

Chicopee Register

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COMMUNITY



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHICOPEE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES

U.S. Air Force Veteran Al Kendall, who is also the chair of Commission on Disability, salutes alongside a member of the Chicopee High School Junior Air Force ROTC Color Guard after laying a memorial wreath in memory of World War I veterans.

Chicopee commemorates Memorial Day at American Legion Post 452

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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CHICOPEE - Residents, community members and more gathered at the American Legion Post 452 on May 27 to commemorate Memorial Day in Chicopee.

Typically held at the Veterans Memorial Plaza at First Sergeant Kevin A. Dupont Middle School, the ceremony was

moved indoors this year due to the weather forecast.

During the ceremony, members of the Chicopee High School Junior Air Force ROTC Color Guard presented the colors, the invocation was led by Frank Kolek, Sydney Benoit performed the National Anthem, the Chicopee Comprehensive High School Band performed "God Bless America," "Amazing Grace" and "TAPS," Patriotic singers, The Earls, performed

patriotic songs recognizing every military branch and memorial wreaths in honor of fallen service members from World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam War, the War on Terror and the Civil War were laid.

A three-round rifle salute was conducted by the American Legion Rifle Squad.

Remarks were provided by Mayor John Vieau, Col. Jordan

See **MEMORIAL DAY** page 6

COMMUNITY

Chicopee remembers the fallen in candlelight ceremony



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

Larry White reads a poem as Delfo Barabani Jr. looks on during the May 26 Memorial Day ceremony at Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Park.

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - The community gathered at the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Park on May 26 to mark Memorial Day Eve in a candlelight ceremony.

The annual ceremony takes place the Sunday before Memorial Day.

During the ceremony, the Chicopee High School Air Force Junior ROTC led by Cadet Commander Manuel Catala presented the colors, Frank Kolek read the invocation, Larry White performed the National Anthem and read the poems "America" and "Hello David," and Mayor John Vieau, Stephanie Shaw, director of Veterans Services, and Chuck Watts, vice president of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 111, laid the memorial wreath.

Later, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 111 members led a candlelight service in memory of those missing in action and assisted Gold Star Families in a candle lighting at 15 memorial columns representing the 15 service members from Chicopee who never made it home.

The Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 111, also, led a rifle salute with Commander Josh Morin at the helm, with a performance of "Taps" from Robert Zukanskas.

Commander Delfo Barabani, Jr. from the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 111 served as master of ceremonies.

In his remarks, Vieau encouraged the community to reflect on the true meaning of Memorial Day, taking a mo-

See **CHICOPEE REMEMBERS** page 6

COMMUNITY

Western Mass Post 9/11 and Service Dog Memorial Park vandalized

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - The Western Mass Post 9/11 and Service Dog Memorial Park on Westover Road was vandalized on May 20.

The incident comes ahead of the park's ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday, June 1 at 10 a.m.

The park, which broke ground last February, honors post-9/11 military members, service dogs and heroes.

According to the police department, a report was filed and their Detective Bureau is following up and investigating.

Mayor John Vieau was disappointed when he heard about

the vandalism, saying "That stuff is not going to be tolerated" and encouraged the community to reach out to the police department if they see something.

"If anything comes of this story, I'm hopeful that the residents of Chicopee understand that these are their parks. They're their parks. Be proud of them and if you see someone damaging something at the park, please tell. Tell the police immediately," Vieau said. "If you see someone destructing it and ruining it for everybody, please report it. That's the message to the public because it's not okay. We're investing a lot of money in our parks because we know how important they are to each neighborhood."



PHOTO COURTESY OF CITY OF CHICOPEE MAYOR'S OFFICE

A shot of the vandalism that took place at the Western Mass Post 9/11 and Service Dog Memorial Park in Chicopee on May 20.

Vieau shared the incident impacted the community tremendously and the park came together through the efforts of the veteran community throughout Western Massachusetts and the general public providing their input.

It is also a small and large dog park to welcome the dog community.

He stressed, "One person does not define a community."

"Chicopee stands by our veteran community and we believe in this country and the patriotism. The American way of life is something we all believe in," Vieau said. "We want to recognize those who protect it and

See **VANDALISM** page 5

Finance and Budget Subcommittee finalizes FY25 school budget

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - The School Committee's Finance and Budget Subcommittee finalized the proposed school budget for fiscal year 2025 on May 29.

Similar to the last meeting, John Miarecki, director of finance for Chicopee Public Schools, led the presentation, this time providing a refresher on the budget breakdown and updated information.

One highlight concerned the foundation budget section around low-income groups, which Miarecki said "is also important funding for us."

Here, a district's low-income enrollment is defined as students participating in state assistance programs including SNAP and TAFDC, verified as low-income through a supplemental data collection process and students reported as homeless through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance program application.

Miarecki explained the district fell into group 10 in FY19 and FY20, the highest decile until the state legislature expanded the groups to 12 beginning in FY21.

FY21 had the district at group 10 at a threshold of 60%, FY22 at group 10 at 69.10%, FY23 in group 11 at 70.88%, FY24 in group 11 at 72.44% and FY25 in group 11 at 70.94%.

"That's right on the threshold of 70%. We (are), I guess for lack of a bet-

ter term, in danger of if we fall more than that percent, we fall into that group 10. We are not held harmless if that were to occur, so it would be loss of funding looking into FY26, but it's something we need to keep an eye on," Miarecki said.

After providing a refresher on ES-SER and special education spending, Miarecki highlighted out-of-district rates set by the Operations and Services Division, which was discussed previously.

"The key points of that is in fiscal '24, we see an increase in cost per school. We see another five coming in '25, so it's an almost 20% increase over the last two years, which is affecting us," Miarecki said. "But, on top of that, it's not as we're staying stagnant on the amount of students that we have in out-of-district schools. We've seen an increase from 31 in '23, 40 in fiscal '24 and estimated 55 students for the upcoming '25 year. So, you can see why there is a great increase in our out-of-district budget looking for '25."

In the budget summary, Miarecki explained inflation rates, an additional \$3 million not received because of the change and an increase in special education costs have been key factors for this year's budget.

However, there are no layoffs. "What we did was we looked at all of these new hires that we had over the last couple of years that haven't been able to be hired. We took those off the

budget, which created money that we could reappropriate to a department like the SPED Department and to other needs that have come up through our audit," Miarecki said.

As for the total budget, the amount overall comes out to \$128,713,877, with the net school spending request to be \$118,711,773 with an additional city appropriation of \$280,200 and \$7,668,342 for the Stabilization Fund.

Miarecki also added this clarification.

"That will be a grand total of \$126,380,115," Miarecki said. "The other income, meaning school choice and circuit breaker, those are already in our coffers and transfers will be made to offset our General Fund budget with those numbers, so that's why we don't include that in our request."

Ward 1 School Committee representative Deanna Rousseau, who also serves as the subcommittee's vice chair, was pleased with the budget process.

"In general, I think this will help us as a committee moving forward be able to track how our budget is executing, like as we go into the next year, to be able to see how accurately we did budget," Rousseau said. "So, appreciate all of the time that you guys spent in putting up different categories and approaches to kind of streamline across the schools. It was very helpful."

The motion to move the proposed FY25 budget to the full School Committee passed 4-0.

Chicopee Police K9 Demonstration at RiverMills Center

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Council on Aging will host a K9 demonstration on Wednesday, June 12 at 10 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street.

Join Chicopee PD for a K9 information session about the K9 unit. There will be time for questions and answers, as well as a brief demonstration displaying obedience, how the K9s locate items such as evidence, and aggression control. This will be a fun and informative workshop.

