

Chicopee Register

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

December 20, 2024 | Vol. 28, No. 34 | FREE

www.chicopeeregister.turley.com

COMMUNITY

Parishioners support Wreaths Across America

By Amanda Munson
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - Wreaths Across America's mission is to remember the fallen, honor those who serve, and teach the next generation the value of freedom. On Dec. 14, St. Stanislaus parishioners, Veterans Appreciation Support Group, and city employees attended the Wreath Laying Ceremony to show their support in sponsoring and laying wreaths in the cemetery that holds 2,800 of fallen veterans, one-third of the city's deceased veterans.

Al Picard of Chicopee, co-coordinator of this event with Alan Dion, talks about his involvement within the city and how he continues to give back as a veteran himself.

"I've been involved for three years. First of all, it's another way to commemorate and honor veterans. It has taken on a significance every year, we get more and more wreaths purchased so we will be at around 400 wreaths placed on site today," Picard said. "It's a wonderful way, around the holiday season, to honor those people who sacrificed their

lives or veterans today, who are still alive, and who gave us the freedom to enjoy these holidays. And being a former Army Veteran myself, it's a way that I can honor my fellow service people by participating in this."

Discussing the crowd and who was there, Picard pointed out the younger individuals who volunteered their time in helping lay the wreaths. Physics Teacher of Chicopee Comprehensive High School Alan Dion, creator of the Veterans Appreciation and Support Group, had volunteers present on Saturday in support and care of veterans in the city.

"Dion is a Marine and created this club at the school. These kids are absolutely wonderful. They will show up at a moment's notice not only for an event like today, but Veterans Day and other significant days throughout the year. They are an enormous presence. These programs introduced those of us older veterans to these younger kids that really take seriously what they do," Picard said.

The ceremony started with an invocation by Deacon Mi-

See **WREATHS** page 5



Turley photo by Amanda Munson

"To say the veteran's name aloud and take a moment to thank them for their service, it's a small act in keeping the veteran's name alive," said Al Picard, co-coordinator and speaker of the Wreaths Across America ceremony at St. Stanislaus Cemetery on Dec. 14.

COMMUNITY

City Council approves licenses for Burnett Road truck stop

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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CHICOPEE - The City Council approved two licenses for the truck stop and travel center on Burnett Road on Dec. 17.

The controversial approval comes after two 10-3 decisions for an amended fuel storage license from Chicopee Inn, Inc. and a service station license from Pilot Travel Centers LLC for 357 Burnett Road.

There was also an 8-5 vote to not send the items back to the License Committee for another public hearing. The night before, the License Committee voted 2-2, with one abstention, creating an unfavorable report.

Ward 2 Councilor Shane Brooks explained the recommendation was due to concerns raised by many residents "that they weren't allowed the allotted amount of time they felt that the applicant was allowed."

"So, in speaking with our council this evening and throughout the day, he had suggested that items number 26 and 27 might be considered to be referred back to the License Subcommittee for an additional public hearing," Brooks said.

The Project

The truck stop and travel center proposed by Pilot Travel Centers LLC will be on 7.9 acres of land with an 11,421-square-foot building. It will have a 16-pump gas station, seven-position

refueling area for tractor-trailer trucks, a Wendy's restaurant and a convenience store.

The applicants said there would not be showers for truckers at the location.

The project was originally approved by the Planning Board in May 2022, but the City Council rejected permits for fuel storage and gas station licenses in September 2022. This led to a court case requesting the council's decision be vacated and the licenses granted, as lawyers for Pilot Travel argued the council's decision was unlawful.

The City Council's decision was upheld by Hampden Superior Court in June.

See **TRUCK STOP** page 6



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

This vacant lot at 357 Burnett Road in Chicopee, where a controversial truck stop and travel center will be located following City Council approval on Dec. 17.

COMMUNITY



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

From the left, Earl Bonett, a volunteer with the Department of Defense, Fire Chief Dan Stamborski, Firefighter and Staff Sgt. Daniel Ruiz and Mayor John Vieau with the plaque recognizing the Chicopee Fire Department and Stamborski as a Patriotic Employer.

CFD recognized with Patriot Award

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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CHICOPEE - The fire department was recognized with the Patriot Award from the Department of Defense on Dec. 16.

The fire department and Chief Dan Stamborski were nominated by Firefighter and

Staff Sgt. Daniel Ruiz, who actively serves in the Army National Guard.

Earl Bonett, a volunteer with the Department of Defense, visited the fire department on Monday morning to present Stamborski and the fire department with the award,

See **CFD PATRIOT AWARD** page 6

PNA Lodge 711 hosts Children's Holiday Party



A group of happy children meeting Santa during the Polish National Alliance Lodge 711 Children's Party Holiday at the Chicopee Falls Polish Home on Dec. 15.

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - The Lodge 711 Polish National Alliance of Chicopee hosted a Children's Holiday Party at the Chicopee Falls Polish Home on Dec. 15.

The party ran from 1 to 5 p.m. with attendees--members of the PNA and their families--enjoying raffle prizes, arts and crafts, games, a hot cocoa station, making holiday cards for elders in nursing homes in Chicopee, a Holiday Sweater Competition, visits with Santa, singing Polish and English carols and a classic Polish dinner.

Also among the volunteers were members from the National Honor Society at Minnechaug Regional High School in Wilbraham, with members of the Wilbraham PNA Lodge 3276 also taking part in

the festivities.

In addition to families from Chicopee and Wilbraham and Hampden, families from Ludlow and Belchertown and other surrounding communities also were in attendance at the event.

Teresa Sherman, financial secretary, treasurer and sales representative for the PNA Lodge 711, was excited about the annual event, sharing it's also the first time the MRHS NHS is volunteering.

"We're having lots of fun and singing and having Polish food," Sherman said. "We couldn't ask for anything more."

President Joanne Cebula, who is overseeing the event for the first time after taking over from her father, the late Mitchell Nowak--who served for many years--explained the PNA is a fraternal organization that started in the 1880s "to unite Polish immigrants and the community to the

American society."

Cebula added the Holiday Party is the organization's major event of the year, thanking the Chicopee Falls Polish Home for letting them host the event.

"It started with a lot of sports, youth, educational groups. There's also a yearly scholarship that they provide," Cebula said. "They also have a publication. They have quarterly Zgoda. So, they try to keep tradition going. A lot of folk music, dancing, youth sports and dance groups."

Sherman added the organization also supports other nonprofit organizations, a member of the Polish American Congress in Holyoke and supports the Polish Center for Discovery & Learning.

"We try to help where help is needed in the community," Sherman said.

Alexa Sherman, the granddaughter of Teresa Sherman, is an NHS member and came up with the idea for the annual Children's Holiday Party, enjoying seeing the children get the presents from Santa.

"As I grew up, I always came to these parties and my grandmother and my grandfather would run them. So, I was always a part of it and I thought it would be a good idea to help them set up because I know it takes a lot for her now as she's gotten older," Sherman said. "So, I thought it would be a good way to help give back to my community and help NHS be involved with the party."

Sherman was excited to have NHS take part in the event as it provides the students an opportunity to give back and learn about PNA.

