

Chicopee Register

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Tax title taking process begins on Cabotville

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - The former Cabotville Mills has entered the tax title taking process to recover taxes owed on the property.

The current owner of the property is Aaron Papowitz of 4 Perkins LLC, a subsidiary of Silverbrick Group LLC.

The mill has, in the past, been considered for high-

end condominiums and or up to 600 apartments as ways to help redevelop Chicopee Center. It is also under the city's Mill Conversion and Commercial Center Overlay District, which means mixed-use of residential and commercial for a property.

The building itself, which comprises seven parcels, has the following tax title property lien accounts with these balances.

Parcel 1: \$824.10

Parcel 2: \$920.81
Parcel 3: \$254,532.41
Parcel 4: \$133,801.52
Parcel 5: \$85,455.27
Parcel 6: \$22,316.02
Parcel 7: \$207,126.20

The total for all seven when combined comes out to \$704,982.33.

In 2024 and 2025, the City Council had also approved appropriations for emergency demolition and emergency security at Cabotville, including boarding up

the lower level.

Also in 2025, a new prospective buyer came forward in Mark Yunger of Bridgewater Capital Partners, whose special permit application was for a residential development to include up to 600 new residential apartments at the former mills and four out-buildings on Front Street at 165 Front St. and 0 Exchange St. Waivers for landscape re-

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TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

A tax title taking process has been initiated on the former Cabotville Mills in Chicopee.

Charity gala supports

Kane's Crusade, Mason's Mission

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE — Earlier this month, on Saturday, Jan. 3, two local non-profits dedicated to helping animals, Kane's Crusade and Mason's Mission, teamed up to host their Third Annual 'Christmas With Kane's' charity gala from inside the Castle of Knights Banquet Hall.

The event drew more than 100 people and, for those who attended, they enjoyed raffles, a cash bar, a photo booth, and a full-course buffet. The main form of entertainment during the cocktail hour was singer Amanda Rowe along with music courtesy of DJ Jay Cote.

It should also be noted that this year will commemorate landmark anniversaries for both foundations as Kane's, which is a 501c3 foundation led by Founder and Executive Director Kim George, addresses challenges such as root causes of pet relinquishment, training, dogs, sponsoring local veterinary care services, and distributing food and equipment to pet families in need, will celebrate its 15th anniversary since its beginning in 2011.

Mason's Mission, meanwhile, is predicated and built



Kane's Crusade Board - Sharon Mulloy, Heidi Brown, with Mason's Mission Founder and CEO Tina Perreault, Kim George, and Jill Lueb.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TINA PERREAULT

Tina Perreault and her Furbaby, Mason.

the foundation of carrying out a similar mission to spread awareness and help

offer donations to the betterment and welfare of animals of all breeds, shapes, and sizes, which has jumped leaps and bounds since its inception six years ago, and is led by founder and CEO Tina Perreault.

Both share a common value of ensuring the legacy of their 'furbabies', Kane and Mason, are never forgotten.

George reflected on the initiative she created.

"We started out as a pitbull advocacy group, and we quickly went into surrender prevention, and our whole mission is to

keep loved dogs with their owners, so they are out of shelters," George said. "So, it's beneficial in two ways; not only do the dogs remain with their owners, but that's also a dog that doesn't go into an overburdened shelter system, and there are plenty of benefits we provide."

George added that a majority of the recipients that Kane's works with are elderly, disabled, veterans, domestic violence survivors and those affected by homelessness.

"So, we're serving a population that is really in crisis when they come to us," George said.

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Appropriation for Uniroyal property approved by council

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - The City Council unanimously approved an appropriation for the former Uniroyal property on Jan. 6.

First, the Uniroyal appropriation is broken down as follows.

A \$450,000 FY26 MassWorks Grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Economic Development's MassWorks Infrastructure program that will be used for early planning and designs services in relation to necessary infrastructure improvements to support redevelopment of the former Uniroyal property.

Also, an appropriation of \$500,000 to the Planning Special Account for Uniroyal Infrastructure Improvements from available funds in the Stabilization Fund.

The appropriation includes the \$450,000 grant and \$50,000 that the city is obligated to invest in towards the project.

Mayor John Vieau explained the city was excited to receive the MassWorks Grant from the state.

"We were embargoed for a few months. We've known that we received it and excited to share it with you today and moving forward with the projects in the West Main Street area," Vieau said.

Planning Director Lee Pouliot shared the grant is a reimbursable grant pro-

gram "that looks to support the design, engineering and construction of public infrastructure that is in support of large-scale, catalytic projects that particularly prioritize housing."

