

Chicopee Register

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Looking Back and Looking Ahead

Hello to everyone in Chicopee as we welcome 2026! This has been a busy past year for us here at the paper, and for good reason. From a municipal election race for city collector bringing lots of attention and engagement in the community to ground-breakings for new developments and, as always, the fun community events, it's been quite the ride to say the least!

We also lost two Chicopee legends that will never be forgotten: Bob Zygarowski and Harvey Lafleur, two community staples that truly lived the Chicopee Pride spirit in this community.

At the paper, meanwhile, we've shaken things up a bit in 2025. Amanda Munson, one half of the dynamic duo, became a staff writer and now writes for Ludlow but always thinks of her Chicopee family often; I couldn't be prouder of her growth as she's worked with us and for everything she's done. We also welcomed the right-hand man, Brendan

Please see **LOOKING BACK**, page 2

Nov. 7, 2025

Peret elected as next city collector

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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CHICOPEE - Sandra Peret has been elected to serve as the city's next city collector.

Peret defeated her opponent, Raj Sanghvi, on Nov. 4 after receiving 3,234 votes to Sanghvi's 2,965 votes.

Peret thanked her supporters.

"A heartfelt thank you is extended to the Chicopee voters that supported my candidacy for City Collector. The race was a grassroots campaign that began going door-to-door meeting Chicopee residents, listening to their concerns and sharing my qualifications," Peret said.

Her message to Sanghvi was this.

"I commend Mr. Raj Sanghvi for engaging the political

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Sandra Peret

Robert Zygarowski passes away March 28, 2025

Served as City Council Vice President/Councilor-at-Large

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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CHICOPEE - City Council Vice President/Councilor-at-Large Robert "Bob" Zygarowski, beloved community member and dedicated public servant, has passed away at the age of 80.

On March 24, the city lowered municipal flags to half-staff in his memory, and throughout this week, sign boards flashed this message in tribute: "Chicopee Remembers City Councilor Robert "Bob" Zygarowski. If you see something, say something."

Zygarowski's legacy was vast from serving with the

police department for 28 years—including becoming the first K9 officer and first D.A.R.E officer—to his time on the Board of Aldermen and City Council as vice president, councilor-at-large and chairperson of the Public Safety Subcommittee.

He also was a director and board member for the Chicopee Municipal Employees Credit Union and a member of the Chicopee Lodge of Elks 1849, the Knights of Columbus 4044, the Moose Family Center, the Tigers Athletics Club, Sons of the American Legion Post 275 and a past vice president of the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee.

Zygarowski also received two awards from the Boys & Girls Club: the Victor Geoffrey Youth

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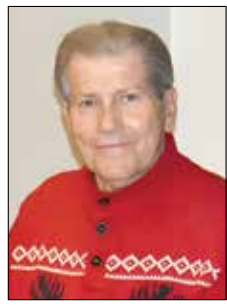


PHOTO COURTESY OF CITY OF CHICOPEE MAYOR'S OFFICE
Robert Zygarowski



Sept. 19, 2025

TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

A group shot of Mayor John Vieau, members of the City Council and Congressman Richard Neal (D-MA) after the official reopening of the Former Central Library as The Hub at Market Square.

Former Central Library reopens as The Hub at Market Square

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - The former Central Library in Chicopee Center is officially reopen as The Hub at Market Square, with a ceremony and festivities celebrating the occasion on Sept. 13.

The Hub at Market Square is a community initiative aimed at revitalizing the heart of downtown Chicopee and will serve as a communal space for activities, events and supporting local businesses. The former library was vacant for over 20 years and originally built in 1907 following decades of public

support from the community and later outgrew its space, leading to the Emily L. Parityka Central Library which opened its doors in 2004 on Front Street.

Funding the over \$10 million project came together through a Massachusetts Underutilized Properties Grant Award and the allocation of CDBG and city resources in 2021 for advancement of schematic design, while ARPA Funds came in 2022 to advance 100% design and engineering documents and construction bidding. Additional ARPA Funds and city funds were secured in early 2024, which led to the completion of the construction

budget. The updates to the building included renovations, a roof replacement, general repairs, the installation of an elevator to make the space ADA-compliant and the removal of asbestos and other hazardous materials.

Mayor John Vieau explained the project was possible due to Planning Director Lee Pouliot, Congressman Richard Neal (D-MA), the ARPA Committee, the City Council, the Building Commission, NV5 Senior Project Manager Rob Alger, D.A. Sullivan & Sons and Dietz & Company Architects.

Please see **LIBRARY**, page 3



April 18, 2025

TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Supporters hold up signs during the rally with the Chicopee Education Association in support of a fair contract.

CEA members, supporters hold rally before School Committee meeting

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - Members of the Chicopee Education Association and supporters gathered outside city hall on April 16 for a rally in support of a fair contract.

The rally took place before the School Committee meeting that evening, where those in attendance also presented public comments.

Kait Moss, a physical ed-

ucation teacher at Bowe Elementary School, said during the rally that when the negotiation process started, "the message was this time it would be different."

"But belief isn't enough anymore. We need action, we need respect, we need a contract that reflects the reality of what it takes to do this job well and safely," Moss said.

In a press release from the CEA through President Benjamin Eisen, it explained how pay rates for Education

Support Professionals are "far below a living wage" and teacher salaries are "so low that the district struggles to attract and retain highly qualified educators."

"The district's wage proposals are unacceptable. Our ESPs would need to work an additional 80,933 hours to achieve a living wage under the School Committee's proposed 27-cent per hour wage hike," Eisen said.

Please see **RALLY**, page 2

St. Patrick's Parade Committee Tartan unveiled

Dec. 12, 2025

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - On Dec. 6, a historic moment unfolded as the Chicopee St. Patrick's Parade Committee unveiled its official tartan—an achievement long in the making.

The reveal transpired during a ceremony at The Hub at Market Square.

Reflecting on the Herculean effort that spanned more than a decade was

Past Parade President and current Committee Member Meghan Balakier.

"We started this process 10 years ago, and the first obstacle that surfaced was the realization it takes a lot of money to put something like this on, and it's always been a pipe dream of ours to be able to have a Chicopee Tartan, which the Chicopee Parade Committee owned," Balakier said.

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TURLEY PHOTO BY BRENDAN ROONEY

The official Chicopee Tartan draped over the Chicopee St. Patrick's Parade Committee Banner.

IN THE CITY

Other major highlights of 2025

Here's a list of other events we couldn't forget in 2025.

- Barry Commission chooses Szetela for Barry School site in November 2025
- Groundbreaking for Singing Bridge Residences in October 2025
- Grand opening of Belcher Apartments in November 2025
- Phase one completion of the Abbey Brook Restoration project in August 2025
- Councilor-at-Large Tim Wagner announces in January 2025 he will not seek reelection, later resigns from City Council in August 2025
- CPD announces in January 2025 the 2024 National Night Out ranked #13 in the country
- Ward 5 City Councilor Frederick Krampits selected as new City Council Vice President in April 2025 after the passing of Robert Zygarowski
- Special City Council meeting held at city hall regarding cost of rising health insurance premiums in July 2025; rallies also held by CEA and UFCW Local 1459 ahead of meeting
- Monica Torres receives Latino Excellence Award in October 2025
- McKinstry Intersection receives \$100K for traffic mitigation, safety improvements in June 2025
- Chicopee joins regional task force addressing illegal dirt bikes in April 2025

New Year Celebration Dinner

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will host a New Year Celebration Dinner on Thursday, Jan. 8 at 5 p.m. at RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street.

Join your friends at RiverMills to celebrate the new year! Enjoy a delicious Pot Roast dinner while listening to a performance by Michelle Brooks-Thompson, Grammy nominated performer and finalist on NBC's "The Voice" Beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase. Registration for this event is now open. You must purchase tickets in advance and RiverMills Center.

CPL hosts Library Legislative Breakfast

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - The library hosted a Library Legislative Breakfast with state legislators, library supporters and invited guests in the Bazan Community Room on Jan. 24.

For Lori Vaillancourt, libraries were a safe space for her as she discovered queer fiction, connected with other moms in the community and had impacted her role as principal, as Chicopee Academy does not have a library and relies on the BookMobile.

"Supporting libraries isn't just an investment in collections or in buildings, it's an investment in people," Vaillancourt said.

Tim Cherubini, vice chair of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, highlighted for FY26, the needs include public library local aid and increasing funding for the Massachusetts Center for the Book and for the Book of Library Commissioners.

"Last year, there were two pieces of legislation that were broadly known as the Freedom to Read and Ebook Bills. They made progress in committees but failed to make it to a final vote. But I'm happy to report that



Jan. 31, 2025

TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Director Laura Bovee, Assistant Director Anne Gancarz and State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) pose for a group photo during the Library Legislative Breakfast.

these bills have been reintroduced recently for this legislative session," Cherubini said.

State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) noted how bipartisan support for local aid for regional libraries passed unanimously as an example of the State Legislature recognizing the importance of public libraries as "centers of democracy."

"We are proud of the fact that libraries continue to be beacons of democracy and through the legislative agenda that we previewed today, we want to continue to make

sure that our public libraries are beacons of democracy," Oliveira said.

Director Laura Bovee hopes attendees got a better understanding of what libraries do in their respective communities, adding the library was honored to host the event.

"I hope that people just get a better understanding of what libraries do, the place that we have in our patrons' lives," Bovee said. "That knowing that we are here for people is a really important thing to remind us of."