"It helps just give back to our communities like I've been saying and I think it's important to be involved in your community and to just help everyone who needs help or help people that need more help now," Sherman said. "So, I think with helping



Members of the PNA Lodge 711 and members of the Wilbraham PNA Lodge 3276 also got to meet with Santa Claus in this fun group photo.

the Polish National Alliance and different communities like that, it helps spread holiday cheer and it just assists people who need extra help."

Like her grandmother, Sherman also believes in keeping traditions alive.

"It's important to keep that tradition and to keep all of your values as you grow up, so you can instill them in your family members and things like that," Sherman said. "So, they can grow up knowing about their heritage and their ethnicity because that's what this party's about."

Teresa Sherman wants the community to know how much the PNA enjoys holding this event.

"It's very heartwarming. It's a lot of work to begin with, but it's really worth it to see everybody having a good time," Sherman said.

Alexa Sherman's message to everyone is the importance of getting together.

"Some of these families may not know each other, but when they come to this party they may all establish a great connection just because of a similarity of being Polish or whatever or even just the holiday spirit," Sherman said. "Just coming together and having fun I think that's just great."



Isabella Strand, Alexa Sherman and Katelynn Pronovost smile in front of the Christmas tree. The girls volunteered at the event as part of the National Honor Society at Minnechaug Regional High School.



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PowerBack Rehab Screening

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Council on Aging will offer a PT/OT Screening Clinic on Friday, Jan. 10 at 10:30 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St.

Physical and Occupational Therapists from PowerBack Rehab will be at RiverMills Center for a free screening clinic for balance, strength, ADL and pain issues. Space is limited. You must register in advance at RiverMills Center.

Medicare 101

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will offer the program "Medicare 101" on Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 10 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St.

Greg Keochakian, owner of Medicare Counselors, will be at RiverMills for this Medicare 101 program. This program will provide clear, step-by-step guidance on how to navigate Medicare. This program will cover enrollment, eligibility, costs and more to help members choose the right coverage for their needs. You must register in advance.

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RiverMills gets festive with Holiday Dinner event

By Amanda Munson
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - The Holiday Dinner at the senior center on Dec. 17 served a prime rib meal with entertainment from The O'Tones, an all women trio band that played holiday tunes all night long.

Earlier in the day, the senior center offered a lunch option that served grilled cheese and creamy tomato soup, with a holiday cookie as dessert. In the evening for the Holly-Day Dinner, prime rib, mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, and a holiday ice cream bowl served hundreds of guests.

President of the Friends Mike Wilk discussed his involvement within the background of funding an event like the Holly-Day dinner and why it's important to continue to hold fun-filled nights more often for the seniors.



Santa joined at the beginning of the night, offering candy canes and Christmas cheer to everyone.

"I think what I've gotten out of it so far the most is how much the donations and the money that comes in and the support from the community benefits seniors. How much they enjoy and get into everything that is done. Earlier in the night, people were up there dancing and singing right before dinner. They're into it! This is their time, you know? After everything they've done in their whole life, they put in their working hours, it's their chance to relax and have fun," Wilk said.

The night was full of entertainment and a highly anticipated 50/50 raffle, which included the lunch and dinner contenders for the first time, which intrigued a lot more attendees to participate in receiving the big prize. The entertainment room had over 100 guests, who all had the same thought after eating, "The prime rib was awesome!"

When asked about his time at the RiverMills in 2024, Wilk shared this.

"As I reflect on my first five months, I learned a lot. You know, it's a process. I've been on other boards and committees, each one is different. I have a great group of people on the board that I can rely on and I can truly count on," Wilk said. "Sherry Manyak and her staff are phenomenal to work with."

In reference to his time working and visiting places like RiverMills before becoming president of the Friends, Wilk's view has changed.

"I've been here when I was working and I've come in and done talks. Met up with different groups, like conducting scam talks and meeting up with the veterans. I've never realized until becoming president, how much is actually done for seniors. It's unbelievable," Wilk said. "It's great how much there is for people to do



TURLEY PHOTO BY AMANDA MUNSON

Steve and Denise man the 50/50 raffle table at almost all of the events held at RiverMills, but for the dinner, they dressed to impress.

You're going to meet new friends, have good company, and find people with like minded interests. It's a great center with a great staff, and everybody has a great time. That's the goal of RiverMills."

For the new year of 2025, Wilk shared his goals for the senior center.

"I want to keep moving forward, keep moving ahead, and shoot and aim for bigger and better. To continue to work with Sherry and her staff and to do everything we can to bring in as much as we can to do more for the seniors," Wilk said. "All of the members of the Friends have the same common goal. My board has been great, anything I've needed or asked of them, they've been there. Our volunteers have been spot on, like Denise and Steve, as known as the 50/50 people. It's a great group."

The Holly-Day dinner had a cash bar, dinner rolls served first, along with the main meal with dessert following. At-



RiverMills staff smile as they handle the cash bar throughout the night.

tendees were very pleased with the food served, along with the Christmas tunes the O'Tones played in the background.

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

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 December 2024.

Saturday Playgroup will be held at 1 p.m., on Saturdays, Dec. 21, 28. Come play at the library! The play-space will be open for families with kids of all ages to meet up and play.

Read to a Dog on Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 4 p.m. Meet Lina, a 2-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 five and up. Space is limited, contact the Children's Room to Sign up.

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

Focusing on Goals at Rivermills

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will offer the program "Focusing on Goals" on Tuesday, Jan. 7 at 10 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St.

The Foodbank of Western Mass will be at RiverMills for a program on how to keep you on top of your goals and how to stay on track with your health resolutions. A healthy cooking demonstration will take place during this program. Although this is a free program, please register at RiverMills Center or by calling 534-3698.

Hope Your Holiday Season Is **Extra-Extra Happy!**



Thanks to all of our readers and advertisers for supporting our publication and the future of local community journalism. We value our role in this community, and we're committed to keeping you current in 2025 and beyond with a focus on the local news and events that matter most to you.

We wish you an informed and fabulous new year!

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Chicopee Register

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GUEST COLUMN



Coriander makes a great cookie

Today was the designated day to begin to bake like crazy. Personally, I wish we could cull the number, and honestly the sheer volume of Christmas cookies we make, but if the kids or my husband hear of that I will be banished to Grinch status.

It's a tradition to go through the recipes ahead of time and decide what cookies we'll bake.

One of my all-time favorites, and one I would never consider culling, is the coriander cookie. My family tried a sample at Old Sturbridge Village's Christmas by Candlelight some years back and enjoyed it so much we added the recipe to our repertoire. Yummy indeed!

You may be surprised to learn that Coriander sativum is the Latin name for two herbs. Confused? Most folks are when they learn that the seeds of this plant are called coriander, while the leaves are known as cilantro.

Both have been used for culinary purposes since the beginning of time! All portions of the plant are edible but some argue that the green portion is barely that.

Read on.

I liken cilantro to be the "marigold" of the herb world. Either you love it or you hate it. I, for one, immensely dislike it and if given the chance to pick it out of my salsa I will certainly do it! Even in a restaurant.

I found it interesting to learn that some people possess a genetically predisposed aversion to it, according to studies by Charles J. Wysocki of the Monell Chemical Senses Center in Philadelphia.