The Rain Date for this event is Thursday, June 13th. You must register in advance.

BeatleMania at RiverMills

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will host the program "BeatleMania" on Friday, June 28 at 1:30 p.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St.

Immerse yourself in timeless melodies from the Fab 4- featuring hires like Hey Jude, Let It Be, Eleanor Rigby and more.

This program is sponsored in part by the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. You must register in advance.

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City Council approves repeal of Censorship Committee

Also, favorable Public Works Committee report on problem properties

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE - City Council unanimously approved on May 21 to repeal the Censorship Committee.

The proposed motion accepted the favorable Ordinance Committee report to take its second and final reading and the committee be struck down from the city ordinances.

Ward 5 Councilor Frederick Krampits explained the order was submitted by Councilor-at-Large Tim Wagner and the committee is a defunct committee "which really couldn't do anything."

"One of the things it mentioned was about censoring magazines and books and things like that and that was up to that committee to avoid that," Krampits said. "It's being struck so we don't get involved

in trying to act as a Censorship Committee."

The motion passed 12-0.

Another highlight concerned a favorable Public Works Committee report on the Building Department and Health Department meeting with the Public Works Subcommittee to discuss councilor concerns around problem properties in their respective wards.

Krampits said it was "a very informative meeting," sharing how councilors submitted lists of problem properties to the committee.

"In general, most of the issues had been looked into and were either violation letters were being sent out or had been sent out, or with some of them, they were further along and they were in court with our Law Department," Krampits said. "So, it seemed to be that most of the issues brought up were in process, so to speak, and I'm sure from that meeting that the individual councilors on particular items on their list that they submitted will certainly follow up with the appropriate department to see

what the status is in a month or two to see what's going on with some of their properties."

Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello credited Ward 7 Councilor William Courchesne for the idea.

"It was a great idea because problem properties have been an issue for many years and now it became public for many of us in regards to where the problem properties stand, and so I appreciate Councilor Courchesne's idea," Costello said.

Costello hopes another meeting can take place soon as a follow-up.

"Because there are no other public hearings in regards to problem properties and people are concerned about problem properties," Costello said.

Courchesne said the public also came out for the meeting and it was one the committee used to have every month.

"Back on May 5, 2022, the mayor said he was focusing on reviving this committee and it's never happened, so I am. I will do it this way if I have to. It's a little more productive when we have

with all the other departments involved too because some of those things that I brought up from our old list that dates back to March 11 of '20 is the last time we had a meeting," Courchesne said. "Some things involve fire, some things involve police, so I will definitely be filing an order as a follow-up. But, I think the morning meetings we had were a lot more productive, but it's also nice to have some sort of public come in and get involved."

Ward 3 Councilor Susan Goff said the meeting was "very informative."

"It was nice to be able to bring some of the problem properties out in the open and to see where they stand. Because a lot of times, there's so many of them. We can't keep track of what's going on and where it stands, so I really appreciate Councilor Courchesne, Lisa Sanders and the Building Department for keeping us informed of where these properties stand and I look forward to more meetings," Goff said.

The motion to accept the report and place it on file passed 12-0.

Bingo Tea Party at RiverMills Center

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Council on Aging have a Bingo Tea Party on Thursday, June 6 at 1:30 p.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street.

Join your friends for some afternoon tea and treats along with a few fun games of Tea Party Bingo. The cost is \$5. You must register in advance by stopping by RiverMills Center.

Father's Day Breakfast

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will be having a Father's Day Breakfast on Friday, June 14 at 8:30 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St.

To all the special men out there! Enjoy a breakfast right here at RiverMills to celebrate Father's Day. The cost is \$5. You must register in person at RiverMills Center.

The Importance of Mental Health at RiverMills Center

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will host River Valley Counseling Center on Wednesday, June 5 at 10 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St.

Join Program Director Chelsea Parker LICSW of the Chicopee CCBHC Program of the River Valley Counseling Center's Chicopee Clinic as they present on mental health issues on the rise, warning signs, resources available and why we all need someone to talk to. Although this is a free workshop, you must register in advance.

Hampden County Chambers of Commerce Unite to Fill the Food Bank

Donate \$10,863 and 1,400 lbs. of food to the Western Mass Food Bank

CHICOPEE - The East of the River Chamber, West of the River Chamber, Greater Chicopee Chamber, Greater Holyoke Chamber, Greater Westfield Chamber, and the Springfield Regional Chamber all came together on March 27th to FILL THE FOOD BANK!

The event took place at the new Western Mass. Food Bank in Chicopee on March 27, 2024 for an evening of networking showcased the new building to the community while giving all of the area chamber members the opportunity to meet for a great cause.

Melissa Breor, executive director of the Greater Chicopee Chamber said, "When Diana Szynal from the Springfield Chamber reached out to me with the idea for this event, I was all in! I thought it would be a great way for all the Hampden County chambers to unite for the first time in one event."

Grace Barone, executive director of the ERC5 said they all met collectively every other month to plan the event, and it came together quickly and easily. "We all had the same vision, to support our local community while partnering together."

Donations starting rolling in, and sponsorships were given. Many thanks to our generous sponsors: Baystate Health, Country Bank,KNF&T,Latino Economic Development Center, PeoplesBank & Westfield Gas & Electric, Andrews Associates, Comcast, Commercial Distributing, Employers As-



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MELISSA BREOR

From left to right: Robin Wozniak, executive director of West of the River Chamber of Commerce, Grace Barone, executive director of East of the River Chamber of Commerce, Cheyenne Burnham, public engagement manager for the Food Bank of Western Mass, Melissa Breor, executive director of the Greater Chicopee Chamber of Commerce, Jordan Hart, executive director for the Greater Holyoke Chamber of Commerce, Amanda Waterfield, executive director for the Greater Westfield Chamber of Commerce, Jillian Morgan, director of Development for the Food Bank of Western Mass., and Diana Szynal, president of the Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce.

sociation of New England, Markens Group, The Polish National Credit Union, Blaze Express, Center for Eco-technology, Development Associates, Florence Bank, Greenfield Cooperative Bank, Holiday Inn Ludlow, Holyoke Gas & Electric, MassHire Holyoke & Park Square Realty for their generous support. The Fill the Food Bank event raised

\$10,863.00, and 1,400 pounds of food, which will give over 30,000 meals to people in need right here in

our community!

The festivities were captured by Micheal Epaul photography, raffle donations by Six Flags New England, and the Valley Blue Sox. Catering was provided by Partners Restaurant/Tanseys Cateder Table in Agawam who provided an amazing potato bar with baked and mashed potatoes and all the fixings'. To top off the event, Icecream Emergency was parked out front offering samples from their elaborate ice cream truck.

Johnny Cash Tribute Concert at RiverMills Center on June 13

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Council on Aging will host a Johnny Cash Tribute Concert on Thursday, June 13 at 1:30 p.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street.

Matt York, long time New En-

gland Musician and Author and 2022/2023 nominee of the Boston Music Award for Best Country Artist and his album "Gently Used" will be at RiverMills for this performance of Johnny Cash songs and stories, from Cash's emergence as a performer to

his marriage to June Carter, and many more.

This program is sponsored by the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. You must register in advance.

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GUEST COLUMN



Female rose-breasted grosbeak

I received an email from a Brimfield couple, who spotted a male and female rose-breasted grosbeak at their feeder. They also had an indigo bunting and reported their hummingbirds were back.