"In the last year, we have negotiated a real estate option with the preferred developer who was selected through an RFQ process for the property. They're working on their end on early stages of development of their plans and we are being proactive and working towards constructing the infrastructure that's going to be needed to support this very large-scale project," Pouliot said.

Pouliot said the redevelopment project is a \$300 million investment that is "housing-focused."

"What we're looking to do here is early-stage design and engineering development for all the infrastructure systems in the Chicopee Falls neighborhood that will either need upgrades or replacement to support bringing the Uniroyal property online," Pouliot said. "So, we'll be working very closely with the developer and our own consultants to prepare that work in hopes that we'll be prepared for future MassWorks rounds to apply for construction funding."

Councilor-at-Large Joel McAuliffe expressed excitement for the grant.

"MassWorks grants are very important to greasing the

See **UNIROYAL** page 3

Firefighters union contract settled

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - The City Council unanimously approved settling the firefighters union contract on Jan. 6.

The mayor's order is an appropriation of \$1,352,139.74 to the Fire Department Salary Accounts in accordance with the settlement agreement between the city and the I.A.F.F. Local 1710 Chicopee Firefighters AFL-CIO effective July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2028.

This would approve the contract for the firefighters' union.

Ward 6 Councilor

Samuel Shumsky thanked Mayor John Vieau for putting this item forward.

"I know this is an issue that's been going on for a number of years and other cities and towns around us are going through similar issues with contract settlements in their communities. So, I'm glad that Chicopee will be settled and you guys will be getting a well-deserved raise," Shumsky said.

Ward 7 Councilor William Courchesne was happy to see this be approved.

"I'm happy to see that the retro that was owed. Oftentimes, that does

See **FIREFIIGHTERS** page 6

Watson reflects on CPD achievements, RTIC

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE — History was made on Jan. 14 when former Deputy Chief and 27-year veteran Eric Watson was sworn in as the current Acting Chief of the police department.

Watson will be filling in for the recently retired long-time Chief Patrick Major, who served for more than 30 years.

Days earlier, on Jan. 12, Watson sat down with the Chicopee Register in an exclusive interview to reflect on a variety of topics, such as his appointment and a small preview of the new Real Time Information Center (RTIC), which looks to be a game-changer in the realm of public safety for Chicopee and the region.

Watson shared what



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Acting Chief Eric Watson with the Real Time Information Center Police Department on Jan. 14.

inspired him to join law enforcement, citing the importance of assisting the community above all else and understanding the constant

focus on creating viable solutions and integrating new initiatives for the betterment of the community.

"I feel people are the

most important part of everything we do, from administratively inside, to our police officers and then everyone in the community," Watson said. "So, I think the most important thing to remember is that we continue to be respectful, consistent, and continue to cultivate trust among the community."

Watson also reflected on his tenured career and how this new chapter is one he's excited for.

"I have been here for 27 years. I've come up through patrol, the Detective Bureau, and in 2018, I was appointed to the role of deputy chief," Watson said. "During that first year, I was tasked to start working on more administrative tasks, which proved to be fruitful as it allowed me to get into more of the research and development section; meaning

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IN THE CITY

Dout chosen as new School Committee Vice Chair

CEA agreements also reached

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - Ward 3 Representative Jason Dout has been selected as the new vice chair for the School Committee.

Dout will succeed former Ward 7 Representative Donald Lamothe, who previously served in the role.

The three candidates nominated by the commit-

tee members on Jan. 7 were Dout, Ward 5 Representative Grace Schofield and At-Large School Committee Representative Susan Lopes. Schofield then requested her name be withdrawn from consideration, which narrowed the candidate pool down to two.

Dout received eight votes, Lopes received one vote and there was also one abstention vote.

"I want to congratulate Jason Dout as the new vice chair of the Chicopee School Committee. Congratulations Jason," Mayor John Vieau said.

Next, nominations for the representative to city government were Ward 5 Representative Grace Schofield and Ward 1 Representative Deanna Rousseau.

Schofield received 8 votes, while Rousseau received two votes.

"I'd like to congratulate Grace Schofield, who's now our representative to city government," Vieau said.

Another meeting highlight was the dissolution of the Negotiations Subcommittee (CEA Units E, A and B) and the Negotiations Subcommittee (CEA, Unit D) and

approve the minutes for each. Dout said, "It took months and months and months and lots of hard work to get there."