To me it has a bitter taste that I have a hard time describing beyond that. Dirty? Soil-like?

Most people that do dislike it have a similar lack of descriptive ability; they just can't put their finger on it, but they don't like the taste...or the smell of it.

As I mentioned, cilantro is often used in salsa and other Mexican, Asian and Italian dishes including curries, sauces, salads and soups. If you prefer to grow the plant more for its greens and less for its seeds, manage it as you would spinach.

Sow seeds in the ground in the cool of the season and in succession every two weeks. It dislikes being transplanted but doesn't mind pot culture. Harvest greens rather aggressively – about one-third of the plant at a time.

Just like spinach, there are slow-to-bolt varieties to choose from such as aptly named "Slow Bolt" and "Longstanding."

Coriander seeds, on the other hand, have a pleasant (at least to me!) fragrance once dried. The scent is easier to pin-point too; nutty and spicy (ever so slightly) come to mind.

Coriander seed is also well known in various ethnic cuisines and is a favorite in spice blends, curry being the most popular. It is also used in the making of a number of distilled spirits and herbal liqueurs, and cookies.

It's funny that I can like one part of the plant and not the other. Coriander seed can be eaten whole, crushed or powdered.

The Herb Society noted that during World War II the seeds were coated in white or pink sugar and thrown from carnival wagons, earning the name "confections" or "confetti!" When the seeds were replaced by balls of colored paper the name confetti stuck. Take this one to your next game of Cruise Ship Trivia!

It is easy to harvest the seeds. Simply let the heads dry to brown right on the plant. Clip them and place inside a paper bag; as they dry further they will open and the seeds

GUEST COLUMN



Most Americans aren't obsessed with politics

The 2024 election is over, but the arguments about what it means are continuing.

Did Donald Trump and the Republican Party win a mandate to govern as they wish? Did Democrats try too hard to appeal to their political base? Or not hard enough?

But drawing conclusions about the meaning of an election, especially about what it says about the American people, is difficult. Most voters simply aren't that focused on politics. They aren't obsessed with the latest news from Washington or what the candidates are saying.

As Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear writes in a recent New York Times column, "When most Americans wake up in the morning, they are not thinking about politics." They are thinking about their jobs, their finances, their next doctor's appointment. They are thinking about feeding their families and getting their children off to school. They want to know their communities are safe.

"If you are staring at the cost of your child's prescription and wondering how you are going to pay for both it and your family's dinner," Beshear writes, "the offense of the day in Washington, D.C. or the latest crazy thing a politician said just isn't as important."

I couldn't agree more. Those of us who write about government and public affairs often forget that we're in the minority. For most people, they may follow the news, and most of them will vote; but politics, especially national politics, isn't at the top of their daily concerns.

One of the first lessons I learned when I was in Congress was that people care deeply about local matters. They pay a lot less attention to national issues. They are even less worried about international affairs.

Their concerns are much closer to home.

In my district, the experience was the same whether I was visiting with constituents

in cafes, speaking to service clubs or meeting with reporters and editors at local newspapers. People, whether they were Democrats or Republicans, were focused on their communities. They wanted to talk about a new factory, a planned road project or the local school system.

People do pay attention to the national economy, because it affects their lives. They may not know the latest inflation or unemployment numbers, but they know when costs go up for gas, groceries and housing. They care about crime, but their focus is on community safety.

It's true, of course, that Donald Trump has upended our politics, putting himself at the center of every issue.

The decline of local newspapers, coupled with the rise of talk radio, cable TV news and social media, has nationalized our politics. Tune in CNN or Fox News, and you might think every national issue is a matter of life and death.

Politicians often amplify this thinking as they compete to turn highly motivated voters in a tight election. But that's not most Americans. Most care deeply about their families, their neighbors and their communities. They want the government to share those concerns.

Beshear is a Democrat who has twice been elected governor of a state that just voted 65-35 for Trump. He recommends a focus on kitchen-table issues as a way forward for his party.

"The focus of the Democratic Party must return to creating better jobs, more affordable and accessible health care, safer roads and bridges, the best education for our children and communities where people aren't just safer but also feel safer," he writes.

In fact, that should be a good agenda for any politician, Democrat or Republican. Meeting the people where they live and trying to improve their day-to-day lives isn't just good politics. It's good governing. We'll all be better off if our elected officials remember that.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

Early Christmas shoppers...



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

will pop out.

Even if you are only interested in harvesting the seeds, multiple plantings (or a big garden patch) are necessary to get a decent-sized harvest.

No matter how you like your Coriander sativum, sow the seeds in a sunny, well-drained spot in place for the best success. If you let a few drop their seed each year, chances are you will be blessed with volunteers.

Enough writing, I have four batches of cookies to get in the freezer!

Merry Christmas to all of my gardening friends out there!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

WE CARE ABOUT YOUR NEWS!

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

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The *Chicopee Register* is published every Friday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.



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CPD holds Shopping with a Cop



PHOTOS AND CAPTION COURTESY OF CHICOPEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHICOPEE – The police department would like to thank the Chicopee Police Association and Mercedes-Benz of Springfield for all the work they put in to help us make Shopping with a Cop possible this year. With the money raised, they were able to shop with 10 families on Dec. 16. The families were overcome with joy and gratitude. Again, thank you to everyone involved with this event.



Turley photos by Amanda Munson

This volunteer hung the first wreath, the United States Air Force wreath.



A closeup of the United States Air Force wreath.



A closeup of the United States Army wreath.



A closeup of the United States Coast Guard wreath.



A closeup of the United States Marine Corps wreath.

WREATHS from page 1

Michael Pray from St. Stanislaus Basilica and then honoring each branch of service, starting from the Armed Forces to the M.I.A.P.O.W. flag.

“To me it captures living veterans, but it also makes us aware of those who have sacrificed and those who are still around today to continue the outstanding work that veterans do,” Picard said.

In the front entrance of the ceremony, eight wreaths were hung in honor of these armed forces: United States Air Force, United States Army, United States Coast Guard, United States Marine Corps, United States Merchant Marine, Prisoners of War and Missing in Action, United States Navy, and United States Space Force. Each wreath had a big red bow, an American flag, a star, and the corresponding armed forces flag.

Mayor John Vieau spoke about his connections with veterans and why he continues to support events like these.

“We are a veteran proud city, with over 4,000 veterans that call Chicopee home and today we memorialize those who have lost their lives who served in the military. They say that people die twice, you die when you die, and you die when people say your name for the last time. In Chicopee, we want to remember those who have served and the entire country, this is a national event,” Vieau said. “By saying their name proudly and placing a wreath by their grave, it’s a way to keep their name alive. As a city, we try to never forget. We’ve had many in my lifetime, who either have been killed in action or have made the ultimate sacrifice and those who have served in the past. As genera-



Al Picard and Mayor John Vieau pose for a picture after the event has taken place.

tions come and go, their names never get said again.”

When asked what this day means, Picard reflected, “It enhances all the wonderful veterans events that we have, Veterans Day and Memorial Day. It’s one more event that let’s people know, especially in a community like Chicopee, we are a veteran caring community. It’s important that we create every opportunity we can to show that.”

To support Wreaths Across America, visit the website wreathscrossamerica.org.