The female rose-breasted grosbeak like many female bird species lacks the brilliant colors of the male. The female has a white eyebrow, brown in color with heavy streaking and two white wing bars. She shows yellow "armpits" in flight.

The male has a black head and back with a red triangle on its white breast. In flight it shows white patches and rose-red "armpits." Grosbeaks are eight inches long. Their song is a rapid series of whistles often called a "robin in a hurry." Their call is a distinct squeak like a "sneaker on a gym floor."

The female lays three to six pale blue eggs with irregular brown spots in a nest of coarse and fine twigs lined with horsehair, rootlets and grasses placed in the branch of a tree 5 to 25 feet above the ground.

Belchertown birds

A Belchertown resident sent this email, "We saw our first Northern oriole this year on Thursday, May 9. He was scolding my husband as he changed the bird bath water. We usually have a pair nesting in the shag-bark hickory in front of our house. Hopefully, they will do so again this year."

She also said she had not seen any chickadees and usually has many in her yard. She wonders why. She also has redwings, goldfinches, house finches, mockingbirds, cat birds, robins, bluebirds, swallows and house wrens.

Birds at Warren ponds

A Brimfield resident often reports on the birds he sees. He visited a pond on South Street in Warren on May 9 and saw an osprey and six great blue heron. There were two new nests at the pond making a total of four nest there. Other birds were a red-tailed hawk, turkey vulture, two mourning doves, one crow, three three swallows, one barn swallow, six common grackles and six red-winged blackbirds.

On the same day, he visited a pond on New Reed Street in Warren and saw two spotted sandpipers, two double-crested cormorants, two turkey vultures, three Eastern kingbirds, five tree swallows, four red-winged blackbirds, six common grackles and on yellow warbler.

He said, "This week in the yard we have 4 catbirds, and a pair has started a nest in the quince bush near the house. I've see two female ruby-throated hummingbirds and one male. A male was seen April 29t a little earlier that usual."

GUEST COLUMN

Advocacy on behalf of Greater Springfield Habitat, Western Mass Housing Coalition can translate to positive change

By Brandice J. O'Brien

Marketing and Communications Manager,
Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity

WEST SPRINGFIELD -The lack of affordable housing in Western Massachusetts is a very real and tangible problem. As is, homeownership is increasingly out of reach for many people, especially those in the Black and Latino communities. Additionally, in the Pioneer Valley (Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin counties), it's estimated 19,000 homes are needed by 2025 to keep up with the projected demand, according to the Western Massachusetts Housing Coalition's 2023 Western Massachusetts Legislative Priorities. This legislative session, the coalition and its allies are advocating to pass the Massachusetts Housing Bond Bill.

The bill is just a piece of the Affordable Homes Act, which is considered the largest housing investment in Massachusetts. Passing the bill and increasing funding limits to the coalition's five highest priority components means an accelerated timeline of building more affordable housing with solutions tailored to Western Mass. Since 2018, these programs have funded 73 projects with \$48.5 million.

GSHFH and two other Habitat affiliates are three of 51 groups and organizations that make up the Western Mass Housing Coalition. "If we're not out here advocating on behalf of families in need, to get funding for land and construction to provide affordable housing opportunities, nobody would. We work as their voice," said Aimee Giroux, Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity

(GSHFH) executive director.

Western Massachusetts is a softer market, than say Boston, according to the coalition's "Housing Bond Bill – Highest Priority Programs" document. Like the capital city, construction costs are just as high, but rents are lower. Plus, Western Mass has a diversified landscape of urban, suburban, and rural areas. In addition to increased funding, the coalition requests financial support for the Zero Carbon Renovation Fund. Western Mass has some of the oldest housing stock in the state and significant funding is often required to meet climate and efficiency goals.

Secondly, the coalition supports a proposed increase to the Massachusetts's Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, which is a tax incentive to construct or renovate affordable rental housing for low-income families. Since 2018, the tax credit has funded nearly \$20 million for 14 projects in Western Mass.

Affordable housing needs to be advocated for by all throughout Western Mass. Increased access to housing provides economic benefits to every community.

"To everyone in the Way Finders' orbit, I share this message: 'When housing is on your town's agenda, show up for housing. Find out what's being proposed. Say "Yes" to creating the mix of affordable housing that all communities need — especially to hold on to and attract residents and to keep the economy strong,'" said Keith Fairey, Way Finders president and CEO.

For more information on how to advocate on behalf of Greater Springfield Habitat, visit habitatspringfield.org/advocacy.



More birds

The same Brimfield resident saw two female Baltimore orioles and one male at the orange and jelly feeder. A common yellowthroat and an American redstart, both males, were in the yard recently as was a house wren. The wrens have nested in nesting boxes the last several years. He also said a Cooper's hawk has been patrolling the area the past week or so, but hasn't seen any piles of feather.

Another visit to Warren ponds

At the South Street pond in Warren, he said, "The ospreys are continuing to tend

their nest

and there are now four for sure, maybe five great blue heron nests. One of the heron nests has three chicks as of a few days ago."

On New Reed Street in Warren, there were two double-crested cormorants for about a week until yesterday and I saw a blue-headed vireo there.

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

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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Send letters to: The *Chicopee Register*, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email chicopeeregister@turley.com.

The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

Events & announcements schedule

Harmony House schedules Wine Tasting Fundraiser

CHICOPEE - Harmony House of Western Massachusetts, the home for the terminally ill which is scheduled to re-open later this month, is hosting a Wine Tasting and Paired Appetizers fundraiser on June 10, 2024 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the 350 Grill Steakhouse located at 350 Worthington St. in Springfield. The Springfield Wine Exchange is co-hosting the event.

Cost is \$50 per person and may be purchased on the Harmony House website at www.harmonyhousewma.org. Click on the “Events” tab to purchase your tickets. In addition to tasting exceptional wines and hors d’oeuvres, you can participate in a Silent Auction and Raffle.

The home is planning a ribbon-cutting ceremony for May 31 and will soon accept their first residents.

Harmony House is totally privately funded through the generosity of individuals, businesses, and foundations. Contributions are gratefully accepted at all times. “Someday you may need us; right now, we need you.” Please visit the website at www.harmonyhousewma.org

or send your checks to Harmony House of Western Massachusetts, 66 View Street, Chicopee, MA. Harmony House is a 501(c)(3) corporation. If interested in learning more or becoming a volunteer, please contact Harmony House at 413-315-9784 or by email at harmony-housewma@gmail.com.

Baby Kneads Sign Language Series

CHICOPEE – The Holyoke-Chicopee Family Community Program is offering a Baby Kneads Sign Language Series.

The four-week series, facilitated by Sheryl White, founder and owner of Baby Kneads, will support families in learning sign language with their child.

Baby sign language gives children the ability to communicate their needs and wishes, pre-verbal, without frustration, tears or tantrums. Babies and toddlers can learn signs important to their lifestyle such as “more”, “sleep”, “eat”, and so on.

This class is appropriate for parents/caregivers and their child over two months and pre-verbal.

The classes take place on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. at the Chicopee Public Library on June 5 and June 12.

Please register by calling (413) 348-

4355 or email zaskeyc@headstart.org.

RiverMills Center Transportation Services available to seniors

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Council on Aging’s Transportation Department provides rides to the senior center, doctor’s offices, supermarkets, pharmacies, etc. for Chicopee older adults.

Transportation service is available Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Reservations must be made at least five business days in advance by calling 413-536-5733.

A \$7,875.00 grant from WestMass Eldercare has allowed the senior center to expand its transportation offerings. Shopping Trips are funded in part by a Title III/Older Americans Act grant from WestMass ElderCare, with support from the Mass. Executive Office of Elder Affairs and the Federal Administration for Community Living.