"I want to make sure we recognize for this for Units E, A and B, Ms. Schofield, Mr. Brooks and Mr. Lamothe for their time and commitment to getting these contracts settled. It wasn't easy, it's not easy and it takes a lot of time to get there and we were able to get there and it was because of the hard work on both sides of the table," Dout said.

Ward 6 Representative Sonny Brooks also offered

his thanks.

"I would also just like to give a shout out to Deb, to John, Superintendent (Ware). This committee was not of three, but of a multiple amount of people that contributed and, as Jay said, in this 14-month process that we've gone through to get this accomplished," Brooks said. "So, thank you to everybody that was involved."

Schofield echoed Brooks' thoughts.

"(I) thank Mr. Phelan and Mr. John Endelos, John Miarecki and Andrea Stolar. It was quite the committed

group of people to work with and it was an honor to be with them," Schofield said.

Dout also noted Rousseau, Schofield and Lopes, who were the School Committee representatives for the subcommittee focusing on CEA Unit D, along with many others "who also played a pivotal role in being able to negotiate these contracts."

After Vieau expressed his appreciation to the committee members on both of these, the subcommittees were unanimously dissolved and the minutes of their final meetings approved.

Tax Title Taking Process explained

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - Have you ever wondered how a city works to recover unpaid property taxes?

As readers read in this week's edition, the initiation of the tax title taking process has begun on the former Cabotville Mills.

So what is it, exactly, and how does it work?

City Treasurer Marie Laflamme and Tax Title Clerk Deborah Burke explained to the Chicopee Register what this entails and what happens now with Cabotville Mills having been initiated into the process.

First, Burke broke down how the tax title taking process works between the collector's office and treasurer's office, explaining the terminology and steps.

"A Tax Taking is the process by which the statutory lien is placed on a parcel due to nonpayment after two years. Demand notices are issued after the final due date and due 14 days later. Tax Taking notices are published in the newspaper and two public places 14 days before taking," Burke said. "Instrument of Takings are filed at the Registry of Deeds within 60 days of taking. A tax title account is created, including interest, and turned over to the Treasurer's Office. This is only the first step towards foreclosure."

Burke said for the treasurer's office, their focus is the taxpayers, who are "notified by letter after the taking has occurred." She added how

it "often takes time to locate owners or heirs" as well.

"The objection is to give taxpayers a reasonable chance to pay taxes and avoid foreclosure in Land Court. Payment plans can be made, partial payments are accepted. Full payment of tax title accounts balances must be paid to redeem the property. A Certificate of Redemption is prepared and recorded at the Registry of Deeds by the Treasurer's Office," Burke said. "Second step towards foreclosure one year after a Tax Taking, the Treasurer can turn the account over to Land Court for nonpayment and failure to work with our office."

On Land Court, Burke explained the Land Court foreclosures time "is indefinite and lengthy."

"The property owner has all rights until Land Court makes a decision for Judgment on behalf of the city. At that time, the city becomes the owner," Burke said.

If a city becomes an owner of a property, its options include selling it, keeping it or doing an RFP.

Laflamme said how the treasurer's office also tries to work with the owners, whether it'd be commercial or residential.

"We don't want to take people's property. There's very rare occasions that we do, such as this one. It's a lot of money. There's a lot of liability in that building and the city's paying right now for them to watch it and secure it," Laflamme said.

Now that the tax title taking process has begun for the former Cabotville Mills,

Laflamme explained how "we can't do anything for a year except for try to get them to pay."

"At least get some kind of contact in place. But, you can't bring them to Land Court before a year. So then, you can bring them to Land Court," Laflamme said. "They're way behind as well, their log is way behind, so it takes a long time...Again, we got to wait a year and then to get into Land Court, sometimes it's taken us three years."

Burke added, in some cases, it's even taken up to six years.

"We've taken properties that have been in Land Court right before COVID, then COVID hit and then there's a long setback of time," Burke said.

Burke said, also, during the beginning after receiving the tax takings from the city collector, she works to establish contact with the owner or owners.

"When the collector doesn't hear from someone for two full calendar years of taxes that aren't being paid, chances are an address could be wrong or there could be multiple people involved and the mail's not going, so I'm always looking for where could that address be?" Burke said. "Looking into the LLC or the corporation that is involved or even the resident. So, once I get some clues to find another address, I'll send it out just to hopefully get someone to contact me with information. So, the first few months is a little bit of that kind of work and then, hopefully, I find someone which I

have on a couple properties and they say, 'Oh, please call this person' and it leads me to other avenues to kind of get in contact with these people so that they know at least what's going on and we can ask, 'Do you have a plan?'"