2025 Chicopee Municipal Election results announced

Nov. 7, 2025

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - The results are in for the 2025 Municipal Election, with seats decided for the City Council, School Committee, other races and a non-binding ballot question.

In the Councilor-at-Large race, Incumbents Frank Laflamme and Jerry Roy have been reelected to their spots, while Jessica Avery and former Ward 1 City Councilor Joel McAuliffe will take the other two seats.

For City Council Ward 2, Incumbent Shane Brooks defeated challenger Joseph Breton.

For City Council Ward 3, Incumbent Susan Goff defeated challenger Darrin Breaud.

For City Council Ward 5, Joe Pasternak will now be representing Ward 5 after

defeating fellow newcomer Julie L'Heureux in a close race.

For City Council Ward 8, Douglas Girouard—who previously served on the School Committee—will now be its new representative.

Ward 1 City Councilor Abigail Arriaga, Ward 4 City Councilor George Balakier, Ward 6 City Councilor Samuel Shumsky, Ward 7 City Councilor William Courchesne and Ward 9 City Councilor Mary Beth Costello all ran unopposed.

For the School Committee At-Large seat, this was also a close race between Robert Cantin and Dr. Mark McCarthy, with Cantin winning the seat by 38 votes.

School Committee Ward 4 will have a new representative, Diane Trela.

School Committee Ward 7 also has a new representative in Rafael Nazario Jr.

School Committee Ward 8 is another with a new representative, with Susan Constance Theresa Lemieux.

For the other School Committee representative seats, Ward 1 Representative Deanna Rousseau, Ward 2 Representative David Barsalou, Ward 3 Representative Jason Dout, Ward 5 Representative Grace Schofield, Ward 6 Representative Carlton Sonny Brooks Jr. and Ward 9 Representative Ronald Benard all ran unopposed.

On the non-binding ballot question on the adoption of a quarterly tax billing system, 56% voted yes and 44% voted no.

Laura McCarthy and Brian Suchy were reelected as assessors and Marie Laflamme was reelected as city treasurer.

Mayor John Vieau was also reelected as mayor.

Voter turnout was 14%.

Love in the air at RiverMills Valentine's Day Dance

Feb. 21, 2025

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - The senior center was a full house on Feb. 14 as seniors enjoyed this year's Valentine's Day Dance.

Among the couples were Dan Dulchinos and Elaine Dutton, who will mark 9 years together in March and found each other after they both lost their spouses.

"He was my 9th grade school teacher and he came to my husband's wake and it was so nice to see him there because I hadn't seen him in years," Dutton said.

"I didn't know she had a son--she had a 49-year-old son--and she said, 'Louis, this is the man I told you about that turned my whole life around.' So, that kind of hit home and a couple days later, I said, 'She thinks enough of me, maybe I could help her through her grievings,'" Dulchinos said.

A couple days after that wake, Dulchinos called Dut-

ton to see how she was and told her if she needed someone to talk to, he'd be there.

"So eventually she called me and we got together and now we're living together," Dulchinos said. "We're both blessed to have each other."

Their secret to a long marriage is talking to each other, listening and never going to bed angry.

"We both love each other very much and we're blessed to be together," Dulchinos said.

"We believe in God and we believe that He's the reason that we're together," Dutton said.

DJ Luis D, real name Luis "Dancing Machine" Rodriguez, was excited to see the couples get out on the dance floor as he churned out the love songs.

He also loves how events like this bring people together and give joy.

"When I come in, I want to give them a special show. I want to give them all the smiles and all that happiness," Rodriguez said.



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

DJ Luis D serenades an attendee during the Valentine's Day Dance.

RALLY from page 1

Eisen said how ESPs—who are professionals supporting students with legally mandated special education plans and ensuring school operations run smoothly—earn less than half of what is considered a living wage for the region.

"The city can address this problem using existing money coming from the state. We are in a better position than many other communities that are trying to pass overrides to fund their schools," Eisen said.

Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware was made aware of this statement and due to not

being allowed to make comments, they were deferred to Mayor John Vieau, who serves as the School Committee chair.

"The School Committee recognizes that our staff is the foundation of all we do in the Chicopee Public Schools, and we value their contributions. We are committed to working with the union leadership to negotiate contracts that are both fair to our staff and responsible to the community," Vieau said.

This rally would only be the start as the CEA would continue holding rallies at varying times throughout 2025, asking for the contract to be settled.

PERET from page 1

process by entering the race for City Collector. He was a formidable opponent. He organized an impressive campaign team and successfully obtained the support and endorsements from many politi-

cal figures from Chicopee and throughout Hampden County," Peret said. "His campaign fundraising was equally impressive, surpassing my largely, self-funded campaign by a large margin. The best is wished to Mr. Sanghvi and his family."

Sanghvi expressed congratulations to Peret.

"Last night's results show a narrow loss, but I see something far greater than defeat — I see a city awakening. Our campaign united Chicopee in a way we have not seen in decades, bringing together people from every corner of

our city and across the political spectrum around a shared vision of community, service and integrity," Sanghvi said.

Sanghvi was also proud of his campaign.

"This race for City Collector was more than an election; it was symbolic of a deeper change happening in Chicopee. It showed that a man like me — an immigrant, a person of color, who came here with nothing but hope and determination — can find opportunity, belonging, and love in this community. For that, I am forever grateful," Sanghvi said.

LOOKING BACK from page 1

Rooney, whose coverage of the Barry Elementary School project has been one of many shining moments for him at this paper. Also, Christina Gioscia just as she was finishing high school and is now in college, jumping right in to spotlight the community events that bring us all together. We also had the pleasure of welcoming Elise Lyons, a 2025 Chicopee High School graduate, during

the summer to learn the ropes. Also, my predecessor, Dalton Zbierski, popping in to cover meetings.

I expect 2026 to be just as busy and filled with the news that means the most to all of you from the community events you all enjoy to the local government topics of the day. As always, thank you all for your continued support of the team here at the Chicopee Register and this paper. It means more than you know.

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IN THE CITY

CPL hosts programs for kids and families

CHICOPEE - Each month the Chicopee Public Library hosts a variety of free programs for children, teens, and families. The Youth Services Department seeks to provide opportunities for entertainment and enrichment that promote literacy and explore creativity. Here is the slate of events for January 2026.

Sensory Play Saturday will be held on Saturday, Jan. 3 at 9:30 a.m. 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.

Saturday Playgroup will be held on Saturdays at 1 p.m. in January. We'll put out some extra toys in the play space. It's a great time for families with kids of all ages to meet up and play.

Little Kid Dance Party will be on Wednesdays, Jan. 14 and 28 at 10:30 a.m. Moving and grooving for kids and their caregivers. Geared toward ages 0-5, but all are welcome!

45 minutes to one hour of energetic activity including singing and dancing, action rhymes, and playing with props like scarves and shakers.

Build with LEGO on Thursday, Jan. 8 at 4 p.m. Unstructured building time for kids ages 6 and up.

The Kids Room Sewing Club will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 14, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Learn basic stitches and practice skills by making fun projects. Recommended for ages six and up. Kids who are not familiar with using a needle and thread should attend with an adult. Teens are welcome.

Stop by for a Kids Room Craft on Friday, Jan. 16, from 2:30 to 4 p.m. It's an early release day for Chicopee Public Schools PreK-5. Beads and paper craft supplies will be available for crafty exploration.

Storytime will be held on Thursdays, Jan. 8 and 22 at 10:30 a.m. Storytime is for children ages 3-5. This program features about 30 minutes of structured circle time, followed by 15-30 minutes of a craft or activity. Circle time will in-

clude 2-3 read aloud books, rhymes, songs, and felt boards. Children will be encouraged to ask and answer simple questions and recognize things like shapes, colors, letters, and numbers.

The library **Homeschool Meetup** will be on Friday, Jan. 23 at Noon. This group meets once a month September - June for homeschooling families with kids of all ages to hang out, do activities and learn together. Different activities each month are planned by the group. This month we are reading and discussing fairy tales.

Terrific Twos will be held on Tuesdays, Jan. 6 and 20 at 10:30 a.m. Terrific Twos is for two-year-olds and their caregivers. This program features about 25 minutes of structured circle time, followed by about half an hour of semi-structured playtime. During circle time, we will sing songs, do rhymes, do some big movements, and read 1 book. The book choice rotates between either a read aloud picture book or a group read of a board book. Playtime involves a choice of craft, activity, or play.

Unleash the ooze! Make Slime in the kids room on Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 4 p.m. Kids and teens can stop by the Activity Room to make their own small container of slime using three simple ingredients.

The Children's Room is a great place to hang out. Coloring pages and board games are always available. There are also some new things you can play with while you visit. Ask us about food toys for the play kitchen, building blocks, or the art cart.

Teens!

Visit the library after school and enjoy the Teen Space with friends! We've got board games, puzzles, the library's Switch, and coloring to enjoy.

Anime Club will be on Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 3 p.m. Stop by for some fun crafts and activities themed after the hit series Demon Slayer!

Teens are invited to join us at LEGO, Sewing Club, and Slime Making.

Visit the library website for more info about all of the library's events! www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org.



An intense face-off between the CFD and CPD hockey team players.

TURLEY PHOTO BY AMANDA MUNSON

CPD and CFD skate off at 9th Annual Battle of the Badges

By Amanda Munson
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - On a late Saturday afternoon at the Fitzpatrick Ice Skating Rink in Holyoke, the CPD and CFD put their hockey skills to the test by competing in the annual Battle of the Badges on March 15.