There is no charge for this service, but participants are welcome to make a voluntary, confidential donation for a shopping ride.

To learn more, contact Nicholas Wos-

ko at 413-536-5733 or NWosko@Chicopeema.gov.

Chicopee Comp Class of 1974 plans 50th Reunion

CHICOPEE - It’s the time to renew friendships and share memories with high school classmates. The Chicopee Comprehensive High School Class of 1974 will be holding its 50th reunion on Sept. 13 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 460 Granby Rd. in Chicopee. The reunion party will begin at 5:00 p.m. with cocktails and dinner. Committee members are planning details for the festivities and also working hard to track down classmates and reach out to as many as possible.

If you think you have contact information for long-lost friends, please send it to Linda Parlengas at lparlengas@hotmail.com; Mona Marciel Friberg at tinker245@aol.com, or Lynn Provost Larrabee at penrose43@comcast.net. We will be sending out details soon and would like to include everyone.

Information can also be shared on Facebook at Chicopee Comp Class of 1974 Reunion Page or at Classmates.com.

Summer Carnival at RiverMills

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will have a Summer Carnival on Tuesday, June 25 from 3 to 6 p.m. with a Rain Date of Thursday, June 27 at Chicopee Council on Aging’s RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St.

Join us for our Third Annual Summer Carnival. Come try your hand at some games, eat some carnival treats and sit back, relax and enjoy a summer night with your friends at RiverMills Center. Tickets

are \$10 and include a hamburger, hot dog, chips, drink and ice cream. All other concessions and game tickets will be available to purchase at the time of the event. There will be no formal time for dinner, but ticket sales are limited. There will be music by DJ Luis D on the patio and some other fun carnival entertainment! This is a senior center event and it open to anyone 55 and older. You must register in advance at RiverMills Center.

VANDALISM from page 1

that’s really what this tribute is, this park is all about. It’s the definition of America, in my opinion, and one person can’t take that away.”

Stephanie Shaw, director of Veterans Services, was also heartbroken, explaining vandalism has happened “at all of our parks.”

Shaw shared how, “unfortunately, this is not the first of the vandalism but only the first time the media caught wind” about what took place.

“I am so brokenhearted at the disrespect of these individuals. It brings truth to the saying ‘a few ruin it for the many’ and it for sure makes me less eager to get involved with projects like this to have them defaced so soon and so regularly,” Shaw said.

Shaw echoed Vieau’s comments in telling the public if you see something, say something, adding a strong police presence was requested.

“It’s disgusting that we spend so much time and effort to give our city these spaces, and when things like this happen its taxpayer dollars and staff’s time dedicated to fixing it - taking us away from other projects or tasks,” Shaw said. “We don’t get to just have volunteers with time and free money to make the repairs. It is a huge burden on the city - in my opinion.”

Despite what happened, Shaw remained determined to make sure the park

stayed sacred.

“We understand it is most likely just a few delinquent individuals who do not respect our community - but it’s hard to combat problems like this and we will keep looking for solutions,” Shaw said.

Vieau’s message for anyone who attends the park’s grand opening on Saturday is that “it’s a celebration of our veterans and those who served on the War on Terror, but also it memorializes the canine that perished in that war.”

“We’re hopeful that people walk away with, hopefully, like I did on Memorial Day, with this feeling of patriotism, because that’s what it does,” Vieau said.

Vieau, also, forgives the person who committed the vandalism.

“I personally will forgive someone who probably didn’t realize the magnitude of what they’re actually doing by tagging a monument on what I call, really, sacred space. It’s unfortunate and I’m hopeful they can learn from this mistake and move on,” Vieau said.

Shaw hopes residents also respect the park and its space.

“We had a resident ride a horse around the large dog pen, and when asked why they thought it was ok - their response was ‘Well, there is no sign that says no horses.’ I hope common sense finds these entitled people who think public spaces are theirs to use as they please with no thought of the intent of the space or the cost to repair the damages they cause,” Shaw said.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHICOPEE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES

Attendees salute, hold a hand over their hearts and stand at attention inside the American Legion Post 452 during Chicopee's Memorial Day ceremony on May 27.



Mayor John Vieau provides remarks on Memorial Day during Chicopee's Memorial Day ceremony at the American Legion Post 452.

MEMORIAL DAY from page 1

Murphy, maintenance group commander at Westover Air Reserve Base, State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), State Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield), State Sen. John Velis (D-Westfield) and Stephanie Shaw, director of Veterans Services.

Louis Breault served as the emcee.

Vieau stressed how we "must pause, honor, reflect and remember the precious lives lost" and "the demonstration of courage by those who served and the strength that they have no doubt shown throughout the most difficult of times is to be commended."

"Please know Chicopee will always remember you. Today is an important day in which we ground ourselves to the reality that every Gold Star Family knows. Our way of life has been shaped and made possible by those who have served and by those who are lost. The reality of military service is that not all of those who have served will return," Vieau said. "That is why we must uplift everyone on Memorial Day. We are here today

because of those who are not."

Murphy shared how Chicopee and the base have experienced ultimate sacrifices, relaying the story of Westover's 99th bomb wing with round-the-clock bomber alert missions during the Cold War.

On January 24, 1963, a B-52 call sign frosh one zero with eight crewmen departed the base for a routine training mission. At approximately 2:50 p.m., the crew experienced severe turbulence with the vertical stabilizer falling off the plane.

"The aircraft's commander, Lt. Colonel Dan Bully, could no longer control the mighty bomber, and so, he ordered his crew to eject. Shortly thereafter, frosh one-zero crashed into the side of Elephant Mountain, six miles from Greenville, Maine," Murphy said. "Tragically, because of the low altitude and low response times, three of these eight crew members were able to bail out. Two of these eight survived the ordeal, Lt. Colonel Dan Bully and the navigator, Captain Gerald Adler."

Murphy said the other six crewmen, Major Robert Morris-

son, Lt. Colonel Joe Simpson, Major William Gabriel, Major Robert Hill, Capt. Herbert Hanson, Capt. Charles Luchter did not survive.

Technical Sgt. Michael O'Keefe also lost his life.

"As you celebrate this Memorial Day with your family and friends, I urge you to take a moment to reflect on those who sacrificed their lives so that we can enjoy a beautiful day like today," Murphy said.

Gomez encouraged attendees "not to forget the sacrifices made by these brave individuals and their families."

"Let us strive to uphold the values that fought to defend our values and, as we gather here today, let us renew our commitment to honoring the legacy of our fallen heroes and to ensure and ensuring that their sacrifices are never forgotten," Gomez said. "May we always hold dear the memories of those who gave everything for our freedom and may we continue to honor their legacy in everything we do."

Shaw reflected on grief, sharing how ceremonies on Memorial Day "are a grander gesture



Members of the Chicopee High School Junior Air Force ROTC Color Guard present the colors.

to those families," to remind them the community hasn't, and never will, forget.

She vowed to make sure these ceremonies, including the prior day's candlelight ceremony at Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park, happen every year.

"As long as I'm able to do

this work, I promise to do my due diligence to make sure that these ceremonies happen, that we say the names," Shaw said. "And that last night's event continues as long as I can support it because it's important to the families and that's who I feel like we're here to celebrate today."

CHICOPEE REMEMBERS from page 1

ment to recognize the 15 fallen and the Gold Star Families.