St. Barnabas Anglican Church



Christmas Eve Mass of Lessons & Carols

Tuesday, December 24 at 10 p.m.

18 Park Street (on the Common) Belchertown
Rev. Thomas T. Stockton • Rt. Rev. Brian R. Marsh

stbarnabasbelchertown.org

~ All Are Welcome ~

PATRIOT AWARD from page 1

which recognizes employers who support employee participation in the National Guard and Reserve Force.

Bonett has volunteered with the Department for Defense for 32 years and got involved when he saw a presentation similar to the one he did that morning here in Chicopee.

His favorite part of giving out these awards is the appreciation shown by the recipient to the service member who nominated them.

"I also do a lot of it, a lot of their training for them all over the country on the Uniform Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act, which mandates the protections and the responsibilities for service members and employers," Bonett said.

Bonett stressed the importance of recognizing active service members for what they do in their communities.

"Probably the most obvious thing is the Toy for Joy with the Marines, but they do a lot of other things as well. They'll be at parades. A week or so ago, the Army National Guard Band did a concert and, of course, those are free," Bonett said. "They do a lot of community things that the community wants. They show their presence in many ways."

Ruiz shared he's had a couple of deployments during his time at the fire department and was always supported, having first entered the service in 2007 and always having the desire to serve since he was little.

One of his deployments was to the Holyoke Soldiers Home during the COVID pandemic and he will be going on an overseas mission soon.

"Every time I have to go on a deployment, I receive the utmost support from the entire department, starting off from the chief all the way down to the deputy and all of my coworkers," Ruiz said.

For the nomination process, Ruiz explained it had to be submitted in a timeframe within the year, which started in November.

"November came and I said, 'What better Christmas present towards the de-



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

The Chicopee Fire Department and Chief Dan Stamborski were recognized with the Patriot Award by the Department of Defense on Dec. 16.

partment to show all the support they have given me in recognition to them as well," Ruiz said.

Ruiz was thrilled that Stamborski and the fire department were recognized.

"It just shows the dedication that the department has to U.S. military members. The public service that we offer not only in the military, but also in the department in showing that pride of helping others," Ruiz said.

Mayor John Vieau expressed excitement at the fire department's recognition as a Patriotic employer.

"That's something about the city of Chicopee is that we're a Veteran-proud city and someone's being deployed--an employee--we make sure that they're taken care of," Vieau said. "We're really proud of him and his service to our country and the sacrifice that that young man's making. It's more than appropriate to give an award like the Patriot Award to the Chicopee Fire Department and Chief Stamborski."

For Stamborski, the award means so much, sharing how 46 active service mem-

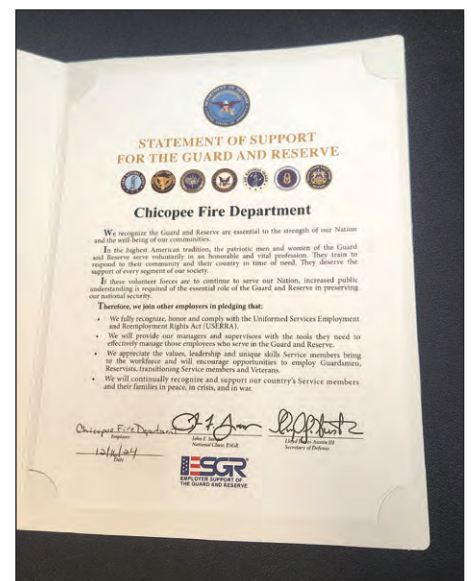
bers--current or have since retired--have been members of the fire department.

"We're very proud and honored to receive it. However, I think that the true credit goes to the actual veterans and men and women from our department that serve overseas and back here at home as well," Stamborski said. "They sacrifice time with their family, their children and they just deserve a lot of credit and I find it very easy. It's just the right thing to do to support their endeavors no matter what they're called to do."

On the fire department being recognized as a Patriotic Employer, Stamborski said this.

"I think there was, once upon a time, a time where employers and people in general--long time ago--didn't appreciate their veterans and I'm glad there's a culture shift and our city, the department, is very supportive of them," Stamborski said.

Stamborski was humbled that he and the department were nominated by Ruiz, thanking him and the community for the support.



A photo of the certificate from the Department of Defense recognizing the Chicopee Fire Department and Chief Dan Stamborski for being a Patriotic Employer.

"He's always been a very humble and appreciative employee and he really loves being in the job. He's happy to be here and that's refreshing for us," Stamborski said.

TRUCK STOP from page 1

The project came back to the table recently when the applicant applied again for the licenses after previously withdrawing.

Residents express concerns

City residents speaking for and against the project took about two hours to complete during public input.

Highlighting the neighborhood and her neighbors, Kimberley Carter expressed passion for the community she resides in and the traffic impacts.

"While I understand the proposed plans don't directly impact Burnett Road, the reality is that it will increase the traffic flow onto it. Although the trucks won't physically be on Burnett Road, they will impact those who travel there," Carter said. "My mother lives on Beauchamp Terrace and is anxious about driving to my house. She merges onto 291 from Fuller Road where fast-moving cars are entering the

turnpike, coming from 291 or heading home through routes on Burnett Road. While we wait at the lights, we hope drivers will see us. This traffic and congestion will only get worse."

John Kibble has been to a lot of Pilot Travel Centers and is for the development, explaining he has a problem "with any time that something's presented to be built there, it is shot down just because people don't want to be inconvenienced by traffic."

"The point is, we're always going to have to deal with traffic. It's unfortunate and it's just a way of life. We have to deal with it but we can't let this development and this property go undeveloped just because we're worried about some traffic. There's traffic all over the city," Kibble said. "I feel that there's no legitimate reason to shoot this down if all you're going to say is traffic and undesirables when you have that Motel 6 right up there."

Councilors Decide

The council would ultimately vote 10-3 to approve the service station license and amended fuel storage license.

During council discussion, Ward 6 Councilor Samuel Shumsky addressed several things, including his upbringing in the Burnett Road area, the ongoing problems with traffic and the threats and harassment that took place over the last two months.

"It's insane and I condemn all violence. I condemn all of it no matter who it's at. This is not right. This should not happen and, quite frankly, the fact that it did happen is pretty concerning and I'm going to spend the remainder of my term trying to figure out ways that we can reunify the city and bring civility and respectful dialogue back to a conversation because this should never happen again," Shumsky said. "Quite frankly, I'm disheartened and just utterly disgusted at the way this was all brought about."

Shumsky said he'd vote against the development, citing how he heard from constituents in all forms of communication and when he went door to door to speak with them.

"It was a resounding no. I didn't have one person tell me, yes, they wanted this. So, this is why I'm voting no on this and this is why I'm not going to support this," Shumsky said. "I hope that my councilors will support me in that and the residents of Ward 6."

Councilor-at-Large Tim Wagner fielded hundreds of phone calls and emails from residents from all areas of Chicopee both in favor and against the truck stop.

After giving it a lot of thought, Wagner said he'd vote in favor "because what we've done here over the last several years is show that we're unfriendly to any busi-

ness opportunity and we've discouraged further business development within the community."