The fire department won the game for the second year in a row.

The proceeds benefited the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee along with a food drive for Lorraine's Soup Kitchen & Pantry and scholarship opportunities for students of Chicopee High and Comp.

Mayor John Vieau said the team he's rooting for is for the city of Chicopee.

"It's a beautiful day in

Chicopee and Holyoke! The police and fire departments, Chicopee finest and bravest, coming together and really bringing the community out and supporting one of my favorite non-profits. I couldn't think of a better organization for all these proceeds to go to," Vieau said.

Fire Capt. Katie Collins-Kalbaugh talked about why it's important to support an event like this.

"The times that we practice and play together are such great morale boosters, everyone has a great time and then we come for the actual game, all the proceeds go to charities, so it's a good event for the whole community," Collins-Kalbaugh said.

Police Capt. Doug Lambert, who has been part of the de-

partment for 18 years, shared how this year his son, Cadet Andrew Lambert, played for the CPD hockey team.

"This is absolutely one of the best community events that we do. It's the most interaction we have with the community and it's almost one of the best nights that we have planning it, organizing it and running it on the day," Lambert said.

Lynn Morrissette, Marketing & Development director of the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee, spoke proudly of her hometown.

"I am a proud Chicopee girl, so being able to give back to the community and support and mentor our youth is a fantastic opportunity. It gives me great joy to do that," Morrissette said.

ZYGAROWSKI from page 1

Leadership Award and the Dr. Edward Ryan Award.

Mayor John Vieau shared the news of Zygarowski's passing "hit hard," calling him "a good friend, a colleague and a true Chicopee native."

"Bob was beloved by Chicopee and its residents. 'They say if you love your work, you'll never work a day in your life.' This quote comes to mind when I think of Bob and his contributions to the city," Vieau said.

City Council President/Councilor-at-Large Frank Laflamme said, "It's gonna be tough" after Zygarowski's passing.

"Bob and Jim Tillotson--a former councilor--were both

instrumental in helping me--through a couple years of being on the council," Laflamme said.

Laflamme was grateful he had the opportunity to see Zygarowski the week before with Councilor-at-Large Jerry Roy.

"I've known him pretty much most of my life. So, it's been tough on me. We've

done a lot together," Laflamme said. "At the end of the day, it's something that I'm going to cherish: our friendship and the knowledge he's given me."

Vieau's message was this.

"Bob will be dearly missed. Our condolences go out to the entire Zygarowski family and to anyone whose life was touched by Bob. May we

COA to host Health Profile Set-up

Jan. 9 at RiverMills Center

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will host Emergency Health Profile Set-ups on Friday, Jan. 9 at 10:00 a.m. at RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street.

Representatives from Westcomm Regional Dispatch in Chicopee will be at RiverMills to assist with setting up your Emergency Health Profile with RapidSOS. RapidSOS is a secure online profile where you can store information that may help first responders during an emergency. When you call 911 from the phone numbers linked to your profile, information such as medical conditions, allergies, medications and emergency contacts will automatically and securely appear to the dispatcher, helping them and first responders understand your needs quickly and provide the right care. To sign up for a health profile, you will need access to an email and cell phone. You must register in advance for an appointment by stopping by RiverMills or by calling 534-3698.

TARTAN from page 1

Mayor John Vieau delivered opening remarks about past Irish Immigrant Mayor Denis Murphy, who helped craft and build the foundation of the Hub which used to be the old Chicopee Library constructed in 1912, to now being the location that the official tartan was unveiled as a true full circle moment.

"It's truly an exciting moment having all of you here for this special occasion," Vieau said.

The celebration didn't stop there as several speakers followed, providing insight into various topics such as the origin of a tartan to how the Chicopee tartan was registered with the Scottish Register of

Tartans earlier this year, on May 20. The biggest take-away of the evening was that Vieau and current Chicopee Parade President Aly Sliwa received an official citation from State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) and the State Senate to commemorate and document this historic day, along with two official certificates from the Scottish Register of Tartans.

Next, 2025 Chicopee Colleen Daiana Torres and her court members, which included Emma Caproni, Hannah O'Neil and Meghan Oxley, walked upstairs, where they awaited the signal, and once it came, the tartan was draped over the Chicopee St. Patrick's Committee banner, to which it received a standing

ovation.

2024 Chicopee Parade Marshal Fr. Bill Tourigny then blessed the tartan and The Hub.

2026 Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade President Jim Wildman explained this is a celebration for not only Chicopee but the Parade as a whole.

"It's an extremely proud day for Chicopee, as this tartan will allow them to express and showcase their identity and pride represented through the inclusion of all the different colors, and as the Holyoke committee, we are always happy to support our regionals, and were excited and proud to support Chicopee every step of the way," Wildman said.

Moms was ecstatic to meet the attendees.

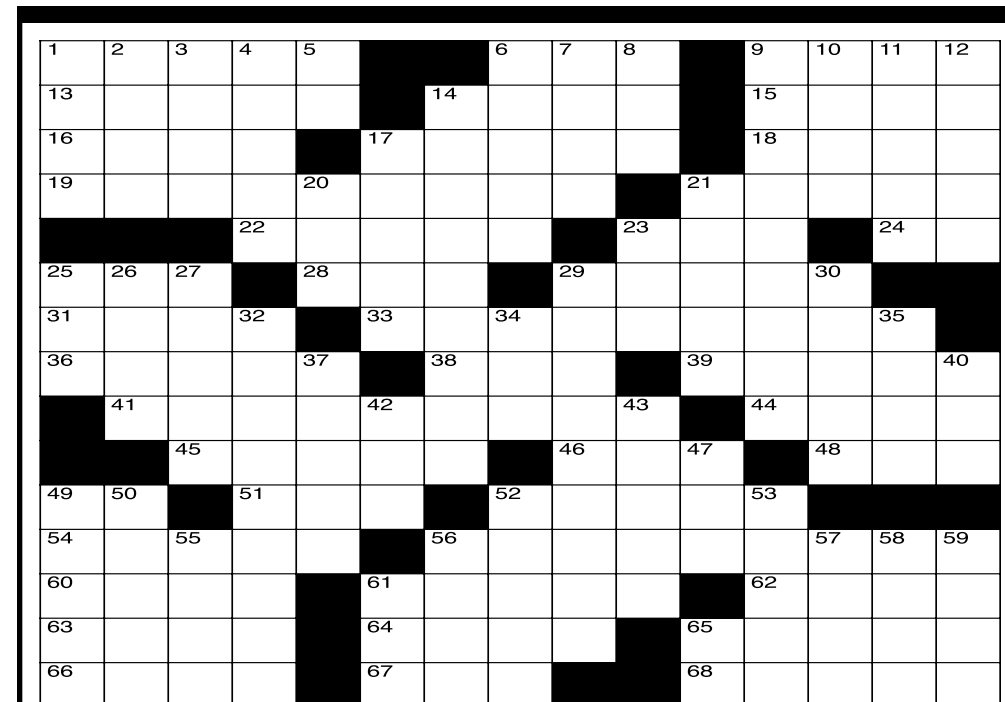
"I am so at awe with the amount of people that have come through. That means that Chicopee is heading in the right direction," Smiley said.

"You have my eternal gratitude for what you've done for not only for the city, but the downtown area," Brooks said. Zenaïda Smiley of Plant

LIBRARY from page 1

"I'm hopeful that it lasts for another 100, if not more. 200 years past our time and becomes that hub that we want it to be," Vieau said.

Neal shared, "This is just what the APRA money was supposed to do" in terms of restoring landmarks and investing in the future.



CLUES ACROSS

- Lakes
- Electromotive force
- Invests in little enterprises
- Longtime Utah Jazz coach
- Small sailboat
- Actor Idris
- Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
- System that detects objects under water
- Harsh, grating noise
- Steward
- A fencing sword
- Infections
- Actress Ryan
- Sodium
- Swedish castle
- A lump of slime
- African antelope
- Insurance providers
- Choosy

CLUES DOWN

- Millisecond
- Spanish city
- A sudden very loud sound
- "The Indiana Jones of beer"
- Tin
- Sea eagles
- Volcanic crater
- Type of coat
- Women's apartments in Ottoman palace
- Divulge a secret
- Norwegian playwright
- "It's a Wonderful Life" director
- Divulge a secret
- 18-year astronomical period
- Clothes
- Places to sit
- Family of regulator genes
- New York ballplayer
- Impressive in size or scope
- Jacques ___, French

biologist

- One from the Big Apple
- Genus of woolly lemurs
- Songs to one's beloved
- Indigenous person of N.E. Thailand
- Supplemented with difficulty
- Farewell
- Investment account (abbr.)
- One from Utah
- Begets
- A light informal meal
- Break apart
- Brief appearance
- Partner to "ooohed"
- A light informal meal
- Fabric with smooth, shiny surface
- One billionth of a second
- Ancient Italian-Greek colony
- Close tightly
- Mail out
- Language
- Computer characteristic

IN THE CITY

Testing and taking inventory of seed

A good practice to start the gardening season off right

I don't know about you, but I have been caught up in spirit of the holidays. It's been fun to indulge in family time and try and get caught up on much-needed rest.

in the Garden
by Roberta McQuaid

I have given myself this last week of the year to continue to take it easy before I hit the "to do" list.