Burke also reiterated Laflamme's earlier point of working with the owners, noting with residents who are older or disabled, "we're here to work with you."

"We don't want to take your property. Don't be afraid to be in contact with us, because this isn't about foreclosure. This is about protecting your property and getting you back on track," Burke said.

Laflamme said with the process, "We do what we can."

"If there's something that's legitimately wrong right away—emergency things—we can maybe try to go to Housing Court and get something quick if something happened, but we can't touch their property unless courts say you can do this and this. Because it's not our property," Laflamme said. "We do what we can. It's a long process."

Burke said she has also begun attempting to reach out to Aaron Papowitz, the current owner of the former Cabotville Mills, after receiving the information from the city collector.

"There was a New York address and a Florida address. Because the collector was sending to the New York address, I decided to send to Florida," Burke said. "So, now we're hoping somebody will step up to at least contact us."

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.

Saturday Playgroup will be held on Saturdays at 1 p.m. in January. We'll put out some extra toys in the playspace. 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. 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.

Storytime will be held on Thursdays, Jan. 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 include 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. 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.

SNAP Pop-Up Pantry at RiverMills Center

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will offer a Pop-Up Pantry on Friday, Jan. 23 and Thursday, Feb. 19 at 9 a.m. at RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street.

RiverMills Center will host two pop-up pantries for SNAP recipients, age 55 and older. As

a SNAP outreach partner with the Department of Transitional Services, RiverMills recognizes the need for additional nutritional assistance. Only Chicopee residents who are current SNAP recipients age 55+ with a valid EBT card are eligible to sign up for the free bag of gro-

ceries. Registration for the Jan. 23 pantry opens Tuesday, Jan. 20 and registration for the Feb. 19 pantry opens Tuesday, Feb. 17. Participation is limited to the first 125 participants.

Please call Stephanie Tarant at 534-3698 ext. 120 to register.

NOTICE

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

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET! INFLATION PRICE BUSTERS PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN ASSORTED PORK LOIN CHOPS..... \$1.88 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TENDERLOIN \$12.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF WHOLE EYE ROUND..... \$4.75 lb
USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS..... \$2.11 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP SIRLOIN SPOON ROAST or STEAKS \$7.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG..... \$1.66 lb
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SLICED IN OUR DELI USDA INSP. TURKEY BREAST..... \$4.99 lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN CAPTAIN AL'S SEAFOOD ENTREES LINGUINE & CLAMS MARINARA LINGUINE & CLAMS WHITE SAUCE..... \$1.49 ea	90 Meat Outlet HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4 Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3
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Safe Drinking Water Community Listening Session on Jan. 28

CHICOPEE - A Safe Drinking Water Community Listening Session will be taking place on Jan. 28 from 5:30 to 7:30 at The Hub at Market Square, 31 Springfield St, Chicopee.

Parking in the City Hall parking lot on Main Street.

The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission is looking for residents to come discuss their experiences around drinking wa-

ter. You'll be able to hear from Chicopee DPW, share your comments and questions and help develop a plan to keep our water clean and safe.

Food and beverages will be provided.

The first 20 participants to sign up and attend and receive gift card as compensation for attending!

Register today: <https://tinyurl.com/ChicopeeDPW>.

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IN THE CITY

Polish Junior League of Massachusetts offers annual scholarship

REGION – The Polish Junior League of Massachusetts has announced its annual scholarship program for students of Polish heritage.

The League will be awarding scholarships to undergraduate students, and one scholarship will be granted to a graduate or returning student. In addition to the Undergraduate Scholarship program, there are two memorial scholarships, the Helen Weber Scholarship and the Josephine Karwoski Memorial Scholarship, each offering a focus on specific areas of study.

The scholarships and services provided by the Polish Junior League would not be possible without funds raised through the League's Annual Fashion Show and public donations. By contributing, individuals, businesses and corporations are helping to expand the level of awards and positively affect students.

Sheryl Mardeusz, president of the Polish Junior League says, "we are proud to continue helping graduate and undergraduate students throughout New England and are extremely pleased to be able to help even more individuals pursue their educational goals."

To be eligible, applicants, in addition to being part of the Polish community, must have a permanent address in the Western Massachusetts counties of Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden or Hampshire. Applications can be received after January 2, 2026 with an application deadline of May 1, 2026 and scholarship criteria can be found on the League's website polishjuniorleaguema.org.