"I think it's an important thing to show that we're at least open to the possibility of new development in the city and I think that this council has made a good faith effort to try and share those residents' concerns and take in residents' concerns with the project that we have on the floor here today," Wagner said. "I really am just sad about this whole process though. I wish it could have been done in a more respectful and open manner. I'm going to vote for it, I think. I'm really just sad that this is what it's come to in Chicopee."

Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello called it a teachable moment, learning from the dialogue that "taxes are very, very important" and sometimes get taken for granted.

Costello also received a lot of calls about the development, adding "they don't live in Ward Six, I understand that," but "they want this development because of taxes" and for the council "to do a better job in regards to how we handle our taxes."

"What I did learn through the residents and through the business community is we're going to have to do better at how we do our taxes and how we set our tax rates, and a lot of calls that I got was about how do you spend your money and can you do better," Costello said. "And we're going to have to come up with a way to figure that out because taxes keep coming up. We want more business. We're not business-friendly. Having a moratorium for 25 years is not business-friendly. Just simply not business-friendly. That's not the right message we want to give to our business community."

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Sports

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Holyoke bests Chicopee in season opener

HOLYOKE – While neither team got a lot of offensive momentum going, Holyoke got just enough in the second half as they defeat Chicopee in girls basketball action last Thursday night 41-32. It was the season opener for both teams. Genesis Rivera shined in her first varsity game for Holyoke 15 points. Kiara Perez, who has already surpassed 1,000 career points, had 10 points in the win. Chicopee was led by Kiyah Price with 13 points.



Leilanie Adujar rushes toward the hoop.



Sophia Moreira makes an off-balance jump shot.



Jeneida Torres makes a shot.



Za-Niah Kahi takes a long-range jumper.



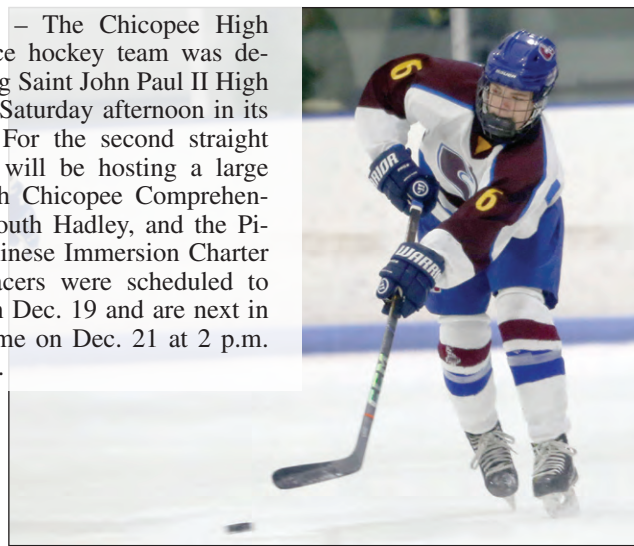
Nylah Francis jumps forward for a long layup.

Hockey co-op falls in opener



Brennan Corcoran looks to make a pass.

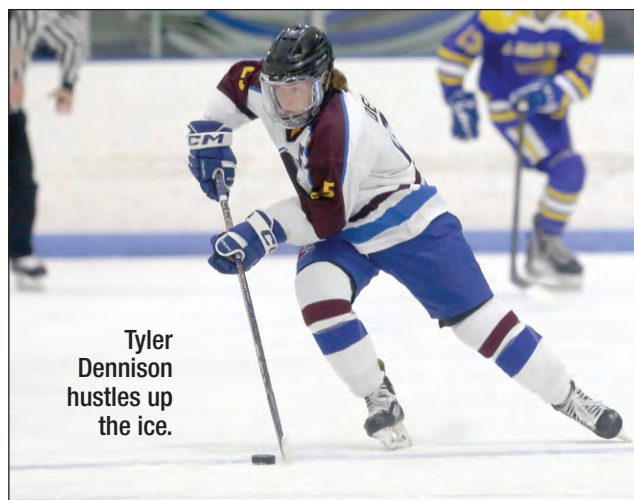
HOLYOKE – The Chicopee High School co-op ice hockey team was defeated by visiting Saint John Paul II High School 6-3 last Saturday afternoon in its season opener. For the second straight year, Chicopee will be hosting a large co-op team with Chicopee Comprehensive, Granby, South Hadley, and the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School. The Pacers were scheduled to face Amherst on Dec. 19 and are next in on action at home on Dec. 21 at 2 p.m. against Peabody.



Griffin Stefanik makes his way up the ice.



Braydon LaDuke fights to keep the puck.



Tyler Dennison hustles up the ice.

Chicopee swimming falls to Turners

CHICOPEE – On Monday, Chicopee High School swimming had a tough meet with visiting Turners Falls. The boys were defeated 125-7 while girls swimming lost 109-59.

In the girls meet, the Pacers did manage a couple of individual victories. Jenna Madru got the 200 individual medley. Brianna Gregoire got a win in the 100 freestyle. Chicopee's 200 freestyle relay team consisting of Madru, Gregoire, Alicia Horn, and Natalie Irish also picked up a victory.

Swimming faced Monson later in the week before taking the holidays off.

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Coaching classes available

Coaches hired after Aug. 1, 1998 are required to take a coaching course to be eligible to coach high school sports in Massachusetts.

According to the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association, all coaches hired prior to Aug. 1, 1998 are exempt from taking the Fundamentals of Coaching Course. Coaches hired after that and before July 1, 2005 must have completed the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course with the exception of Certified MA teachers.

All coaches (stipend or volunteer) first serving as an interscholastic coach after July 1, 2005 must complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course, and an approved Sports First Aid course.

The NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course requirement must be met through attending an MIAA sponsored Fundamentals of Coaching Class with MIAA Certified Instructors. Must be completed and passed prior to coaching a second year.

The NFHS Sports First Aid may be met by completing on-line courses with the NFHS www.nfhslearn.com. Must be passed prior to coaching a third year.

Additional requirements for all coaches:

Massachusetts requires coaches to be certified in CPR per Section 1. Section 47A of chapter 71 of the General Laws. Additionally, AED training is required and will most likely be done in conjunction with the existing mandated CPR training.

All MIAA member school coaches (stipend or volunteer) are required to take annually the on-line National Federation Concussion Course, or other MA Department of Public Health recognized education program, prior to the start of their season. Rugby Coaches must see Rule 76.2 for additional coaches' education information.

Any questions, please call Donna Harrington at 508-541-9804 or email dharrington@miaa.net.

Fundamentals of coaching classes are being offered on Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025 from 4 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Classes are open until capacity is reached and then a waiting list is established. There are online components to the course once the classroom portion is completed

Railers get point, fall in shootout

WORCESTER – It has been one of those weekends that seem like a month for the Railers. They have battled one of the ECHL's best teams in the Trois-Rivieres Lions and changed a coach all at the same time.

Worcester lost its final game under Bob Deraney, 5-3, Friday night. They lost their first game under Nick Tuzzolino, 3-2, Saturday night but it was one of those half-a-loaf deals. The Railers earned a point with a shootout loss.

It says something about the Lions that Worcester played one of its best games in recent weeks and still could not get two points. Trois-Rivieres is loaded with offensive opportunists and flawless goaltending.

