

Free computer classes start on Oct. 9

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is offering a free six-week beginner computer training course starting Oct. 9.

The real-time, instructor-led online classes will run Mondays and Wednesdays Oct. 9 to Nov. 25, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Laptops and WiFi hotspots for internet access will be provided for students who need them. The program was originally scheduled to start Sept. 30.

The program, run in partnership with the Albany, N.Y.-based nonprofit CanCode Communities, is aimed at helping individuals build essential computer skills for both personal and professional development. Participants will explore the Microsoft Office program, learn how to create resumes, manage calendars, and send email, and be introduced to the world of artificial intelligence.

Funding for the program comes from the Western Mass Alliance for Digital Equity.

To sign up for classes, please send an email to admissions@albanyancode.org or call 518-238-6808 (ext. 702).

Holyoke Community College honored with award

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College recently received the “Igniting Workforce Success” award from the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission for a cybersecurity training program it runs in partnership with the agency, which recently changed its name to MassAbility.

Specifically, the award recognizes HCC for its CyberOps training program, a free, nine-month remote program that trains MassAbility consumers to be cybersecurity analysts. MassAbility works with people with disabilities to empower their lives through counseling and various career and employment programs.

Kermit Dunkelberg, vice president of adult basic education and workforce development, accepted the award on behalf of HCC at the MRC’s Igniting Workforce Success conference in June.

“We just completed our fourth year with MassRehab,” said Dunkelberg. “This award is a great recognition of that partnership. In MassRehab, which is now MassAbility, we have a great partner. They bring as much to the table as we do in terms of innovation and attentiveness to student success.”

The pilot program launched by HCC and MassRehab in 2020 was the first of its kind in Massachusetts. Based on the program’s success, MRC launched a second with Roxbury Community College, which also received an Igniting Work-

force Success award.

“Together we are re-envisioning employment and people’s lives,” MassAbility Commissioner Toni Wolf said in 2020 after the first cohort of students graduated from the HCC program. “In the wake of COVID-19, our perspective on what is possible for remote work is expanding on a daily basis, particularly how resilient and adaptive people with disabilities are. These Cisco certifications are nationally recognized and highly sought-after workplace credentials that will give these students the needed leverage to enter a high paying industry.”

Since 2020, about 60 MassRehab clients have gone through the program, many emerging with paid internships that have led to full time, benefitted positions as cybersecurity analysts.

“It was MassRehab’s vision to offer training in the area of cybersecurity,” said Dunkelberg. “This is by far the longest duration program that they run and the most expensive, because it is not only a long duration, but very intensive. These students are studying 30 hours a week for about 10 months, so it ends up being 900 hours of training, but the difference that it can make in someone’s life is huge in terms of economic self-sufficiency.”

Once students complete the training, they take exams to qualify as Cisco Certified Support Technicians and Cisco Certi-

fied Networking Associates. Past program graduates have gone on to work as cybersecurity consultants and systems analysts for big tech companies, such as Dell Technologies.

“The story we always like to tell is one about a participant from our first program class who was making pizza at Big Y,” Dunkelberg said. “Upon conclusion of the program he was making \$80,000 a year as a consultant.”

Other students have more modest but no less meaningful career outcomes, Dunkelberg said.

“We’ve had four or five students intern here at HCC in our IT department,” he said. “For a lot of people, just getting that hands-on experience is the next step. Another one of our students got a job working in IT support at her local library, and that was just what she needed. Her family told us that before she went through our program, she hardly had a life outside her home. Having a job she could walk to was the perfect outcome for her.”

In 2023, program instructor Dalip Singh received the Above and Beyond Award from the Cisco Networking Academy for developing and teaching the cybersecurity class.

Overall, the program has been so successful, Dunkelberg said the agency wants to explore new training partnerships with HCC.

Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL

The Agawam City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, October 7, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.** in Veterans Hall at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear an Ordinance to amend Chapter 180 of the Code of the Town of Agawam by adding definitions for driveway and driveway-common/shared as sponsored by Mayor Johnson and Council President Sandlin (TOR-2024-8). This public hearing will be live-streamed on the Town of Agawam’s website at www.agawam.ma.us and will also be televised on Cable Access Channel 15 or Channel 1074. TOR-2024-8 is available for public inspection by emailing the office of the City Clerk for an electronic copy at vgioscia@agawam.ma.us

BY ORDER OF:

Rosemary Sandlin
City Council President
09/26, 10/03/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD19P2282PM In the matter of: Frederick Blair Of: Springfield, MA Protected Person/ Disabled Person/ Respondent CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR’S ACCOUNT

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the **First and Final** account(s) of Bonnie Blair of Brooklyn, NY as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to

object to the account(s).

If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **10/30/2024**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

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: September 25, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccamoni
Register of Probate
10/03/2024

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No. HD19P2267EA
Estate of:

Mary A. Blakesley Date of Death: May 3, 2019 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Daniel E. Blakesley of Longmeadow, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Daniel E. Blakesley of Longmeadow, MA has been informally appointed as the Successor Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
10/04/2024

FINAL NOTICE AND PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A FLOODPLAIN

**TOWN OF AGAWAM
HAMPDEN COUNTY,
MASSACHUSETTS
MOORE AND
VALLEY STREETS
INFRASTRUCTURE
IMPROVEMENTS
PROJECT (PHASE 1)
October 3, 2024**

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the Town of Agawam under

CFR Part 58 has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988 and 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management, to determine the potential affect that its activity in the floodplain and/or wetland will have on the human environment for the Moore and Valley Streets Infrastructure Improvements Project (Phase 1) (hereinafter, the “proposed activity”) under the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant Program. The proposed activity is intended to update existing water, sewer and drainage infrastructure on Moore Street and Valley Streets. The location of the proposed activities falls partially within a floodplain. Fully compliant water, sewer and drainage infrastructure will improve surface conditions, as well as provide residents with updated, efficient water and sewer systems. The proposed project is located on Moore Street, from High Street running North, and on the Eastern portion of Valley Street in the Town of Agawam, Hampden County, Massachusetts.

The Town of Agawam has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to be taken to minimize the adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values: the project must take place within the floodplain because the water, sewer and drainage systems are directly tied to the locations of homes on Moore and Valley Streets. The only alternative that could be considered would be the “No Action Alternative”. Under the No Action alternative, Moore and Valley Streets will retain their existing failing drainage, water and sewer systems, along with deteriorating pavement. The town would not be able to achieve any of the benefits to be provided by the proposed infrastructure improvement project. The Town will comply with local and state wetland permitting and protection pro-

cedure requirements will be followed.

The Town of Agawam has reevaluated the alternatives to building in the wetlands and has determined that it has no practicable alternative. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Order 11988 and/or 11990, are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments. This activity will have no significant impact on the environment for the following reasons:

The proposed activity will be replacing failed drainage, water and sewer systems, as well as updated pavement. The project will only have temporary impacts on the site including excavation, filling and grading. Drainage improvements will provide protections to the surrounding floodplains. The project will not result in any significant changes from its current usage. All mitigation measures will be followed, and the Town will comply with all state and local wetlands protection procedures.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First,

people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the Town of Agawam at the Agawam Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001 on or before October 18, 2024. Please contact Pam Kerr, Agawam Environmental Certifying Officer, during the hours of 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Phone: 413-786-0400, Comments may also be submitted via email at pkerr@agawam.ma.us.
10/03/2024

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