"We get to enjoy those freedoms of Memorial Day, but let's reflect on that true meaning. We'll always remember and reflect upon those 15 and we're forever thankful for all those who paid the ultimate price for defending this great nation and our way of life," Vieau said.

State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), a veteran herself, shared how she and State Sen. John Velis (D-Westfield) serve on the Veterans and Federal Affairs Committee, letting the Gold Star Families know they have support.

"When we say we are here, just a phone call away, we mean it. For those who are serving, those who have someone who paid that ultimate sacrifice and just really everyone," Arriaga said. "So, thank you today and always for supporting your veterans and keeping their memories alive."

Velis reflected on how Vietnam Veterans were treated upon returning home, while those who served in Afghanistan, Iraq and the global war on terrorism were greeted with graciousness.

Velis added when he returned home from duty, Vietnam Veterans shook hands with him and welcomed him, "extending



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Members of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 111 light candles in memory of the service members missing in action during the May 26 Memorial Day ceremony at Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Park.

to us the gratitude that they never got."

"Every single veterans' organization that flourishes today, every single one of them, the foundation of those organizations started--and certainly carried on and led--by Vietnam Veterans to ensure that their experience no other veteran has to experience themselves," Velis said. "If that's not something beautiful and resilient, I don't know what is."

State Sen. Jacob Oliveira (D-Ludlow) praised the city for their support of veterans and the fallen.

"When you look at these 15 names on each one of the col-

umns that are here, they're also the names of schools within this district. They're also the names of streets and street corners because Chicopee does it right," Oliveira said.

Oliveira also reflected on Army Specialist Kenneth Iwasinski, a veteran from Belchertown who died in Baghdad, Iraq in 2007 and had a bridge dedicated in his memory this Memorial Day weekend.

Iwasinski's mother was a former resident of Chicopee.

"When we look at each one of these columns, for the 15 individuals here in Chicopee, it's not lost on me to notice that the experiences of those folks that



Mayor John Vieau, Stephanie Shaw, director of Veterans Services, and Chuck Watts, vice president of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 111, walk for the placing of the memorial wreath during the May 26 Memorial Day ceremony at Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Park

they didn't have, whether it's buying a home, whether it's falling in love, whether it's getting involved with a civic activity, whether it's having children of their own," Oliveira said. "These 15 individuals on these columns never got to experience the fullness of life that so many of us did and get to enjoy because of the sacrifice that they made."

Watts served as a sergeant for nearly two years in Vietnam, sharing he enjoyed the ceremony, including seeing young people in attendance.

"I think it's very interesting and I'm very happy about it. Like to see more people involved, the

younger, to get involved, to understand what we went through," Watts said.

He was also impressed with the speakers, encouraging the community to attend future ceremonies and bring others with them.

"It meant a lot to me," Watts said.

Watts' message for Memorial Day was this for the Gold Star Families.

"Just think about it. Remembering that people still think about it and even though they may not know the person, they think about it so they can understand what other people have gone through," Watts said.

Sports

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Regular season ends with defeat



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTO.COM
Shane Upham makes a quick pass.

CHICOPEE – Last Monday evening, Chicopee Comprehensive boys lacrosse, which co-ops with Chicopee High, suffered a tough defeat at home in its season finale against Belchertown. The Colts finished with just four wins and was unlikely to make the state tournament. Seeds were set to come out after press time this week.



Nathan Rodriguez looks to avoid the opposing defense.



Ezequiel Junco winds back to make a long pass.



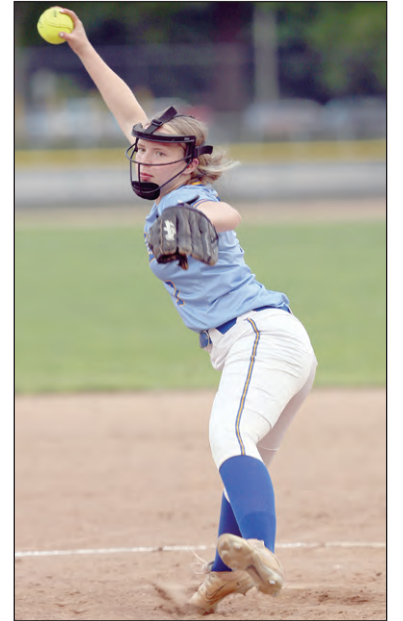
Lucas Blanchard heads for the sideline.



Derek Lonczak dekes before heading for the goal

Comp wins battle of rivals

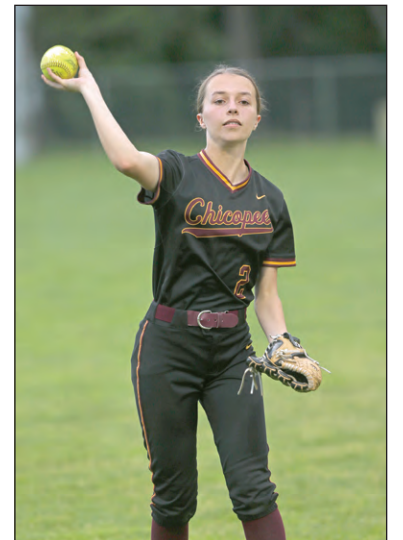
CHICOPEE – Last Tuesday evening, Chicopee Comprehensive softball picked up the win over Chicopee High 19-7. The Colts were up throughout most of the game, including six runs in the second and fifth innings. Alexis Wojick had four hits for the Colts and four RBI. Jeneida Torres had three hits for the Pacers. Both teams finished under .500 and the top 32 and will not make the state tournament.



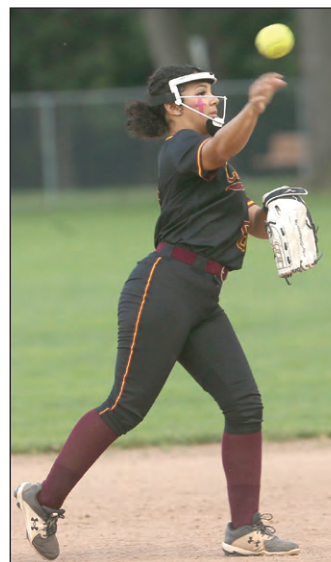
Kayla Williams sends a pitch home.



Alex Woodman fires a long throw to first.



Natalie Irish throws back to the infield.



Jeneida Torres makes a throw to first.



Jaylanie Nieves catches an out at first.

Pioneers post shutout in home opener

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—A couple of hours after winning his first soccer match as the New England Mutiny head coach, Federico Molinari guided the Western Mass. Pioneers to another win in their home opener.

The Pioneers, who held a 2-0 lead five minutes into the contest, posted a 4-0 shutout victory over Pathfinder FC at Lusitano Stadium on May 18.

“It feels very good to win our first game of the season in front of our fans. I’m happy for them,” Molinari said. “Scoring



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Jared Smith looks to get around an opponent.



Alexis Wojick fields a grounder to short.



Arliz Rolon makes a pitch for the Pacers.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

See **PIONEERS** page 8

Doiron dominant in Granite homecoming

CLAREMONT, N.H. - The last time the Granite State Pro Stock Series raced at Claremont Motorsports Park, Joey Doiron turned in a dominant performance to take home the big winner's purse.

And neither a year away from the tricky third-mile nor a different car could keep the two-time GSPSS champion from the winner's circle.

Doiron led every lap of Sunday night's Key Auto Group 125, earning his seventh career GSPSS win and a \$5,000 check.

The veteran racer from Berwick, Maine, was quick all night, turning the fastest lap in time trials and handily winning his qualifying heat. Former series regular Jeremy Sorel lined up alongside Doiron after his own heat win, but Doiron jumped out to an early lead as Sorel faced challenges from Casey Call and Cory Casagrande.