The Railers out shot the visitors, 41-26, but still could not outscore them.

It was, however, an encouraging start to Tuzzolino's head coaching career and in general he liked what he saw.

"I don't want to say that I was excited about how we played," he said, "because the result wasn't there, but we made a few minor adjustments in clogging up the neutral zone and our forecheck, and I thought they were really good."

The goal scorers were Justin Kaplan and Matthew Kopperud for Worcester while the Lions got two goals from Cormier. The first was from Xavier Cormier, the second from Tommy Corm-

ier. Alex Beaucage had the only shootout goal.

It was a good goaltending night both ways. Zachary Emond made 39 saves for the Lions. Michael Bullion, who had been in a slump, stopped 23 and made the save of the night early in the third period.

He stopped Logan Nijhoff on a penalty shot at 2:31. The period was Bullion's best as he also made some big saves late to keep the score at 2-2.

Xavier Cormier put Trois-Rivieres ahead at 4:29 of the first period. It was a tap-in goal with the Lions on a power play. Kaplan tied it at 8:45, also on a power play. He beat Emond with a rebound backhand.

Kopperud scored from the right circle at 14:26 to give Worcester a 2-1 lead, then Tommy Cormier converted a long breakaway at 18:01.

"If we can carbon-copy what we did tonight," Tuzzolino said, "I don't see us losing more than a couple games here and there. It's one of those things where that type of system can plug in play some players and drive some teams wild up front."

"I guess my overall goal is to work on the consistency of that this week because we'll have a good stretch and really have all things firing for Maine. It's a very big weekend for us."

Thunderbirds grab point in Wilkes-Barre

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (12-9-2-0) dispatched a 4-1 second intermission deficit to earn a standings point before ultimately falling in overtime, 5-4, to the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins (14-7-1-0) on Saturday night at Mohegan Arena at Casey Plaza.

Upstart rookie Rutger McGroarty quickly got the Penguins on the board on their Teddy Bear Toss night as he took a delicate saucer pass from Joonas Koppanen and deked to the forehand to tuck it behind Vadim Zherenko just 1:53 into the opening period.

The T-Birds were able to draw two power play opportunities while trailing 1-0, but the Penguins' penalty kill dispatched both of the Springfield man-up situations. Special teams continued to trend in the home team's direction as the Penguins cashed in on their first power play on a goal by Emil Bemstrom at 16:06 of the frame to give Wilkes-Barre/Scranton a 2-0 lead into the intermission.

Filip Larsson was not heavily taxed in Penguins crease in the first, but he came up with the nine saves asked of him to start the night.

Thanks to their top offensive unit, the T-Birds quelled some of the Penguins' momentum at 5:17 of the second. Aleksanteri Kaskimaki took a drop feed from Leo Loof and whipped it in the low slot to Dalibor Dvorsky. While Larsson slid across to deny the T-Birds' star rookie, the rebound trickled behind the netminder, allowing Marcus Sylvegard to backhand it into the yawning net to cut the deficit to 2-1.

Special teams, though, proved to be Springfield's undoing once again just 3:16 later as Valteri Puustinen slipped behind the defense on a power play and

chipped a backhand past Zherenko to make it a 3-1 Penguins lead.

Late in the period, the Thunderbirds thought they had solved Larsson on a power play scramble in the crease, but after a review, the goal was washed out, and Bemstrom took advantage with just 18 seconds left in the frame, snapping a wrist shot under the crossbar, extending the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton lead to 4-1 after 40 minutes.

The T-Birds' leaders rapidly turned the game around as the final period began. Captain Matthew Peca flung a wrist shot over Larsson's glove just 17 seconds into the period to make it a 4-2 contest. Less than four minutes later, crashing in for a rebound in the slot area, former Penguin Scott Harrington notched his first as a Thunderbird at 4:08 to cut the margin to 4-3.

Larsson and the Penguins tightened to hold the fort into the game's final two minutes, but a penalty with 2:09 on the clock handed Springfield another power play and a chance to get an equalizer. With Zherenko at the bench for an extra skater, the T-Birds seized the moment as Matt Luff found Kaskimaki in the slot, and the rookie's snapper eluded Larsson to tie the game with 1:56 left.

The Thunderbirds had another power play chance to close out regulation, but the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton penalty kill shut it down to get the game into the extra period.

Unfortunately, the T-Birds' magic ran out in the extra session as a penalty gave the Penguins a 4-on-3 power play, and Bemstrom completed his hat trick with a spinning jam shot at 4:27 of the overtime to snap the T-Birds' winning streak. Despite coming short of victory, Springfield earned standings points for the 11th time in its last 13 games.


IN THE CITY

CPD receives help from Bob "The Bike Man" Charland



PHOTO AND CAPTION COURTESY OF CHICOPEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHICOPEE – On Dec. 12, the police department shared this story about a jacket donation from Bob "The Bike Man" Charland: "Once again Bob 'the bike guy' Charland has come through for us. Early this morning a case worker from the Quality Inn reached out to us looking for assistance in getting winter jackets for her clients. Since we had already handed all of our stock out, I placed a call to Bob and without hesitation he donated 20 jackets. Thank you Bob for helping us provide these jackets to the members of our community. We greatly appreciate it."



EARLY DEADLINE

In observance of **NEW YEAR'S**

There will be an **EARLY CLASSIFIEDS & ADVERTISING DEADLINE** for Dec. 30 - Jan. 3.

Place your advertisement no later than

Fri., Dec. 27 Noon

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Events & announcements schedule

Harmony House Needs Volunteers

CHICOPEE - The doors have opened at Harmony House of Western Massachusetts and potential volunteers are invited to explore the opportunity to help others in our communities.

Harmony House of Western Massachusetts is a social model home for hospice care located in Chicopee. After closing our original home in 2019 and purchasing a house in the Aldenville section of Chicopee for renovation, the organization is actively serving our residents with the help of volunteers and staff members.

Harmony House is currently in need of caregivers and people who would enjoy the opportunity to support our residents. Whether it's a few hours a week or a few hours a month, Harmony House is a welcoming place for people looking to help people.

Harmony House is a local, non-profit organization whose mission is to provide a loving home offering compassionate care for people who are on hospice and are in need of care.

If interested in learning more or becoming a volunteer, please complete

the online volunteer application form at www.harmonyhousewma.org/volunteer-1 or email us at harmonyhousewma@gmail.com.

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

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Chicopee Family & Community Program is currently hosting a “Raising A Reader” Family Shared reading program.

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

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

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

Please call or email Shane at ShaneW@headstart.org or 413-310-1632.

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

American Legion Post 337 hosts Children's Christmas Party



SUBMITTED PHOTO

CHICOPEE - Aldenville American Legion Post 337 held its Children's Christmas Party for members children and grandchildren on Dec. 8. It was held at the Knights of Columbus on Granby Road in Chicopee.



