AA018686

Aman Chaudhry
11 Overlook Dr.
Warren, NJ 07059

2007 Subaru Outback

VIN: 4S4BP61C176319930

Margaret Jean Maclay
137 N Main St., Apt. 1
Florence, MA 01062

11/08, 11/15, 11/22/2024

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 November 29, 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.

2016 Freightliner Cascadia
125

VIN: 1FUJGLD52GLHA7835

Liftgate Interstate Trucking
LLC

141 Quinapoxet LN,
Worcester, MA 01606

2011 Kia Soul +!/Sport
VIN: KNDJT2A21B7288595

William Howard
125 King Phillip Dr,
North Kingstown, RI 02852

2009 Chrysler Town &
Country

VIN: 2A8HR54109R663654

Megan Lemcke
19 Hawthorne Rd
Yarmouth Port, MA 02675

2015 Nissan Rogue Select S
JN8AS5MV5FW758072

Diane Duprey
PO Box 915
Southbridge, MA 01550

11/14 11/21, 11/28/2024

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. HD24P1783EA

Estate of:
Bruno Klimczak

Date of Death: 04/08/2024

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for Formal

Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Maria Y Christy 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: **James W Gelinax of Chicopee, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Personal 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 12/06/2024. 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: November 08, 2024

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate

11/22/2024



**Cemetery Memorials • Markers
Granite Benches
Religious Statuary • Outdoor Display**

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Let them know you saw their ad in the

Chicopee Register

EARLY DEADLINES FOR PUBLIC NOTICES

Thanksgiving will bring early deadlines for all public notices to run in TURLEY PUBLICATIONS the week of November 25-29, 2024.

Wednesday, Nov. 20 at 2 PM for November 27 issue
• Agawam Advertiser News • Sentinel • The Register • Wilbraham-Hampden Times

Thursday, November 21 at 2 PM for November 28 Issue
• Barre Gazette • Country Journal
• The Journal Register • Quaboag Current • Ware River News

Friday, November 22 at 2 PM for November 29 Issue
• Town Reminder • The Holyoke Sun • Chicopee Register

A TURLEY PUBLICATION
24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
413-283-8393 • www.turley.com

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Chicopee Register
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

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

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD

Fresh cut & split \$200.00
Seasoned cut & split \$300.00

All hardwood.

Tree length available

*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!** New England Forest Products **(413)477-0083**

MORE HEAT LESS WOOD. Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. 26% Tax Credit. Call **(508)882-0178**.

WANTED

Buy, Sell & Trade Video Games

Retro World

413-301-5020 M-S 11-7
187 Main St.
Indian Orchard, MA



Post your job openings in our classifieds.
We get results!
Call 413-283-8393

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY

ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

BUYING Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more Donald Roy **(860) 874-8396**

JUNK REMOVAL

ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL

Full house cleanouts, attics, basements, garages, pools, hot tubs, sheds, decks. Same day service. 8am-9pm. Credit cards accepted. Free estimates on phone.

Fully insured.
Call Pete **413-433-0356**.



2*****A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE*****

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

JUNK REMOVAL

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Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.

We load it & take it.

413-531-1936
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

SERVICES

DRYWALL AND CEILINGS, plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. **(413)563-0487**

JACKIE'S BOOKKEEPING SERVICES
Call **(413) 455-4020**

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NEED AN ELECTRICIAN?

Look no further!
Peter's Electrical offers fast and reliable electrical services for your home or business. Call now for a FREE estimate!
(413) 366-1703
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HOME IMPROVEMENT

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

SERVICES

HOME IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST

Decks, porches, repair service, roofing and siding contractor. Tim **413-563-2229**. Licensed/insured. 35 year construction supervisor.

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

LANDSCAPING

A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE

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

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

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STOP WET BASEMENTS ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING

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

SERVICES

PAINTING

DUTCH TOUCH PAINTING

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

KEN'S PAINTING SERVICES.

Interior painting/staining, wallpaper removal, wall/ceiling resurfacing, cabinet painting. Quality workmanship, fully insured. Free estimates. Call **413-896-8264**.

RETIRED GUY

Will paint an average size room for \$200. Quality work. References available. Dave **413-323-6858**.

PLUMBING

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

ROOFING

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

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AUTO

CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS
FREE TOWING FAST SERVICE CASH PAID AS IS
CALL OR TEXT 413-219-6839

HELP WANTED

QVDC IS LOOKING for a part-time facilities person to attend to three properties in downtown Ware. Duties include minor repairs, scheduling necessary inspections and serving as a liaison with outside contractors. Previous maintenance experience preferred. Please visit www.qvdc.org for information.