One of the big things I have been procrastinating on at work is taking inventory of all the seeds I have left from the last couple of years. The box holds a hundred or so different varieties of seeds, mostly heirloom, open-pollinated types.

There is something refreshing about accomplishing this task soon into the new year; a seasonal habit I've had for the last four decades give or take. To me, it means spring is not far behind.

I begin by organizing the seeds first by category: vegetable, flower or herb, then alphabetically. After those piles have been made, I go back and decide which packets are no good or no longer of use.

No matter how well they are stored, some seeds won't germinate well past the year in which they are sold for. Based on my experience these include hybrid onions and parsnips. Carrots can be iffy.

In the herb category dill, caraway, parsley, angelica and chives come to mind. Year old garden heliotrope, feverfew and bellflowers can be stubborn germinators as far as flowers go.

As a general rule I keep seed that is less than three years old, unless the variety in question is rare. Even spotty germination is better than nothing when it comes to seed that is hard to find.

You can save yourself disappointment at planting time by performing a simple germination test on questionable seed.

Place a few seeds in a moist paper towel. Roll it up and seal it in a plastic bag in a warm location.

Instructions in the seed catalog or on the packet should tell you how long it takes for germination to occur, as well as inform you of the initial germination percentage. Once the necessary amount of time has elapsed unroll the paper towel and determine how viable your seeds are

by observing the sprouting that has occurred.

Based on the results you may decide to sow the seed more thickly or just start over with a fresh batch.

Last year I did my own version of a germination test by sowing few seeds of questionable varieties in pots, and placing them on a shelf near my wood stove.

I learned which seeds were worth the effort of sowing in the garden and which I needed to discard and order new.

Although viability decreases as seeds age, proper storage

can insure that you will get at least three years worth of sprouting out of many of your favorites. It is important to fold over used seed packets and seal them with tape after use, and if you are just getting to it now, it's better late than never. Put them in a location that is cool and dry.

Since temperatures around 37-41 degrees are ideal, many people assume that storage in the refrigerator is preferred. It is, as long as the seeds are first placed in an airtight container along with a desiccant to absorb moisture. Desiccants such as silica gel are available in the floral section of craft shops, or you can reuse the pouches of silica that come in vitamin bottles or shoe boxes.

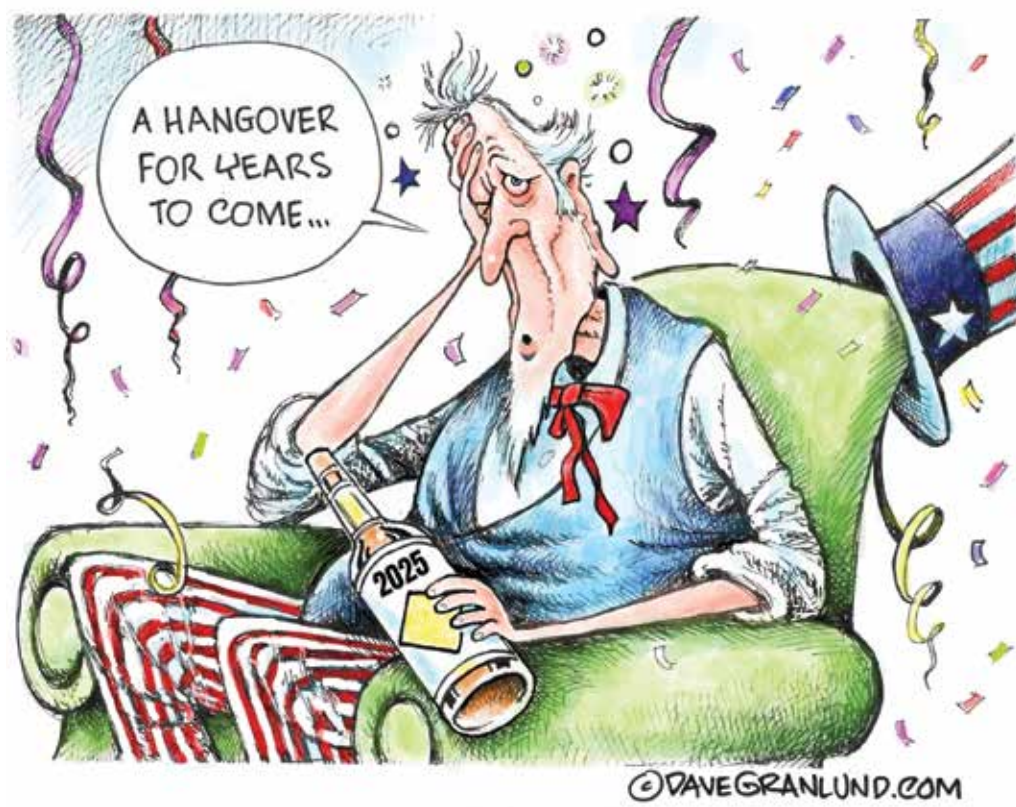
If you'd rather not take up space in your fridge, storing the container of seeds in a cabinet in a dry part of the house will also work.

Whatever you do, don't put them in a hot attic or damp basement! It is also not a good idea to purchase seeds from stores that have their seed displays in greenhouses. Temperature and moisture extremes can affect viability even if the seeds are brand new!

Some seed companies sell their seed in foil-lined packets. These are very good at keeping them fresh for the longest amount of time – especially if they are unopened.

Now that you have inventoried your seeds, it will be a whole lot of fun to order exactly what you need. That's what I will be doing after one more family game night and that last Christmas movie!

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



Sora

The Massachusetts Audubon Society reported a sighting of a sora on Nauset Beach in Orleans on Cape Cod between Dec. 10 and 16.

Soras are small, chubby, chicken like birds with long toes and between eight to ten inches tall. Their stubby bill distinguished them from other rails in the United States and Canada, which have longer bills. They also frequently hold their short tail cocked up showing their white patch under the tail.

Soras are mottled gray and brown with white-edged feathers, but the feature that stands out the most is their yellow candy-corn bill. Other field marks include a black mask, throat patch and vertical white lines on the sides. Females tend to be less brightly colored than males and have less black on the face and throat. Juveniles also lack the black mask.

Soras have a distinct walk pushing their head forward with every step while nervously flicking the tail upward, exposing the white under tail feathers. They tend to forage in dense vegetation, but also venture into open areas from time to time. Their long toes help them walk on top of floating mats of vegetation. Soras make their homes in freshwater wetlands with emergent vegetation such as cattails, sedges and rushes. During migration and winter, they also use brackish marshes, flooded fields and wet pastures.

The Sora makes its presence known with plaintive whistles and whinnies rising

from the marshes all across North America. Despite its abundance, it is not often seen: As with other rails, it spends most of its time hidden in dense marshy growth or wet meadows. Occasionally it will walk about in full view at the edge of a pond, delighting any birders, who happen to be nearby. Although Soras might seem like weak fliers when seen fluttering over the marsh, they regularly migrate long distances, many going to South America for the winter.

Cape Cod bird sightings

Besides the sora, the following sightings were reported between Dec. 10 and Dec. 16. A western tanager was found at Mass Audubon's Wellfleet Bay sanctuary. The male painted bunting continued at a feeder in Brewster. Other bird sightings included a clapper rail and six western willets in South Chatham, two common terns in North Chatham, a blue-headed vireo and a yellow-breasted chat in South Orleans, a common yellowthroat and for northern shovelers in Harwich and a short-eared owl.

Birds seen at Race Point in Provincetown were a black guillemot, 200 razorbills, 13 dovekies, three common murrelets, 45 black-legged kittiwakes, six Iceland gulls, a red-necked grebe and 75 northern gannets.

Other sightings around the Cape included two continuing Eurasian wigeon in Yarmouth Port, two Barrow's goldeneyes at Loop Beach in

Cotuit, a great egret at Mass Audubon's Skunknet River sanctuary in Barnstable, a Nashville warbler reported at a house in Yarmouth, continuing unseasonably large numbers of tree swallows in various places including over 50 in Falmouth, two western willets in Chatham and an American golden plover in North Truro.

Christmas bird count

From Dec. 15 to Jan. 5, the Christmas Bird Count will commence in the U.S., Canada and 18 other countries in the Western Hemisphere. Countries are divided into geographical regions with 35 in Massachusetts and each region will pick a single 24-hour period to count birds. Data from the CBC can be utilized in many ways, including to monitor trends in bird populations, document range shifts over time and examine how climate change may impact the winter distributions of birds.

CBC data has been used in hundreds of analyses, peer-reviewed publications and government reports over the decades.

Birds likely seen in Massachusetts are chickadees, titmice, many species of woodpeckers, bluebirds, Carolina wren and many raptors. Migrants from the north include kinglets, some raptors, snow bunting and some sparrows. Waterfowl seen mostly along the coast are dabbling and diving ducks. Irruptive species that are only present in some years are evening grosbeak, red crossbill, white-winged crossbill, redpoll, pine grosbeak and red-breasted nuthatch.

Helping birds

People may help birds by participating in the Christmas Bird Count. It is an important source of data on birds.

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

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Send letters to:
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The deadline for
submissions is Tuesday at noon.

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.

Election letters to the editor

The Chicopee Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to Chicopee Register care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to journalregister@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call the editor at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news
As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.
Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in Chicopee Register.

I'm on SS disability; should I switch to regular Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

Should I take my Social Security now at age 62, or wait till I am 65?