Leandra Maimaron

March 26, 2024

Parents: Jonathan & Lindsey Maimaron, East Longmeadow
Grandparents: Gary Giacomoni, Wilbraham
Thom & Wanda Merola, Enfield, CT



Brixton Michael Malone

January 8, 2024

Parents: Ryan & Melissa Malone, Wilbraham
Grandparents: Bob & Ann Blanchard, Chicopee
Eddy & Debbie Malone, Ludlow



Ariella Martins

January 15, 2024

Parents: Aaron Martins & Bryanna Lapointe, Monson
Grandparents: Mark & Jane Martins, Ludlow
Bill Lapointe & Tracy Halgas, Springfield



Lucas Jozsef Giancola

February 7, 2024

Parents: Domenic & Marika Giancola, Belchertown
Grandparents: Ben & Peggy Giancola, Southwick
Valerie Wilder, Chicopee
Jozsef & Cheryl Bilecz (deceased)



Payton April Ziemba

March 13, 2024

Parents: Zachary & Jaqueline Ziemba, Wilbraham
Grandparents: Debbie & Jim Ziemba, Ludlow
Lisa Benoit, Ludlow
Great Grandparents: Maryanne Cierpial, Chicopee
Barbara Lanzarotto, Chicopee
Ronald & Margaret Benoit, East Longmeadow

PUBLIC NOTICES

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No. HD24P2540EA
Estate of:
Max T. Bobala
Also Known As:
Max Thomas Bobala, Jr.,
Max T. Bobala, Jr.
Date of Death:
October 17, 2024
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Teresa Pajak of Springfield, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Teresa Pajak of Springfield, MA 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.
12/20/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No. HD24P2584EA
Estate of:
Paula Brunault
Also Known As:
Paula G. Brunault
Date of Death:
October 21, 2024
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Christine P Laverdiere of Chicopee, MA**

Christine P Laverdiere of Chicopee, MA 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.
12/20/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD24P2581GD**

**In the matter of:
Erika Lynn Higgins
Of: Chicopee, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF PETITION
FOR APPOINTMENT OF
GUARDIAN FOR
INCAPACITATED
PERSON PURSUANT TO
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Angelique C Levesque** of Palmer, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Erika Lynn Higgins** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Angelique C Levesque** of Palmer, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** 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 a.m. on the return date of **01/09/2025**.

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: December 12, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/20/2024

**SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES
Under G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A**

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on January 3, 2025 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 G35
VIN: JNKBV61F38M275462
Derek Mark Frakes
10 Silver Shell Beach Dr.
Fairhaven, MA 02719

2011 Honda Fit Sport
VIN: JHMGE8H5XBC006595
Emily Tobler
175 1st St., Apt. 1R
Pittsfield, MA 01201

2017 Ford Edge SEL
VIN: 2FMPK4J92HBC37396
Trisha Bayrouy
361 Pleasant St.
Southbridge, MA 01550

2015 Subaru Impreza
Premium

Jeremiah Carpenter
VIN: JF1GJAC63FH002696
124 North St.
Ware, MA 01082

2011 Toyota Highlander
VIN: 5TDBK3EH7BS063745
Ivette Ortiz Mauras
14 Riverview Pl., Apt. 3
Chicopee, MA 01013

2006 Suzuki Rm -Z250K
VIN: JKSKXCPC26A016277
Sean Barrett
30 B Morgan Ave.
Westfield, MA 01085

2010 Toyota Prius
VIN: JTDKN3DU5A0034526
Kevin Kelly
118 Draper St.
Springfield, MA 01108

12/20, 12/27/2024, 01/03/2025

**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 January 3, 2025 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 Chevrolet Silverado 1500
VIN: 1GCRKPEA2BZ262077
Joseph Hodgdon
185 Artist Falls Rd,
North Conway, NH, 03860

2015 Hyundai Accent GLS
VIN: KMHCT4AE5FU875870
William Gilmore
28 Maple St, Apt 1
Westfield, Ma, 01085

2007 Freightliner Conventional
VIN: 1FUJA6CK57LY27205
Lulus Trucking LLC
1077 North Ave, STE 1184
Elizabeth, NJ, 07201

2006 Wabash National Corp
VIN: 1JJV532W46L024973
Lulus Trucking LLC
1049 Sumit Ave, Apt 1
Bronx, Ny, 10452

2004 Honda Accord Ex
VIN: 1HGCM56894A175215
Kiara Falcon Melendez
185 College St, Fl 1st
Springfield, MA, 01109

2005 Toyota Sequoia Sr5
VIN: 5TDBT44A25S241668
Marc Louis Razza
71 Toms Pond Lane,
Warner, NH, 03278

2010 Mazda CX-9
VIN: JM3TB3MV8A0233017
Samuel Opoku
3 Jim St,
Enfield, CT, 06082

12/13, 12/20, 12/27/2024

**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 20, 2024

at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2011 Mitsubishi Lancer Es/Es Sport
VIN: JA32U2FU7BU004253
Keila Garcia
258 Jasper St.
Springfield, MA 01109

2012 BMW 528xi
VIN: WBAXH5C51CDW10284
John Pangelinan
99 Woodland Dr., Apt. C
Uncasville, CT 06382

2015 Buick Enclave
VIN: 5GAKVBKD8FJ360501
David Long
54 Lyman St., Apt 2
South Hadley, MA 01075

2018 Jeep Grand Cherokee Limited
VIN: 1C4RJFBG9JC107906
Michael Mercadante
87 South Ave.
Longmeadow, MA 01106

2005 Honda Accord Ex
IHGCM558X5A109582
Maria Colon
491 Bridge Rd., Apt. 1102
Florence, MA 01062

2015 Nissan Rogue S/SL/SV
VIN: KNMAT2MT8FP553667
Bijoy Marina
901 Better Days Pl
Valrico, FL 33594

2012 Honda Fit
VIN: JHMGE8H34CS003634
Jorge Cruz
155 W MainSt.
Plainville, CT 06062

2005 Hyundai Tucson Gls/Lx
VIN: KM8JN12D15U210985
Daquan Jackson
6025 North Hills Dr., Apt. G
Raleigh, NC 27609

12/06, 12/13, 12/20/2024

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
HAMPDEN, Div.
Probate & Family Court
Dept.
HD24E0046PP**

To Norman R. Langlois, II, of Chicopee, Hampden County, and to all other persons interested.

A petition has been presented to said Court by **Elysia M. Pete**, of Chicopee, Hampden County, representing that they hold as joint tenants in an undivided part or share of land lying in Chicopee, in the County of Hampden, setting forth that they desire that all of said land may be sold at private sale or public auction for not less than Three Hundred Four Thousand (\$304,000.00) Dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof after full adjudication of the equitable claims contained in said petition and supplemental memorandum filed with the Court.

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney, should file a written appearance in said Court at Springfield before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the **fourth day of February 2025**, the return day of this citation.

Witness, **BARBARA M. HYLAND**, Esquire, First

Justice of said Court, this 4th day of December 2024.