SEEKING WEEKLY HOUSE-KEEPING: 1 floor - 2 baths, 1 bedroom, living room, kitchen and den. Southwick/Feeding Hills line. **413-530-6747**

DRIVERS

INTERSTATE BATTERIES IS SEEKING A DRIVER/WAREHOUSE for deliveries in Western Mass area. Qualifications include: clean driving record; ability to lift heavy weights; stable job history; good communication skills; high work standards & strong self-organizational skills. Apply in person **8 am-5pm M-F 9am-12pm Sat. 230 Chauncey Walker Street (Rte 21) Belchertown**

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

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

MONDAY AT NOON

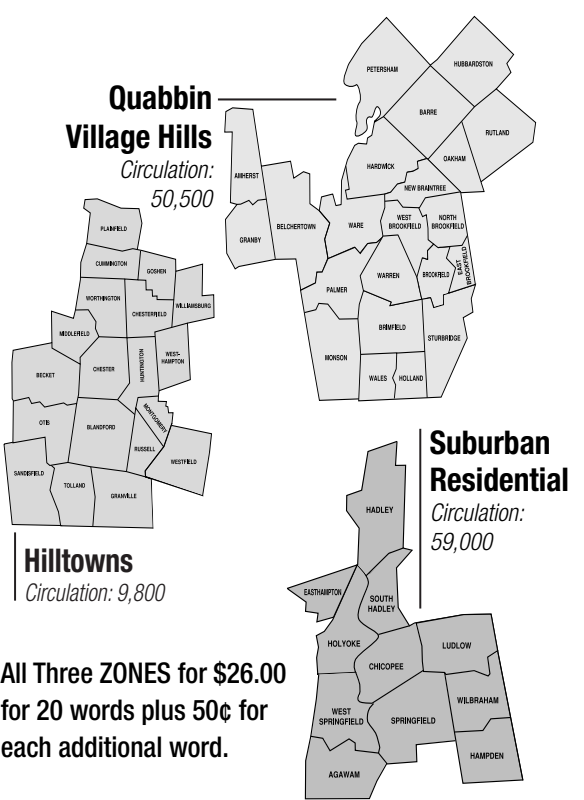
FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

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

DEADLINES: MONDAY AT NOON

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.00
23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$26.00
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27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
35	Base Price \$33.50	36	Base Price \$34.00
37	Base Price \$34.50	38	Base Price \$35.00
39	Base Price \$35.50	40	Base Price \$36.00

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



All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

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OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

Chicopee takes part in Special Community Service Day

CHICOPEE – On Nov. 8, the City of Chicopee was honored to be part of a special Community Service Day, thanks to the incredible efforts of the 36 cadets from the Hampden County Sheriff’s Officer Training Academy. These cadets dedicated their day to making a positive impact in our community.

The cadets went above and beyond, volunteering their time to assist City of Chicopee-Facilities Department with various clean-up projects throughout the city. Their hard work included raking leaves, trimming shrubs, mowing lawns, and perform-

ing other essential yard work at:
 City Hall Complex
 Council on Aging -RiverMills
 Center Chicopee Council on Aging
 Chicopee Public Library
 Canal River Walk
 City Offices on Center Street
 Chicopee Department of Veterans Services
 Chicopee Police Department Safety Complex
 Their dedication to service was truly inspiring, showcasing the spirit of giving back and strengthening the bond within our community. The impact of their efforts was immediately

felt, and we are incredibly grateful for their contributions to keeping Chicopee beautiful and welcoming.

To all the cadets: Thank you for your hard work, commitment, and willingness to serve. We are proud to have had you in our city, and we wish you the very best as you continue your training. May you carry forward the tradition of service that you’ve demonstrated today as you complete the Sheriff’s Training Academy.

Good luck on the rest of your journey, and thank you for making Chicopee shine!



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CITY OF CHICOPEE MAYOR'S OFFICE



Are you on Medicare?

Major Prescription Drug Changes Are Coming in 2025!!!

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Holiday Happenings

REGION – The following is a community calendar of holiday happenings going on in your community and beyond.

Main St., Springfield (weekdays 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Springfield Visitors Center, 1319 Main St., Springfield; or send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Spirit of Springfield, 1350 Main St., Springfield, Suite 1004, Springfield, MA 01103. Ticket holders seated first

Ongoing

SPRINGFIELD

HOLIDAY CONCERT TICKETS.
 The 215th Army Band of the MA Army National Guard presents their annual free holiday concert at Symphony Hall, 34 Court St. on Sunday, Dec. 8 at 2 p.m. Admission is free with ticket. Tickets available at Pride Convenience Stores; One Financial Plaza, 1350

Friday, Nov. 22

LEEDS

HOLIDAY BAZAAR. Linda Manor, 349 Haydenville Road. Friday, Nov. 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Chicopee Police Dept. issues fraud alert

CHICOPEE – The police department issued the following fraud alert to the community on Nov. 14 concerning buying tickets for events:

“From Tickets to Email Trickery

If you recently bought a ticket to a local event, you may have used Eventbrite’s website or smartphone app. Eventbrite is an online platform that allows you to create, promote, and attend events. But cybercriminals are abusing this platform to steal your personal information and money. In this week’s scam, cybercriminals use Eventbrite to set up a fake event and then email you an invitation.

The Eventbrite email invitation contains realistic logos and brands, and it appears to be legitimate. But if you select the link within the email, you will be taken to a fake webpage that is actually con-

trolled by cybercriminals. The webpage will prompt you to enter personal data such as your login information, tax identification number, and even your credit card number. The cybercriminals are trying to steal your personal details and funds!

Follow these tips to avoid falling victim to a phishing scam:

Be wary of emails that urge you to take quick action. Phishing emails are designed to catch you off guard and trigger you to act impulsively.

Never select a link in an unexpected email. In this case, it would be best to navigate to Eventbrite’s official website or smartphone app if you have concerns about tickets you’ve purchased.

If you aren’t sure if an email you received is legitimate, contact Eventbrite’s customer support directly to verify.”

This paper publishes birth, engagement, wedding and significant anniversary announcements free of charge. Simply log on to our web site, choose the paper you want the announcement to appear in, then use our SUBMISSION link to email your information.