Call and Casagrande settled into second and third, and as the field stretched out over a long green-flag run, the three leaders drew closer together, setting up a thrilling battle for the closing laps.

Contact between Alex Quarterley and Ryan Green brought out the race's second caution on lap 77, though, and as the yellow flag waved, Call made a beeline for

the pits with a flat tire. Casagrande, still searching for his first GSPSS win, lined up alongside Doiron for the restart, but Doiron slipped away with the advantage.

Once again, Casagrande reeled in Doiron, closing the gap as the laps wound down. But he could not catch Doiron to make a move, and the veteran racer held on for his third career win at Claremont.

"I don't know how much [Casagrande] had left," Doiron said after the race. "But if that was all he had, I had a little bit more in the tank."

Doiron joins Gabe Brown and Ray Christian III as drivers who have scored consecutive GSPSS wins at Claremont. Doiron's third win also ties him with Brown, Christian and D.J. Shaw for the most series wins at the track.

Casagrande matched his GSPSS career best with his runner-up performance. Outside polesitter Sorel matched his own career best in third. Call drove back from his flat tire to place fourth, while Sorel's teammate and crew chief, Quarterley, was fifth in his GSPSS debut.

With top-five finishes in the first two races of 2024, Casey Call unofficially leads the point standings headed to the series' next race, a stop at Speedway 95 in Maine on June 16.

Konowalchuk named new head coach of T-Birds

ST. LOUIS, MO — St. Louis Blues President of Hockey Operations and General Manager Doug Armstrong announced today that the team has named Steve Konowalchuk head coach of its AHL affiliate, the Springfield Thunderbirds.

"We went through an extensive interview process, and through those conversations, it became clear that Steve best fit what we were seeking in a head coach," said Thunderbirds General Manager Kevin Maxwell. "We look forward to seeing him work with the next wave of Blues prospects and developing them into successful NHL players in St. Louis."

Konowalchuk, 51, spent last season as an associate coach with the AHL's Colorado Eagles, where he helped lead the team to a 40-25-7 regular-season record and a 5th-place finish in the Western Conference. The Salt Lake City, Utah, native's coaching career began in Colorado where he served two sea-

sons as an assistant coach for the Avalanche. Then, in 2011, he was named head coach of the WHL's Seattle Thunderbirds and went on to spend six seasons behind their bench.

During his tenure, he guided the Thunderbirds to five postseason appearances, including the 2017 when they captured the Ed Chynoweth Cup (WHL championship). Following his time in Seattle, Konowalchuk served one season as an assistant coach with the Anaheim Ducks before spending two seasons as head coach of the WHL's Red Deer Rebels.

As a player, Konowalchuk was drafted by the Washington Capitals in 1991 and enjoyed a 14-year NHL career. Overall, he dressed in 790 career NHL regular-season games, including 693 with the Capitals. He also represented the United States in several international competitions, including the 1996 World Cup of Hockey, where he captured a gold medal.



PIONEERS from page 7

the two early goals gave the team a lot of confidence."

The Pioneers (2-0) began the regular season with a 1-0 shutout road victory against the Boston Bolts on May 14.

The only goal of that contest was scored on a header by Scott Testori following a corner kick in the middle of the second half.

"Our first game of the season was very close," Testori said. "It was still scoreless going into the last twenty minutes. Then Jared Smith sent a perfect corner kick to me, and I headed it home. We were able to keep the clean sheet in that game."

Testori, who's one of the Pioneers first-year players, assisted on the Pioneers first goal in the home opener, which was scored by Alec Hughes during the third minute. Hughes is a second-year Pioneers player.

A couple of minutes later, Testori received a pass from Camilo Comi before lining a shot into the right corner of the net.

"We really needed to have a quick start in tonight's game," said Testori, who'll be a senior



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Alec Hughes clears the ball away.

member of the UConn men's soccer team this fall. "Alec got things going with a huge goal. Then Camilo made a perfect pass to me, and I was able to finish the play by scoring a goal of my own. I'm very excited about being a member of this soccer team."

Testori and Hughes, who was a senior on last year's UMass men's soccer team, both graduated from different high schools in Connecticut.

"My high school soccer

team never played against Alec's team," Testori said. "Our club soccer teams did face each other a few times. It has been a lot of fun being teammates with him for the first time. He's an outstanding soccer player. We complement each other very well."

Last Saturday's home opener wasn't the first time that Testori played a match on the turf soccer field located on Winsor Street in Ludlow. A couple of years ago, he played for AC Connecticut,



Patrick Gryczewski advances the ball up the field.

which lost to the Pioneers.

"I've played a game in this stadium two years ago, so I already knew what the atmosphere was like here," said Testori, who signed several autographs following the match. "To have these fans rooting for you is just a great

feeling. This is a talented soccer team, so I wanted to join them this year. I'm hoping that we can qualify for the playoffs."

During the 36th minute, Patrick Gryczewski dribbled the ball down the right side before cutting into the middle of the box. He then slid a shot into the lower right corner for the Pioneers third goal of the match, which was unassisted. Gryczewski, who's also from the Nutmeg state, plays college soccer at U.R.I.

Holding a commanding 3-0 halftime lead, the Pioneers final goal was scored by Lawrence Goddard, who's a returning player, during the 72nd minute.

Western Mass goalie Gianluca Cersosimo didn't see very much action in recording his second consecutive clean sheet.

The Pioneers defensive unit is led by Jared Smith, Zach Sauer, Aidan Kelly, and team captain Nicholas Oberrauch.

The Pioneers were scheduled to play at the Albany Rush on Wednesday night (May 22) before returning home to face Black Rock FC at 7 p.m. on May 31.

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2009 Nissan Sentra
VIN: 3N1AB61E09L631653
Zachary Lasky
15 Pleasant St Apt 1
Westfield, MA 01085

2018 Ford Escape
VIN: 1FMCU0GD8JUC90083
Dorothy Thomas
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Springfield, MA 01109

2004 Cadillac Escalade
VIN: 1GYEK63NX4R273453
Wilmer Parker
52 Pendleton Avea
Springfield, MA 01109

2007 Honda Fit Sport
VIN: JHMGD38677S031448
Cosmo Casamassa Jr.
63 Main St.
Charlton, MA 01507

2010 Infiniti Ex35
VIN: JN1AJ0HP7AM701876
Joanne Delgado
887 Lincoln St.
Franklin, MA 02038

2006 Honda Civic
VIN: 1HGFA16856L060519
Nicholas Grieco
64 Ridgemont St 1
Alliston, MA 02134

1989 Mercedes-Benz 420 Sel
VIN: WDBCA35D5KA434109
Gregg Moffitt
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Worcester, MA 01609

2004 Pontiac Montana
VIN: 1GMDX03E64D211038
Cameron Gagnon
268 Palmer Rd Trlr 14
Monson, MA 01057

2007 Lexus Es 350
VIN: JTHBJ46G172094646
Elizabeth Acevedo
65 E Allen Rdge Rd
Springfield, MA 01118

2017 Volvo Vn Vnlaa
VIN: 4V4NC9TK2HN980719
Genesis PA Trucking Corp
3278 W Cedar St.
Allentown, PA 18104

2008 Honda Odyssey
VIN: 5FNRL38688B045550
J M Sanchez Devalentin
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Ridgewood, NY 11385
05/31, 06/07, 06/14/2024

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. HD23P0026EA
Estate of:

Nilda Medina Date of Death: 07/27/2022 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Nelson Medina of Peekskill, NY** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Nelson Medina of Peekskill, NY** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/28/2024. 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: May 24, 2024

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
05/31/2024

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No. HD24P1108EA
Estate of:

Eileen B. Monaghan
Date of Death:
April 14, 2024

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Ashley B Rouleau of Chicopee, MA**

Petitioner **Kathleen R Brooks of Chicopee, MA**
Ashley B Rouleau of Chicopee, MA

Kathleen R Brooks 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.
05/31/2024

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. HD24P1154EA
Estate of:

Helene A O'Connor
Date of Death: 03/22/2024
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 **Michael J O'Connor 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: **Michael J O'Connor of Chicopee, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/21/2024. 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: May 24, 2024

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
05/31/2024

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No. HD15P1251 EA
Estate of:

Gloria A. Pelletier
Date of Death:
May 26, 2014
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Michael E. Pelletier of Chicopee, MA** .