For 87 years, the Polish Junior League of Massachusetts, a nonprofit organization of women developed as civic leaders, has made a demonstrable impact on their community. True to its mission, the League has worked diligently to help students obtain the best education, so they may contribute to enhance the social, cultural and political fabric of civil society.

*Scholarship Program Key Information

Applications can be submitted between January 2, 2026 and May 1, 2026

Permanent address in Western MA counties of Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden or Hampshire

Enrolled in sophomore year (36 credits minimum)

Winter Gym Time program

CHICOPEE – Winter Gym Time will be taking place at Szetela School.

Drop-in playtime with friends in the gym!

Children build strength, coordination and confidence through playful movement. Using games, obstacle courses, music and imagination, children jump, balance, stretch and move in a safe environment!

They take place on Wednesdays from 4 to 5

p.m. on Jan. 21, Jan. 28, Feb. 4, Feb. 11, Feb. 25 and March 4.

For information, call Shane at 413-310-1632.

The programs are offered by the Holyoke Chicopee Family and Community Program.

Funded by the Coordinated Family & Community Engagement Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

Dine-Out Fundraiser event to support Halfway Home Cat Rescue

CHICOPEE – A Dine-Out Fundraiser to support Halfway Home Cat Rescue will take place on Thursday, Jan. 29 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Rumbleseat Bar & Grille.

The Rumbleseat will donate 15% of all purchases of food/drinks/takeout during the event.

Available Kittens for Adoption!

Meet some of our kittens and fill out an appli-

cation. Suggested donation \$10 to interact with kittens (100% of this donation goes towards their support!)

Raffle Prizes!
Free raffle ticket with the donation of a wish list item.

Wish List: Purina Kitten Chow, Royal Canin Baby Cat (Wet and Dry), Wellness Kitten (Wet and Dry), Friskies Wet Food, Stage 1 KMR and Kitty Litter.

Chicopee Parade Committee to honor 2026 Chicopee President and VIP's

CHICOPEE – The St. Patrick's Parade Committee of Chicopee is hosting its annual President's Dinner at K of C Council 69, 460 Granby Rd., Chicopee, on Saturday February 7 at 5:00 PM. Tickets are \$45 each and are available from any committee member, or by contacting Krystenlee Pepin at 443-477-0450 or Michelle Liswell at 413-626-8123. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

The evening will include a buffet-style dinner, award presentations, and music provided before the program by Jimmy McArdle 3-piece band and after the program by Presz/Perry.

The following individuals and one business will be honored:

Aly Sliwa, 2026 President, who is responsible for leading the activities of the committee throughout the season and on the upcoming parade day.

Born and raised in Chicopee, Aly Sliwa received her bachelor's degree in exercise science from Lasell College in 2017, followed by her master's degree in occupational therapy from Bay Path University in 2020. A member of the parade committee since 2018, she has served on several subcommittees: co-chair of Irish Night, Ball Committee, and Membership. She was Vice President in 2025.

Sliwa is the daughter of Kathy (2025 Committee President) and Dan Sliwa, and the sister of Chris Sliwa. In addition to her work with the parade committee, she enjoys spending time with friends, going to the beach, and visiting new places.

Bernie St. George, Parade Marshal. He will lead the entire Chicopee contingent through the streets of Holyoke in the parade on March 22.

A native of Chicopee, Bernie St. George graduated from Chicopee Comprehensive High School and has two degrees from Western New England University. He currently serves at Westfield State University as a Police Lieutenant in addition to being a member of the Wales Police Department. He is the former owner of Bridal Corner and Ron's Formal Wear in Chicopee. As such, he was honored by the Chicopee Parade Committee in 2007 with the Atkinson Award.

Shortly after, St. George joined the committee and for several years worked on a number of subcommittees. He is currently a member and board of director of the St.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOEL RODOWICZ

Left to Right: Dan Therrien, Council 69 Grand Knight; Bernie St. George, Parade Marshal; Aly Sliwa, Committee President; Haley Jarvis, Woods Award; and Ray LeHouiller, Council 69 Home Association President. Therrien and LeHouiller will accept the Atkinson Award on behalf of Council 69. All will be recognized at the President's Dinner on February 7, 2026.

Patrick's Committee of Holyoke. He is also a member of Westover Galaxy Community Council and Knights of Columbus Council 4044. He is a founder and board member of Cigars for Soldiers.