I've been collecting SS disability due to health issues and was curious if I should wait or claim my regular Social Security retirement benefits now.

Signed: Disabled but Wondering

Dear Disabled but Wondering:

If you are now collecting Social Security Disability Insurance benefits and you are still disabled, it would be a disadvantage to claim your

SS retirement benefits at this time age 62 or even at age 65. That's because your SSDI benefit is the same as your Full Retirement Age amount, as calculated for you at the point you became disabled. Born after 1959, your FRA is age 67, but you are already receiving your FRA benefit while on SS disability even though you have not yet reached your full retirement age. That full SSDI benefit will automatically convert to become your SS retirement benefit when you reach your

full retirement age.

If you were to claim your normal SS retirement ben-



efit any earlier than your SS full retirement age of 67, the amount you get would be reduced for claiming early. At your current age, you would likely get between 75% and 80% of what you are now receiving on SSDI (depend-

ing on your exact age in the month you claim and at age 65 you would get about 87% of what you are now receiving on Social Security disability.

In other words, as long as your disability continues and you remain eligible for Social Security Disability Insurance benefits, you should not switch to your normal SS retirement benefit, because you would get less money. And the resulting benefit reduction would be permanent.

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

IN THE CITY

Easter Bunny hops to RiverMills for Easter Egg Hunt

April 25, 2025

By Amanda Munson
Staff Writer
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CHICOPEE – “It’s nice to see another generation having so much fun!” The Easter Bunny visited the RiverMills Center for pictures and treats for members’ grandchildren, who were hopping around with excitement on April 18.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt was held on both levels of the building, leaving everyone wondering where the eggs were hidden and searching for the very last egg, with ample time to take family photos in front of the Easter Bunny.

Along with Jinny Huml was her family, including Colleen Huml who was visiting the senior center for the second time, joined with her own daughter and family. When talking about Easter traditions, this egg hunt became a tradition in the Huml household.

“It’s fun watching them find the eggs. They don’t care how many eggs they get, I think the parents care more about the eggs sometimes,” Huml said. “We used to get together every year at my grandmother’s house and this year she invited us here. The family would always go to her house, and it was time where the family would get together.”



TURLEY PHOTO BY AMANDA MUNSON

From the left, Zuryah and Tyler (TJ), accompanied by Mémé Kathy were cozying up with the Easter Bunny after a successful egg hunt run.

Volunteer Cindy Powers has been at the RiverMills for eight years and was attending the event with her grandchild Jonah Powers.

“I think it’s very nice that the center is doing different generation activities. They’ve also done movies with grandchildren/grandchild during school vacation. Sometimes we pop in to say hello and visit the gift shop and maybe get a cookie or treat from the

cafe. It’s really nice to see different ages and all the grandparents smile, you see people happy and spreading joy,” Powers said.

For eight year old Jonah Powers, his favorite part about the Easter Bunny is getting eggs and opening them up in hopes of receiving M&Ms. He was able to finally open the eggs full of toys and most importantly, chocolate!



From the left, Ward 5 School Committee Representative Grace Schofield, Carol Kruser, assistant superintendent for Student Support Services, Patrick E. Bowe Elementary School Principal Sherri, Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware and Jennifer Bellville, assistant superintendent for Instruction & Accountability, take a group photo together during Patrick E. Bowe Elementary School’s 100th birthday celebration.

Bowe Elementary School celebrates 100 years

May 23, 2025

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - It was a very special day at Patrick E. Bowe Elementary School as students, staff, alums, administrators and many more marked 100 years on May 15.

The centennial anniversary marks 100 years of learning, leadership and legacy at the school, which opened its doors on May 15, 1925, with 689 students and 18 teachers. The school was named after Patrick E. Bowe, who was a member of the School Committee.

The school had closed in September 1928 due to structural concerns and students were relocated to the Robinson and Valentine Schools. However, in April 1929, the school reopened after undergoing the necessary repairs.

Principal Sherri Chrzanowski, who later shared she was retiring this year, called the centennial milestone something “that few schools ever reach.”

“Today, we do more than celebrate our centennial. We celebrate a century of learning, leading and lasting lega-



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

An exterior shot of Patrick E. Bowe Elementary School as it stands today.

cy,” Chrzanowski said.

She emphasized this centennial is “not just a reflection, it’s a promise,” that “the next 100 years will be built with the same spirit of resilience, curiosity and love that has brought us this far.”

Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware said for a century, Bowe School has “stood as a beacon of learning and growth and one of the spirits and prides of Chicopee.”

“As we honor this 100-year journey, we are looking forward to 100 years more. May we say Happy Birthday Bowe,” Ware said.

This was Chrzanowski’s message to the staff, parents and students on this special day.

“Let us look to the future with the same passion that built this school a century ago, let us carry forward the lessons of education, of community, of belonging and let us stay together with pride and joy. Happy 100th Birthday Patrick E. Bowe School! May the walls continue to echo with laughter, our walls shine with discovery and our legacy inspire for another 100 years and beyond,” Chrzanowski said.



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Salutatorian Jomar Torres, Jocelyn Coira and Class Historian John Tryba smile and give a thumbs up as the Chicopee High School Class of 2025 Graduation Ceremony is set to begin.

Chicopee High School 2025 grads celebrated at Szot Park

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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CHICOPEE - Chicopee High School celebrated the class of 2025 in style on June 5 during their grand ceremony at Szot Park.

2025 President Nyeira Wilson called the 2025 class exceptional and wanted them to be proud of everything they’ve accomplished in the last four years, including being three-time champions of Pride Week and setting school records in sports.

Her message was this. “I know everyone in this crowd is waiting for what’s to come for each and every single one of you. Take that knowledge and don’t only do it, but excel at it. I’m proud to be graduating today as the president of this class,” Wilson said.

Salutatorian Jomar Torres is

graduating with a 103.3 GPA and will be attending the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and accepted into the Honors College to pursue chemical engineering.

Class of
2025

“You all have truly made my high school experience have meaning to it. Going from an interrupted middle school experience to high school, I did not have many friends and familiar faces around me my freshman year. I had a blank slate to learn about new people and diversify my relationships,” Torres said.

Valedictorian Jenna Madru is graduating with a 104.6 GPA and will be attending Northeastern University to

study data science and business administration in the Honors Program.

“While academic achievements are important, taking care of a family member, working a job, learning English if it isn’t your first language or dealing with mental health issues while juggling high school should be just as celebrated and honored,” Madru said.

Principal Gina Fasoli Figueroa shared words from “The Summer Day” by Poet Mary Oliver.

“Make your mark, not just with your achievements but with your integrity, kindness and courage. You are ready, we believe in you and we can’t wait to see what you’ll do next in your wild and precious life,” Fasoli Figueroa said. “Congratulations Class of 2025, go boldly, go proudly and go make a difference. Go Pacers!”

Chicopee marks Memorial Day in observance ceremony

May 30, 2025

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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CHICOPEE - The community gathered at the Veterans Memorial Plaza on May 26 for the city’s annual Memorial Day Ceremony.

In addition to an invocation, musical performances and remarks, the Gold Star Families were recognized along with a wreath-laying ceremony with members of the CHS Air Force Junior ROTC escorting veterans to the six monuments in the plaza.

Mayor John Vieau reflected on two servicemen, Sgt. Kevin Dupont and Capt. John Maloney, who gave that ultimate sacrifice for this country.

“Their memory and that of so many others calls us to reflect not just on what we’ve lost, but on what we’ve gained from their service. The freedom to gather, to speak and to live in peace,” Vieau said.

State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee) shared how she saw people taking their time to mark Memorial Day.

“There’s over a million folks, brave men and women who sacrificed their lives for the freedoms of this country, and that’s what today is



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Jodie Pajak, American Legion National Executive Committee Member for Department of Massachusetts and Navy Veteran, gave this year’s keynote address.

about,” Arriaga said.

Jodie Pajak, American Legion National Executive Committee Member for Department of Massachusetts and a Navy Veteran, shared the story of her grandfather who served during World War II, which inspired her to serve.

“Roy finished his Naval career with no regrets about putting his life on the line for his country. This story was a gift because Grandpa did not talk about his war and any part of his service in the Navy. Not because he

was ashamed of his service, but because he felt what had happened in the past was done,” Pajak said.

Louis Brault of the American Legion Post 275 hopes residents took away a moment to honor and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

“Continue to be you and always think of the people that sacrifice so you can be here. Doesn’t have to be all the time, but every once in a while, know that they did it so you could be here,” Brault said.

IN THE CITY

Chicopee Academy celebrates resilience, perseverance of 2025 graduates

June 13, 2025

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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CHICOPEE - Chicopee Academy celebrated the Class of 2025 in a graduation ceremony at the Chicopee High School auditorium on June 4.

This year's class comprised 18 graduates, including 13 who have completed the Chicopee Academy Grad Track program, an accelerated learning pathway designed to help students reach their high school graduation goals.

After sharing thoughts several students wrote in their end-of-year reflections, Principal Lori Vaillancourt shared how the students taught the educators as well by being themselves, being unique and asking questions.

"As Chicopee Academy students you have never accepted the status quo just because it's 'how it's always been.' Your curiosity, your challenges, your insistence on understanding the why behind everything—that's what pushes things forward. That's what creates change," Vaillancourt said.

Vice Principal Andrea Hogan, who paid tribute to several students, noted re-

curing themes of resilience, determination to succeed, growth and quiet strength and courage.