Rosemary A. Saccomani,
Register
12/20, 12/27/2024, 01/03/2025

**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. HD24C0326CA**

**In the matter of:
Evan Montero
CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME**

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

Daniella Theresa Montero
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/14/2025**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

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

Date: December 17, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/20/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No. HD24P2522EA
Estate of:
Kevin Michael Walsh**

**Also Known As:
Kevin M. Walsh,
Kevin Walsh**

**Date of Death: 08/22/2024
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of

Petitioner **Kerry Poniatowski of Chicopee, MA**

Petitioner **Lisa Gilhooly of Chicopee, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Kerry Poniatowski of Chicopee, MA

Lisa Gilhooly of Chicopee, MA

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.
12/20/2024

EARLY DEADLINE

In observance of **NEW YEAR'S PUBLIC NOTICES**
WILL HAVE AN EARLY AD DEADLINE
Place your public notice no later than
Fri., Dec. 27 Noon
A TURLEY PUBLICATION
24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 • 413-283-8393 • www.turley.com

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

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Teestreasures413@gmail.com
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413-374-7388 Marty.
Located in Western Mass.

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Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. **(413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868.**
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HOME IMPROVEMENTS. REMODELING Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. **(413)246-2783** Ron.



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HELP WANTED

THE TOWN OF OAKHAM is seeking an experienced municipal **Treasurer/Collector.** 15 hours a week, negotiable pay based on experience. Please send resumes to admin@oakham-ma.gov.

TOWN OF BLANDFORD HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT
The Town of Blandford is seeking a qualified individual for the position of Highway Superintendent. Salary range starting at \$75,000-\$80,000+ negotiable based on experience/skills. Please visit our website TownOfBlandford.com or email Administrator@TownofBlandford.com for more information.

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM ASST. ADULT SERVICES LIBRARIAN - P/T HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR I PUBLIC WORKS SKILLED WORKER

The Town of Wilbraham is looking to fill several vacancies. For application, and more information please visit www.wilbraham-ma.gov. Application deadlines vary. EOE

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON Highway Position Opening

The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest from qualified candidates to fill a part-time (six hours a week) **Administrative Assistant** position in the Town Highway Department. Duties include providing customer service, handling department's incoming and outgoing correspondence, processing payroll and maintaining records. The pay rate range for this position is \$18.16/hour to \$26.26/hour. A more in-depth job description can be found on the Town's website: www.worthington-ma.us. Questions will be answered by Highway Superintendent Devon Wolf - telephone number 413-685-5949. Please send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to: worthingtonhighway@gmail.com or to **Worthington Highway Department, PO Box 643, Worthington, MA, 01098.** This posting will remain pertinent until the position is filled. *The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT



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.

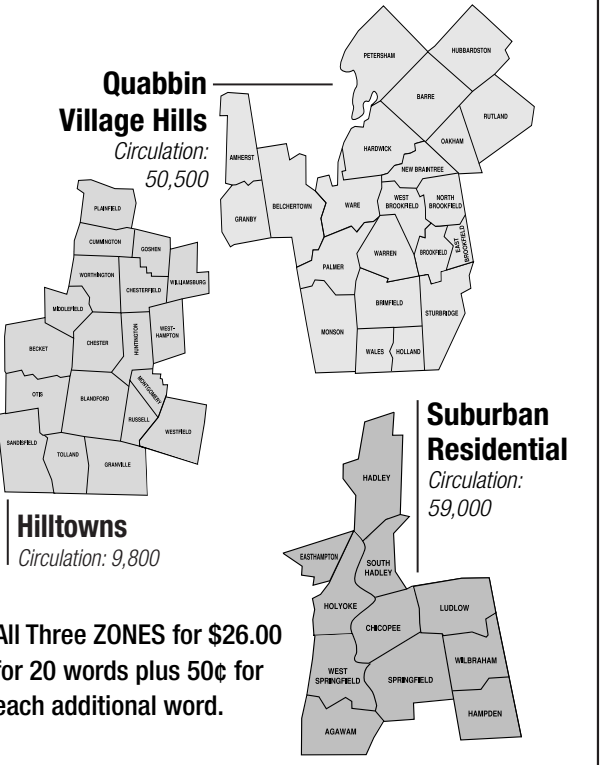
PROFESSIONAL OFFICE SPACE, shared with consultant. Artistically designed and decorated. Includes utilities, conference room, and kitchen. 3333 Boston Road, Wilbraham. **617-209-4882.**

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26	Base Price \$31.50	Base Price \$32.00	Base Price \$32.50
27	Base Price \$32.50	Base Price \$33.00	Base Price \$33.50
28	Base Price \$33.50	Base Price \$34.00	Base Price \$34.50
29	Base Price \$34.50	Base Price \$35.00	Base Price \$35.50
30	Base Price \$35.50	Base Price \$36.00	Base Price \$36.50
31	Base Price \$36.50	Base Price \$37.00	Base Price \$37.50
32	Base Price \$37.50	Base Price \$38.00	Base Price \$38.50
33	Base Price \$38.50	Base Price \$39.00	Base Price \$39.50
34	Base Price \$39.50	Base Price \$40.00	Base Price \$40.50
35	Base Price \$40.50	Base Price \$41.00	Base Price \$41.50
36	Base Price \$41.50	Base Price \$42.00	Base Price \$42.50
37	Base Price \$42.50	Base Price \$43.00	Base Price \$43.50
38	Base Price \$43.50	Base Price \$44.00	Base Price \$44.50
39	Base Price \$44.50	Base Price \$45.00	Base Price \$45.50
40	Base Price \$45.50	Base Price \$46.00	Base Price \$46.50

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CPD hosts Cop on Top



CHICOPEE – The police department hosted the Annual Cop on Top event at Walmart on Dec. 7 to raise money for the Special Olympics MA. The event took place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and had local law enforcement officials standing on the roof of Walmart to raise money for the organization. The Hampden County Sheriff's Office also joined the police department for the event. The event raised \$2,450.

Stefanik Elementary School receives visit from Santa



PHOTOS AND CAPTION COURTESY OF CHICOPEE POLICE DEPARTMENT
CHICOPEE - Santa and his elf visited the students at Stefanik Elementary School on Dec. 11. Luckily none of the kids were on the naughty list.



Japanese For Beginners Zoom Class

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Council on Aging will offer Japanese for Beginners Zoom classes beginning Tuesday, Jan. 14 thru Tuesday, April 1 at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Join Charlie Duquette,

USMC/Retired, for this 12-week series on learning basic Japanese. You will need a valid email address and access to Zoom for this class as it will be virtual and in the comfort of your own home. Class will meet at 4:30 every Tuesday

beginning Jan. 14 thru April 1 via Zoom. A study group will be held at Chicopee Senior Center every Friday at 2 p.m. from Jan. 17 thru April 4. You must provide a valid email address at the time of registration.

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Celebrate Christmas at the Basilica of St. Stanislaus

CHICOPEE - Celebrate the joy of Christmas at the Basilica of St. Stanislaus in Chicopee. On Christmas Eve, Mass will be celebrated in English at 4 p.m. and 10 p.m., with a Midnight Mass in Polish. On Christmas Day, we will continue the celebration with Mass in English at 7 a.m. and 11 a.m., and in Polish at 9 a.m.

Whether you come alone, with family, or with friends, we welcome you to experience the sacred traditions of Christmas with us.

A Life with Meaning and Purpose at RiverMills

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will offer the program "A Life with Meaning and Purpose" on Wednesday, Jan. 8 at 12:30 p.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St.

Join Henry Quinlan, owner of Omni Publishing, as he chats with you about how to build a life after retirement that is meaningful to you! The cost is \$2 and you must register in advance at RiverMills Center.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.