Michael E. Pelletier 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.
05/31/2024

INVITATION FOR BID - CEL BID #24-0513

Chicopee Electric Light (CEL) invites bids from qualified bidders for TREE TRIMMING/FORESTRY SERVICES (ANNUAL) as described in BID #24-0513. The successful bidder will be awarded a ONE (1) year contract. CEL, at its discretion shall have the option to grant the successful bidder an extension for up to two (2) additional (1) year periods. Evaluation for extension

of the contract will be done yearly prior to the end of the contract prior to the end of any contract extension, but in no case shall the contract exceed three (3) years in total. Prices shall remain firm during the contract term and for any extension and the conditions of the contract shall remain the same.

Specifications may be requested from Chicopee Electric Light located at 725 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01020, Monday through Friday 9:00 am until 3:00 pm.

All questions or requests for clarification regarding this BID should be made in writing to the attention of Natalie Colberg with the BID #24-0513 in the subject line.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a certified or cashier's check payable to the order of the Chicopee Electric Light for a sum not less than 5% of the of the bid price. In lieu of a check, a bid bond may be submitted in an amount not less than 5% of the bid price. Checks, if submitted, will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders after the award of the order.

A payment bond in an amount equal to 50 percent of the total amount of the bid with a surety company qualified to do business in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will be required for the payment under the contract for labor and materials.

All bids for this project are subject to applicable bidding laws of Massachusetts, including M.G.L. c. 149, §§ 44A-H and M.G.L. c. 30, § 39M.

Attention is directed to the minimum wage rates to be paid as determined by the Department of Labor Standards under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 149, §§ 26-27D.

All proposals must be submitted in DUPLICATE form, sealed and marked on the outside "CEL BID #24-0513" and be received at the office of Chicopee Electric Light (CEL), Attn., Natalie A. Colberg, 725 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01020 no later than 10:00 am on June 20, 2024 at which time and place they will be publicly opened.

CEL reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities and minor irregularities in bids received, if it is deemed to be in the best interest of the CEL to do so.

Natalie A. Colberg
Purchasing
05/31/2024

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. HD24P0522EA
Estate of:

Izabela I. Ziobro
Also known as:
Izabela Ziobro
Date of Death: 01/07/2024
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL

ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Thomas A. Duda 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: **Thomas A. Duda of Chicopee, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/26/2024. 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: May 09, 2024

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
05/31/2024

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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Chicopee Public Library hosts programs for Kids and Families

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

Here is the slate of events for June 2024.

The Library's All Ages Playgroup will be held in the children's room on Saturdays, June 1, 8, 15 and 22 from 1 to 2 p.m. While the children's room play-space is always available to kids and families visiting the library, during playgroup there are extra toys to explore. It is a great time for families to meet up and play.

Little Movers will be held in the children's program room on Fridays, June 7 and 21 at 11 a.m. Babies crawling to 24 months and their caregivers are invited to join us for free play followed by circle time exploring songs, finger-plays and movement.

Sensory Play Saturday will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 8. Come let your babies socialize and explore sensory play! We will have our play area set up with some sensory activities and other play opportunities. For babies 0-24 months and their caregivers. Kids ages six to nine are invited to come to the Maker Zone for projects, crafts, and experiments focused on Science Technology Engineering and Math.

Maker Zone will be held on Thursday, June 13 at 4 p.m. in the children's program room. This month's project is cloud dough.

The library will host two programs just for middle and high school students in June.

The Teen Anime Club (season finale) will be held on Thursday, June 6, from 3 to 4:30 p.m.. This will be the last regular Anime Club meeting of the school year. Be sure to stop by for some end-of-school-almost-summer celebrations!

Teen Throwback Tuesday will be held on Tuesday, June 11 from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Childhood nostalgia is on offer with fun games, coloring and the giant parachute.

The Chicopee Library's Summer

Reading Program begins on June 24. This year, the question is "Chicopee, Did you read today?" Kids, teens, adults and everybody of every age is invited to read every day from June 24 to August 16 and enjoy fun programs at the library!

Stop by the Kids Room from 3 to 5 p.m. on Monday June 24 for a Summer Reading Kickoff. There will be fun and games around the room, including a sensory walk, a scavenger hunt, and a giant sticker poster. Kids Room staff will be available to help get you registered for Summer Reading and then you can stock up on library books so you can read every day.

Summer Dance Parties will be held every other Tuesday morning. The first one will be on Tuesday, June 25 at 10:30 a.m. Join in to move and groove. Geared for kids five and under, but older kids are welcome!

The library will host a Learn to Draw Watch Party, where an online event and drawing lesson will be streamed on the big screen in the Community Room at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, June 25. All ages welcome. Join illustrator Jason Chin, illustrator for iREAD 2024 and illustrator of Life After Whale: the Amazing Ecosystem of a Whale Fall, coming in June, as well as Tara Audibert of JoJo Makoons Fancy Pants and graphic novelist Rachel Dinunzio, author of Forsythia: Rise of the Cupcakes. Drawing supplies will be provided. This event is brought to you by Baker & Taylor.

On Wednesday, June 26 at 2 p.m., the library will host Taiko Thunder, a high energy Japanese drumming performance by Odaiko New England. Fans of anime and manga, and fans of big drums should not miss this one! Registration is Required. Contact the Kids Room to sign up. This program is supported by a grant from the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Visit the Chicopee Public Library all summer long for storytime, art projects, performances, concerts and more!

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

CPL announces upcoming programming

CHICOPEE - Here is a list of some of our upcoming library programs.

Monday, June 3 at 6:30 p.m. Are you nearing retirement? Do you want to learn the best strategies for maximizing the lifetime Social Security benefits you receive? Join us for an educational seminar "Making the Most of Social Security" with Susan Allen of Susan Allen Financial.

Some of the topics covered will include:

- Changes to Social Security filing strategies
- How married couples can help enhance their combined monthly and lifetime benefits
- How the "do over" and "start, stop, restart" strategies work
- How to claim retroactive benefits as a lump sum
- The effect of remarriage on survivor benefits for widowed and divorced spouses
- Five factors that could reduce the actual payments you receive

To register for this seminar, stop by the Reference Desk, call us at 413-594-1800x3 or email us at cpl@chicopeepubliclibrary.org.

Thursday, June 6 at 6:30 p.m. Join us for a book talk with local author Katherine Anderson. Her latest book "Murder at the Alma Mater" takes place at Elms College. Set against the backdrop of Elms College, Murder at the Alma Mater promises an unforgettable journey into the heart of academia, cozy mystery and suspense. Explore the hidden corners and untold stories of the campus that inspired the setting and get a glimpse into the author's creative process, revealing the inspirations and influences that shaped her writing journey from her earliest sparks of imagination to the meticulous research that breathed life into her characters and plot. This talk is free and open to the public. No registration is required.