One student she highlighted was Crystal Berrocales.

"Tonight, Crystal, we light the flame - a tradition that symbolizes so much more than just graduation. This flame represents your potential, your passion, and your power to illuminate your own path forward. What you do with this light is now entirely up to you," Hogan said.

Christine Sullivan, a special education teacher at Chicopee Academy for 22 years, recognized Juan Salas, who later returned to school after junior year.

"I told you then that I couldn't wait to see you walk across that stage at your graduation, and now that time is here. You did it!!!!," Sullivan said.

Vice Principal Chris Nadeau shared this class was "a special class" as they started their journey together four years earlier at Chicopee High and ended at Chicopee Academy, just like he did.

"I know the adversity that all of you have overcome to get to this milestone and I'm incredibly proud of you," Nadeau said.



The graduates enter the stadium at Mitchell Kuzdzal Field, with a seat left open in memory of Madelyn Robillard.

TURLEY PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY

CCHS celebrates Class of 2025 at graduation

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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CHICOPEE - After a postponement due to rain, the Chicopee Comprehensive High School Class of 2025 celebrated graduation in style on June 8 at Mitchell Kuzdzal Field.

Class of 2025 President Taely Viafara took a moment to remember Madelyn Robillard, a member of the class who passed away this year.

"While not every seat on this field is filled today, every heart is filled with stories of

laughter, love, friendship and memories that will forever remind us of how lucky we were to have shared these experiences with Madelyn Robillard," Viafara said.

Viafara encouraged her classmates to "take risks, try new things, take initiative and be you."

Salutatorian Savannah Banning is graduating with a 103.56 GPA and will attend Stonehill College in the fall to major in business and marketing.

"High school, while a small and comfortable environment, is extremely limiting.

We can learn real-life lessons in high school, but we cannot put them into practice until after we graduate. And as we graduate today, we are journeying into a way of life that allows us to put these lessons into practice," Banning said.

Valedictorian Carter Janik is graduating with a 104.75 GPA and will be attending the Massachusetts College of Art and Design to study graphic design and animation.

"Our past may be full of valuable memories and opportunities to reflect on our choices—but the real value lies in our future, for the fu-

ture is a clean slate. It may be a bit uncertain or even scary, but it can also be full of greatness if we believe it can," Janik said.

Principal Andrew Lamothe shared how proud he was of the class and how every accomplishment came through hard work, energy and focus.

"As you step out from these halls, know that you are well-prepared. You've acquired invaluable academic knowledge and practical skills that will be the foundation for your post-secondary futures," Lamothe said.

CPL hosts Summer Reading Kickoff Party

July 4, 2025

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - On June 23, the library hosted their Summer Reading Kickoff Party in the theme of fantasy faire.

This party provided opportunities for children to sign up for the library's Summer Reading Challenge, do a walking storybook and try out archery. The event also collaborated with Project Bread and ChicopeeFresh to provide families with information about their summer meal resources.

Youth Services Coordinator Erin Daly shared why she believes free events like this are so important during summertime for both children and their caregivers.

"Everybody's out of school and they need stuff to do. So, we want to provide them with fun and variety and opportuni-



ties to learn things and opportunities to just play and hang out," Daly said.

Youth Services Associate Beth Oliveira was helping children on a super fun archery adventure.

"School's out, so that's a big chunk of time where they're not there. And this is a way to extend that. Get them excited about reading and doing activities and programs," Oliveira said.

While ChicopeeFRESH was spreading the word about their program by handing out schedules and talking with attendees, Project Bread provided free meals from their food truck for party attendees.

Rapunzel from A Moment of Magic spreading fun and joy at the Summer Reading Kickoff Party.

Teen Librarian Brent Tenerowicz shared why he believes the summer eats program is such a great resource for the community.

"I think it's so important to have them at every event that we can because they are such a wonderful community resource. And in the summer in particular, I think it is extra valuable because they do provide free summer meals to kids. And there are a lot of families who depend on the school meals to get a good lunch," Tenerowicz said.

For more information about CPL's summer reading program and for information about upcoming events, visit chicopeepubliclibrary.org/.

For more information about ChicopeeFRESH and Project Bread's Summer Eats program, visit www.projectbread.org/summereats.



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Yadielisse Guzman celebrates getting her diploma from Chicopee Academy as she shakes hands with Jennifer Bellville, assistant superintendent for Instruction & Accountability.

Community celebrates Halloween at SPOOKtacular

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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CHICOPEE - Thousands ventured out to Sot Park on Oct. 23 for this year's SPOOKtacular, enjoying many fun tricks and treats along the way.

Kendall Blanch, a student at Rising Stars School of Dance, performed with her dance group and shared this was her third year performing at SPOOKtacular.

"It was a lot of fun. It really was. We all came together, we practiced beforehand and we showed up and we performed very well," Blanch said.

Chris Parker, the 115th potentate for Melha Shriners, was excited to see the children enjoy rides on the little cars and get candy.

"Nothing like seeing the smile on kids' faces," Parker said.

Parker said the event also provides an opportunity to connect as their headquarters moved to the former Collegian Court in the summer of 2022.

"It's always good to see families, especially at a great event like this. It's a safe environment for the families, safe



Oct. 31, 2025

The crew at Big Y dressed as the Minions and Gru from the "Despicable Me" franchise.

TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

part in and seeing how we just moved into the community of Chicopee, we want to be a part of it," Parker said.

Ward 1 City Councilor Abigail Arriaga, dressed up as a Hufflepuff student from the Harry Potter series, joined her colleagues and daughter handing out candy to the kids.

"I think it really shows just

the resilience that we have as a city that we're still doing something and it's gotten so big over the years. It hasn't disappeared over time, it just keeps growing and growing and growing," Arriaga said.

Mayor John Vieau praised everyone who lent their support to make the event happen, later adding he was amazed

by the many costumes, especially the unique ones.

"It's just an incredible night for everybody and I'm just so happy and proud of. It's what Chicopee does best. There's a lot of Chicopee pride here and I'm happy to be here and to be a part of it," Vieau said.

Dec. 12, 2025

Annual Tree Lighting kicks off holiday season

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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CHICOPEE - The holidays were officially in full swing in the city thanks to the Annual Tree Lighting on Dec. 5.

The community ventured towards The Hub at Market Square to partake in the festivities from meeting Santa Claus, hot chocolate, donuts and popcorn to musical and dance performances.

Emcee Ray Hoess-Brooks welcomed everyone ahead of Santa's arrival.

"We want to thank you for joining us tonight for fun-filled holiday spirit, hometown pride and talent. I think there's five dance teams, there's a bunch of singers, this is going to be fantastic," Hoess-Brooks said.

Vieau said he was excited to kick off the holidays, Chicopee-style.

"I'm happy to celebrate the holidays with all of you and I wish you all a very merry, a very safe, a very prosperous and healthy Christmas, holiday season and a New Year,"

Vieau said.

Then, with help from Vieau and Santa, a little girl named Mila had the honor of flipping the switch to light up the tree in downtown Chicopee to thunderous cheers.

For Santa, it's all about the kids, proud to see so much Christmas spirit in Chicopee.

"It means there is some, still, spirit in the city. People want to come out for a good thing and that's a great thing," he said.

Victoria Narvaez was excited to be back at the tree lighting to serenade the crowd once again, singing "O Holy Night" and "This Christmas."

"I think it was a really fun time and I enjoyed singing and connecting with the people," Narvaez said. "I think it shows that we have a lot of Christmas spirit in Chicopee."

Santa's message was this. "Merry Christmas, Feliz Navidad, and remember, when we say we're all in this together, we mean it. So, have each other's backs and respect and love one another," he said.

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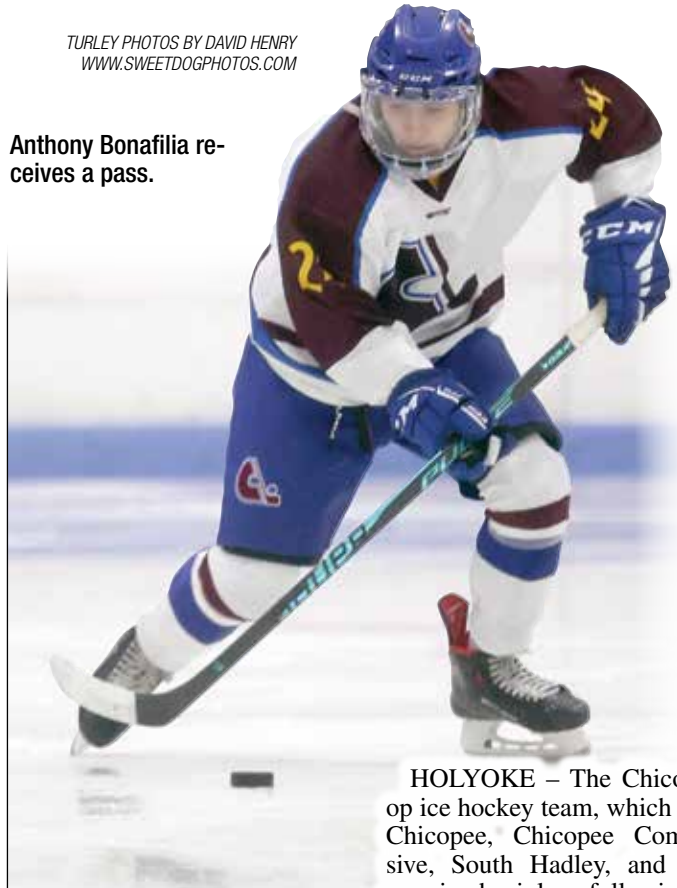
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Chicopee hockey remains winless

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
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Anthony Bonafilia receives a pass.

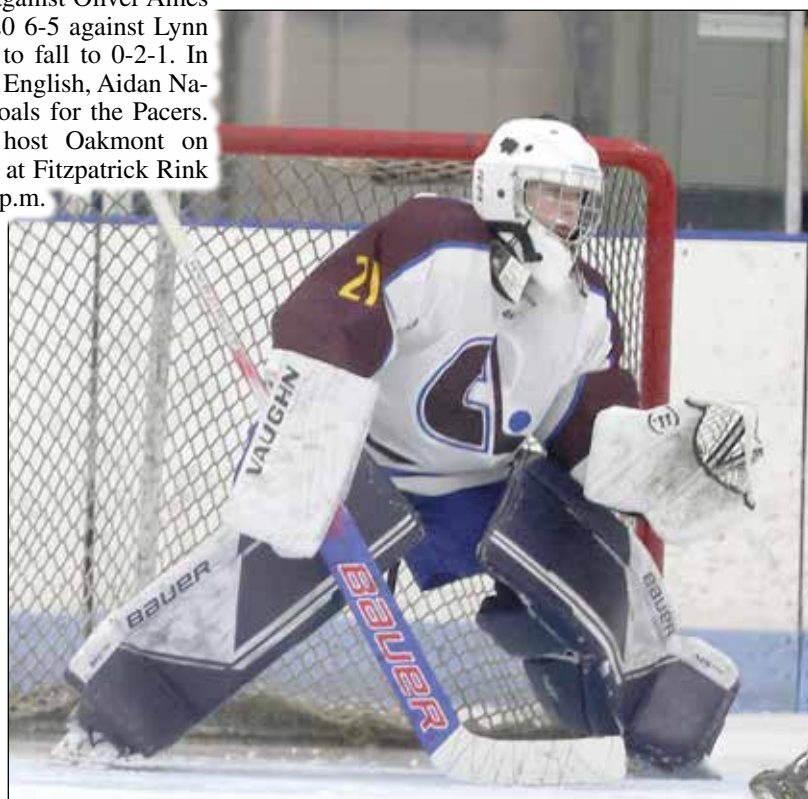


Abie Aponte tries to work the puck away from the wall.

HOLYOKE – The Chicopee co-op ice hockey team, which includes Chicopee, Chicopee Comprehensive, South Hadley, and Granby, remained winless following losses against Eastern Mass. schools. The Pacers fell 8-2 against Oliver Ames then lost Dec. 20 6-5 against Lynn English School to fall to 0-2-1. In the loss to Lynn English, Aidan Nadeau had two goals for the Pacers. Chicopee will host Oakmont on Saturday, Jan. 3 at Fitzpatrick Rink in Holyoke at 2 p.m.



Owen Buchanan goes after the loose puck.



Carter Gouin looks to make a save.

Candidates for 2026 HoopHall announced

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced the list of eligible candidates for the Class of 2026, featuring several high-profile first-time nominees.

Notable new candidates for the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2026 include the 1996 USA Basketball Women’s National Team, Mike D’Antoni, Jamal Crawford, Elena Delle Donne, Blake Griffin, Joe Johnson, Candace Parker, Bruce Pearl, and Kelvin Sampson. Marv Albert, Mark Few, Doc Rivers, and Amar’e Stoudemire are among returning eligible candidates.

“The candidates for the Class of 2026 have each left an indelible impact on the game of basketball,” said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. “Through defining performances, influential leadership, and achievements that helped elevate the sport on the national and international stage, this year’s ballot recognizes those whose legacy continues to shape how the game is played, coached, and celebrated.”

The first look at the list of eligible nominees was provided by “NBA Today”

on ESPN, hosted by Malika Andrews, with Ramona Shelburne, Tim Bontemps, Kendrick Perkins, and Shams Charania in studio. A complete list of eligible candidates can be found below.

Finalists chosen from the applicable Category Screening Committees for the Class of 2026 will be announced at a later date. The entire Class of 2026 will be unveiled during a nationally televised broadcast on Saturday, April 4, during Final Four Weekend.

The Finalist and Class Announcement times and broadcast networks will be announced by Monday, Feb. 9.

Enshrinement Weekend will begin at the Mohegan Sun on Friday, Aug. 14, with the Tip-Off Celebration and Awards Gala, followed by the Enshrinement Ceremony the next day at Springfield’s historic Symphony Hall.

All VIP Packages, single-event tickets to the Ceremony, Tip-Off Celebration, and Awards Gala, as well as other ancillary events, will go on sale on Saturday, Apr. 4. All packages and tickets will be available for purchase at hoophall.com.

The complete listing of events and pricing will be released on Monday, Feb. 9.

Pacers pick up win over West Side

CHICOPEE – Last Monday evening, Chicopee High School boys basketball won its second game of the season, defeating visiting West Springfield 79-49.

In the win, Chicopee was in full control from the onset, going up 19-8 after just one frame and leading 39-17 at the half.

Alex Mangual, Dominic Garcia, and Brandon

Thomas scored 13 points each to lead the team. Rafael Aviles, Jr. had 10 points for the Pacers, who are now 2-2 this season.

The Pacers will next be in action on Monday, Jan. 5 in a rematch at West Springfield High School. Chicopee is back home on Thursday, Jan. 8 against East Longmeadow at 7 p.m.



Annabelle Paquette swims a leg in the medley relay.



Kaleb Lemke makes his way across the lane.



Leia Cabasal continues her race.

Comp scores sweep over Holyoke



Erin Kelly swims her part of the relay.



Kacey Chateaufneuf continues her pursuit of a win her event.

CHICOPEE – On Dec. 16 at Chicopee Comprehensive High School, Holyoke High School swimming, which co-ops with South Hadley and Granby, was swept by the home team. The Comp girls won 90-32 while the boys won big 124-34.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

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PUBLIC NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS SALE OF REAL ESTATE UNDER M.G.L. c. 183A, §6 AND M.G.L. c. 254, §5 AND §5A UNIT 6026C, DOVERBROOK ESTATES CONDOMINIUM 70 GREENWOOD TERRACE, CHICOPEE, MASSACHUSETTS

By virtue of Judgment of the Chicopee District Court (Civil Docket No. 2320CV000243) in favor of the DOVERBROOK ESTATES CONDOMINIUM against MICHAEL J. AXTON establishing a lien pursuant to M.G.L. c. 183A, §6 on the real estate known as 70 Greenwood Terrace, Unit 6026C, in the Doverbrook Estates Condominium, for the purpose of satisfying such lien, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 254, §5 and §5A, the real estate be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 O'CLOCK A.M. on the 20TH DAY OF JANUARY, A.D. 2026 at the premises located at 70 Greenwood Terrace, Unit 6026C, Chicopee, Massachusetts. The premise to be sold is more particularly described as follows:

All that certain parcel of land situated in Chicopee, Hampden County, Massachusetts, more particularly described in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

As per M.G.L. Chapter 188, sect.13, the Grantor, under oath and subject to the pains and penalties of perjury, does hereby depose, state and certify that: (i) I release all rights of Homestead in the subject realty, (ii) that no spouse, non-owner spouse, former spouse, or any other person resides in the home, and (iii) at the time of delivery of this deed, no spouse, former spouse, or any other person is entitled to claim the benefit of an existing estate of homestead.

Being the same premises conveyed to the grantor by deed dated November 2, 2010, recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds, Book 18531, Page 33.

EXHIBIT "A"

The Unit 6026C contains 871 square feet of building area, more or less, and is laid out as shown on the Unit Plan attached hereto and recorded herewith, which Unit Plan is a copy of a portion of the plans recorded with the Master Deed. A verified statement in the form provided for in Section 9, Chapter 183A, of the General Laws of Massachusetts, is attached to such Unit Plan.

The Unit is conveyed together with a 0.1621917% undivided interest (subject to adjustment in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Master Deed) in the Common Areas and Facilities as defined and described in the Master Deed. The Unit is subject to and has the benefit of all applicable provisions contained in the Master Deed (including the provisions granting exclusive use rights), and in the Declaration of Trust (including by-Laws) of the Doverbrook Estates Condominium Trust dated December 3, 1982 and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds, Book 5351, Page 220, and the rules and regulations from time to time adopted thereunder by said Trust, including without limitation the provisions for assessment of common expenses.

The Unit is also conveyed together with an exclusive right to use: (a) the parking space assigned to the Unit in Exhibit B to the Master Deed and shown on the Site Plan recorded with the Master Deed; (b) the garden area adjacent to the Unit as shown on the Site Plan; and (c) the storage area, if any, assigned to the Unit in Exhibit B to the Master Deed and shown on the Site Plan.

Except as otherwise provided in paragraph 8 of the Master Deed, the Unit is intended to be used for residential purposes. The Unit is subject to the restrictions on use contained in paragraph 9 of the Master Deed, which are incorporated by reference.

The Grantee is acquiring the Unit with the benefit of, and subject to the provisions of Chapter 183A of the General Laws of Massachusetts relating to condominiums, as that Statute is written as the date hereof, and as it may in the future be amended.