Monday, June 10 at 6:30 p.m. Join us for an informational talk "Current Financial Fraud Scams and How to

Protect Yourself and Your Money." Learn how to protect yourself and your loved ones from fraud with Lisa Pandolfi from Freedom Credit Union will share hot to protect yourself and loved ones from some of the most popular scams including

- Imposter/Grandparent scams
- Mail theft/Check washing
- Online Romance/Friend Scams
- Online Shopping
- Phone Scams
- Computer Scams

This program is free and open to the public. Please register for this informational session at the Reference Desk, 413-594-1800x3 or cpl@chicopeepubliclibrary.org.

Tuesday, June 11 at 7:00 p.m. Decoupage Oyster Shells Learn how to paint, decoupage and shellac large oyster shells that can be used as jewelry dishes and ornaments. All supplies will be provided. You will go home with a beautifully decorated oyster shell designed by you!

Registration is required for this art class for adults. Register at the Reference Desk (413-594-1800x3, cpl@chicopeepubliclibrary.org).

This program is supported in part by the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

For those interested in exploring their Family History, the Chicopee Library computer lab is available to work on genealogy Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to Noon and 6 to 8 p.m. We are a FamilySearch Affiliate Library and have helpful databases such as Ancestry, American Ancestors and HeritageQuest to help you in your search. We have also recently added Newspapers.com to our genealogy resources available in the library.

If you need technology help, we offer one-on-one computer help on Mondays and Fridays at 2 p.m. or by appointment.

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

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CLEANING SERVICE WANTED - Town of Huntington is seeking quotations to clean 3 town buildings. Interested parties may submit quotations for the individual buildings, or as a group. Quotations are due by 3:00 p.m. on June 13. Specifications are available at www.huntingtonma.us or by emailing admin@huntingtonma.us. Mail proposals to **Selectboard Office, PO Box 430, Huntington, MA 01050** or email to admin@huntingtonma.us.

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Oakham Highway Dept. is hiring a **FULL-TIME EQUIPMENT OPERATOR / MECHANIC / LABORER.**

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Find archives of this local newspaper at www.newspapers.turley.com

HELP WANTED

The Town of Huntington is seeking a **TOWN CLERK.**

This is a salaried position for approximately 18 hours per week. Application and complete job description are available online at www.huntingtonma.us or by emailing admin@huntingtonma.us. Applications are due by June 13, 2024.

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FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

Route 20 billboard unveiling honors Wilbraham, Longmeadow residents

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Family and friends gathered along Route 20 on April 19 for the unveiling of a billboard honoring two residents from Wilbraham and Longmeadow.

The residents, Jackson Connors of Wilbraham and Sadie Slattery of Longmeadow, are also patients at Shriners Children's of New England and will be recognized as honorees at the 2nd Annual Golf Tournament supporting the organization on Aug. 9.

The event, taking place at Franconia Golf Course, is still looking for foursome teams to join, with tee off at 10 a.m. followed by dinner, raffles and performances by Project 267 at the Elks on Tiffany Street in Springfield.

The dinner event is open to the public and for anyone who wants to check out the band and not do dinner, it's \$10 at the gate.

To sign up, visit ma-cthomes.com and click the 'Golf Event' tab.

As the billboard was unveiled, the children reacted with shock and excitement to see their faces on the billboard for everyone driving along Route 20 to see.

"It was really cool. It's an honor," Connors said.

"I think it's pretty cool because everybody can see it and then, hopefully, we can get more people to raise awareness," Slattery said.

Connors and Slattery were happy to have the community support at the unveiling.

"It means a lot because family and friends are important," Connors said.



A photo of the billboard unveiled along Route 20 in Wilbraham featuring Jackson Connors and Sadie Slattery to promote the Aug. 9 Golf Tournament supporting Shriners Children's of New England.

"Mainly because everyone can see it and I think it's good," Slattery said.

Connors and Slattery hope the billboard helps raise awareness for Shriners and for the upcoming golf tournament, stressing the importance of their work with children.

"Shriners is important because I had a clubbed foot and I couldn't play with my friends, then Shriners helped me a lot and helped me play with my friends and just have fun," Connors said.

"I think it's important because I also go to Shriners and the whole Shriners made me feel a lot more confident and made me feel better about the whole situation, so I'm very thankful for it and I'm glad to be doing this," Slattery said.

Brenda Cuoco, broker/owner at Brenda Cuoco & Associates Real Estate

Brokerage, was ecstatic about the unveiling, wanting to give back to the kids and raise awareness for the organization and the upcoming event.

Cuoco said she loves teaming up with Shriners and supporting them, adding giving back to the community brings her great joy.

"I absolutely love it. There's nothing better than being able to support someone like Shriners. Any of the businesses around that we can support locally. Like I said, we just love giving back," Cuoco said.

The community support also means a lot to Cuoco.

"We just want to keep changing people's lives and make a difference and leaving a legacy most of all is what we love to do," Cuoco said.

Keri Tichy, associate director of philanthropy at Shriners Children's of New England, explained last year's golf tournament raised \$27,000 for Shriners Children of New England and she is looking forward to this

year's event.

Tichy expressed gratitude to Cuoco and her team for their support, adding how Shriners Children's of New England treats everyone regardless of ability to pay and 85 cents to every dollar goes towards patient care.

"Their efforts help to transform the lives of so many children across New England and upstate New York. We can't do it without them and our community and strengthening strong partnerships," Tichy said. "To be able to see our amazing patient ambassadors on a billboard this year out in the community just strengthens that even further."

Connors and Slattery encourage the community to support Shriners and give back to the community.

"Sign up for an event for a great cause," Connors said.

"Help donate to Shriners," Slattery said.

To learn more about the organization, visit shrinerschildrensnewengland.org.



A group photo with Jackson Connors, Alyssa Stout, office & finance administrator at Brenda Cuoco Real Estate Brokerage, Madison Degnan, marketing & listing coordinator at Brenda Cuoco Real Estate Brokerage, Sadie Slattery and Brenda Cuoco, broker/owner at Brenda Cuoco & Associates Real Estate Brokerage, after the billboard unveiling on Route 20 in Wilbraham on April 19.

ULI Boston/New England hosts TAP for redevelopment of Holy Name property



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALLIE MCKAY-NICKERSON

Property to be transferred to Elms College

CHICOPEE - ULI Boston/New England convened a Technical Assistance Panel (TAP) this past Monday to address the redevelopment of the Holy Name Property, set to be transferred to the College of Our Lady of the Elms.

Owned by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Springfield, the property features four historically significant buildings, including the Holy Name of Jesus Christ Church and the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning. Elms College is leading the redevelopment effort in collaboration with the City of Chicopee, the Diocese, and the Polish Center. The TAP discussed

the feasibility of redevelopment, adaptive reuse options, and strategies to connect the property with the surrounding neighborhood while enhancing the Springfield Street Historic District.

The City of Chicopee, along with Elms College, the Diocese, and the Polish Center, recognizes the Holy Name Property as a valuable asset for community and educational benefits. Located in a listed historic district, the property presents an opportunity to revitalize a section of the city while preserving its cultural heritage.

Panelists will consolidate their insights and recommendations for future presentation, aiming to guide Elms College and its partners in developing a sustainable plan that aligns with academic needs and community goals.

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