Grantee, for Grantee and Grantee's successors and assigns, as owners of the Unit, by executing and accepting this Deed, hereby appoints and constitutes Grantor, and Grantor's successors and assigns, as Grantee's true and lawful attorney-in-fact

with full power coupled with an interest which cannot be revoked, to vote for, execute, acknowledge, deliver and record (i) one or more amendments to the Master Deed, pursuant to paragraph 12 thereof, for the purpose of adding additional phases to the Condominium (ii) one or more amendments to the Master Deed, and deeds, easements or other instruments, pursuant to paragraph 14 of the Master Deed, for the purpose of dedicating streets within the Condominium, in whole or in part, as public ways; and (iii) one or more amendments to the Master Deed, and deeds, easements or other instruments, pursuant to paragraph 4 of the Master Deed, for the purpose of conveying a parcel of land within the Condominium to the City of Chicopee as war memorial.

Being the same premises conveyed by Quitclaim Deed from Doris I. Hebert and William V. Guiel, Jr. to Michael J. Axton dated January 26, 2022 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 24375, Page 343.

Said Unit is subject to any/and all covenants, easements, encroachments, conditions, restrictions and agreements effecting the unit whether recorded or unrecorded.

TERMS: A deposit payable in cash or certified bank check or money order of \$5,000.00 shall be payable at the Auction and the balance of the payment shall be payable by cash, certified bank check, money order or wired funds within thirty (30) days of the Auction.

Other terms to be announced at the sale, including a minimum bid and the right to reject all bids if none are acceptable.

DOVERBROOK ESTATES CONDOMINIUM By Its Attorney,

Dated: December 9, 2025
Gina M. Desrochers
(BBO #681910)
Perkins & Ancil, P.C.
6 Lyberty Way, Suite 201
Westford, MA 01886
(978) 496-2000
gdesrochers@perkinslawpc.com
12/19, 12/26/2025, 01/02/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD25P2529EA Estate of:

Margaret Ellen Blout
Also Known As:
Margaret E. Blout
Date of Death:
October 12, 2025

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Robert Paul Blout of Duxbury, MA

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Robert Paul Blout of Duxbury, 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.
01/02/2026

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

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on January 9th, 2025 at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

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North Stonington, CT 06359

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Sheikh Faisal
1215 Wilbraham Rd.
Springfield, MA 01119

2007 Chevrolet Uplander
VIN: 1GNDU23W17D213549
Jamal Williams
68 Lakevilla Ave.
Springfield, MA 01109
2015 Toyota Corolla
VIN: 2T1BURHE7FC329410
Dervish Bojka Jr.
5 Ridge Rd.
Wallingford, CT 06492

2019 Hyundai Elantra
VIN: 5NPD84LF5KH411644
Yvette Ryles
54 Taylor Drive
Hartford, Ct 06106

2005 Scion Tc
VIN: JTKDE177250006846
Lisa Lopez
60 Ball St., Apt. 2
Yonkers, NY 10701
12/26/2025, 01/02, 01/09/2026

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

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on January 16th, 2026 at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2011 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCP2F38BA126935
Anastasia Beckles
49 Taylor Ave.
Brockton, MA 02302

2009 Toyota Yaris
VIN: JTDKT903195252595
Shabir Haidari
760 Main St.
West Springfield, MA 01089

2011 Ford Crown Victoria
VIN: 2FABP7EV9BX150412
Jeffrey & Adrean Germann
320 Foxridge Ln.
Hubert, NC 28539

2007 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCM56427A099998
Thomas Troughton
14 Cora St.
Enfield, CT 06082

Moped
VIN: HZ2TCDM41S1006347
Lisa Beardmore
282 Pleasant St.
Lunenburg, MA 01462
01/02, 01/09, 01/16/2026

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

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on January 2nd at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

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Alica Ashe
73 Broad Reach Unit T84C
Weymouth, MA 02191

2009 Mercedes Benz M1350
VIN: 4JGBB86E79A445097

Howard Heckstall
88 Cross St. Bsmt
Southbridge, MA 01550

2014 Volkswagen Jetta
VIN: 3VW637AJ3EM331688
Brittany Dulude
26 James St.
East Longmeadow, MA

2014 Mercedes Cla 250
VIN: WDDSJ4GB3EN146638
Adrian Velez Cotto
50 Lawndale St.
Chicopee, Ma 01020

2010 Nissan Sentra
vin: 3n1ab6ap8al620972
Jonathon Acevedo
385 Water St.
Indian Orchard, MA 01151

Transpro Tank
VIN: LLPTGLHE4S1850365
Angel Toledo
5 Worcester Pl., Apt. 3
Holyoke, MA 01040

2013 Nissan Altima
VIN: 1N4AL3APXDN440346
Hector Preez
20 Clinton Ave.
Westfield, MA 01085

2006 Ford Focus
VIN: 1FADP34N76W201547
Katheleen Greenwood
89 Coleman St., Apt. 834
West Haven, CT 06516

12/19, 12/26/2025, 01/02/2026

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. HD25P2600EA Estate of:

Franklin F LaPlante
Also known as:
Franklin Francis LaPlante
Date of Death: 10/05/1989

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy has been filed by Patti Standen of Lakewood Ranch, FL requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that Patti Standen of Lakewood Ranch, FL 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 01/26/2026. 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

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: December 23, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
01/02/2026

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.
HD25P2657EA
Estate of:
Walter P. Schaeneman
Also known as:
Walter Schaeneman
Date of Death: 11/30/2025

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 Lewis G. Schaeneman, III of Madison, CT requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that Lewis G. Schaeneman, III of Madison, CT 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 01/20/2026. 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

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: December 23, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
01/02/2026

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.
HD24P1462PM
In the matter of:
Kenneth Earl Benway
of Chicopee, 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 Kelly A Ambrogio, Esq. of West Springfield, MA 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 01/14/2026. 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: December 10, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
01/02/2026

Powerback Rehab To-You at RiverMills Center on Jan. 5

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will host Powerback Rehab for Physical Therapy appointment every Monday starting Jan. 5 at 10 a.m. at RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street.

Powerback Rehab To-You is a mobile therapy program that brings care directly to you! Powerback Rehab will be at RiverMills Center for appointments to help your recovery whether dealing with a recent injury chronic

pain or seeking performance enhancement. These appointments are free. This program is open to members 55 and older. There are limited appointments, so you must register in advance at RiverMills or by calling 534-3698.

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PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
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visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

DL&G TREE

Tree Removal



Structural Pruning



Crane Service



Storm Damage



Stump Grinding



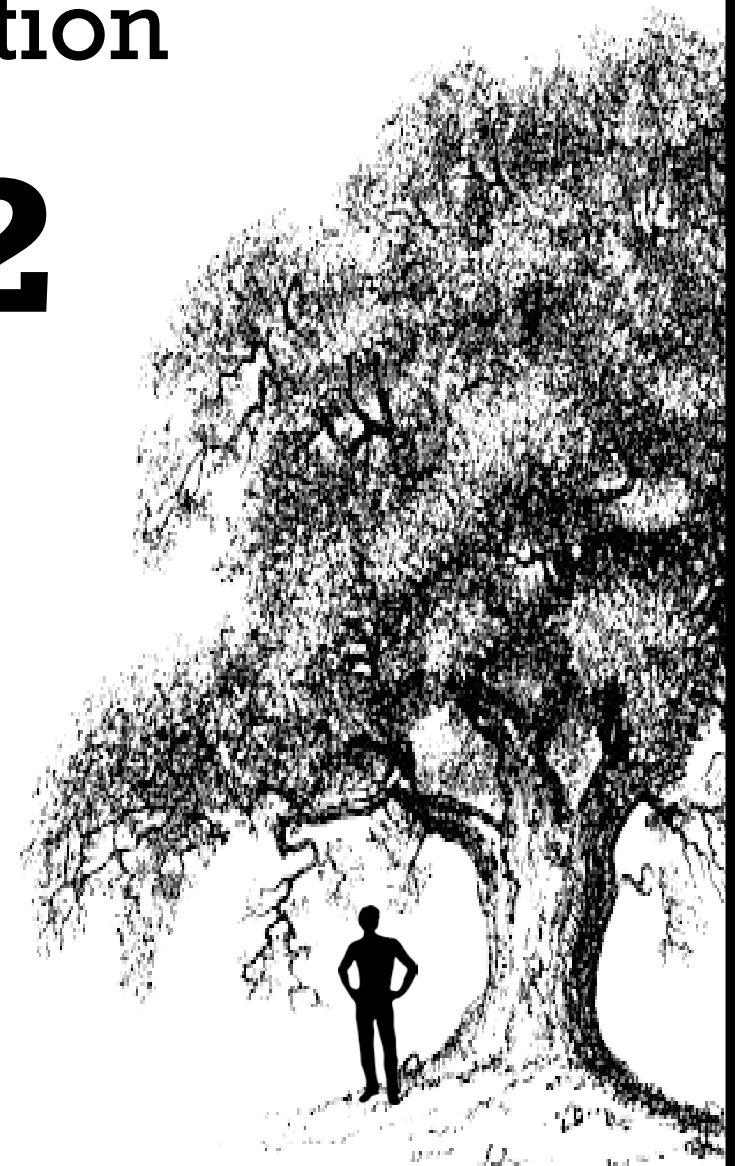
Lot Clearing



Give us a call for your free estimate and tree evaluation

413-478-4212

DL&G TREE



INSURED AND CERTIFIED