St. George and his wife Analia have two daughters, a son, and five grandchildren. He has marched in the parade in past years but revealed he was honored to even be considered as this year's Marshal. "I am humbled as I think of those who have come before me and hope I fill those shoes with the same dignity and respect" he said recently. The Chicopee Parade Committee is confident that he will!

Haley Jarvis, Woods Award Recipient. This award recognizes a committee member for long-time, exemplary service.

Haley Jarvis has been a dedicated member of the Chicopee Parade Committee since 2017 and currently serves on the Executive Board as Treasurer. Over the years, she has held many roles, including serving as President in 2022. She has chaired the March Money Madness calendars fundraiser since 2017 and has led numerous successful events such as the President's Dinner, Irish Night, and Purse Bingo.

Jarvis is a proud mother of three children-Noah, Lauren, and Elliot. She resides in Chicopee with her long-time partner, Mark, their grandson Wyatt, and her youngest son, Elliot. A graduate of Bay Path University, she earned her master's degree in communication and information management. She is currently employed as the Property and

Office Manager for Sheridan Circle Housing Cooperative.

Jarvis would like to sincerely thank the Chicopee Parade Committee for selecting her as the recipient of the Woods Award and is greatly looking forward to the upcoming season.

Knights of Columbus Elder Council 69 and Home Association, Atkinson Award Recipient. This award recognizes a person or organization in the community that has supported the committee but is not a member. Accepting the award will be Dan Therrien, Council 69 Grand Knight, and Ray LeHouiller, Council 69 Home Association President.

K of C Council 69, with its affiliated Home Association, has had a long partnership with the Chicopee Parade Committee, hosting many parade committee events, housing their archives, and serving as a generous sponsor. A number of individuals have been members of both Council 69 and the Chicopee Parade Committee, which has augmented the collaboration of these two organizations over the years.

Current leadership includes Daniel Therrien (Grand Knight) and Ray LeHouiller (Home Association President), who will accept the Atkinson Award on behalf of Council 69 and the Home Association.

Therrien, a native of North Adams, has been a member of the Knights of Columbus Council 69 for 22 years. He has held the positions of Trustee and Recorder at the council and served on the committee for the Coats for Kids Program. For the

last two years he has been the Grand Knight.

Therrien has also held the position of Navigator of the Knights of Columbus 4th Degree, Fr. Daniel Doyle Assembly 2631 for many years and has marched in the St. Patrick's Day Parade as a member of the group's Honor Guard.

LeHouiller, a native of Chicopee, has dedicated much of his life to serving his community. He joined the Chicopee Parade Committee in 1998, where he contributed to the creation of numerous award-winning floats, served as Parade President and was honored with the 2011 Woods Award for outstanding service.

LeHouiller is also an active member of the Knights of Columbus Council 69. Within the organization, he has held many leadership positions, including Grand Knight (twice), all chair offices, Past Faithful Navigator, and Former District Deputy. He currently serves as President of the Council 69's Home Association.

The President's Dinner is the first of several events in 2026. Watch the committee's new website at www.Chicopeeparadecommittee.com or Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/chicopeespc/> for information on the following:

Other upcoming events and fundraisers to which the public is invited.

Applications for the 2026 Colleen Contest (deadline February 1, 2026).

Items for purchase featuring the new Chicopee Tartan, presented to the public in December 2025.

UNIROYAL from page 1

skids—if you will—for development. It gives the city an opportunity to leverage resources from outside of our city to fix the infrastructure in that particular area, target it to that particular area. There's a very small matching amount, but the impact is very significant," McAuliffe said. "So, once that project starts to move forward,

is ready to move into whatever sort of development it eventually will be, the infrastructure will be ready to take on whatever scale that development is. So, it's a huge benefit to the city."

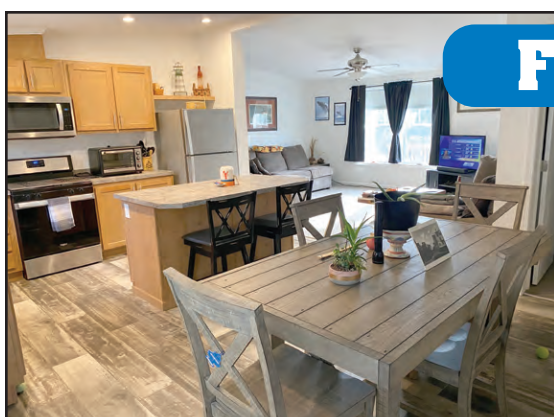
Auliffe also praised the Planning Department for their work on getting the grant.

"These are exceptionally competitive grants, and I want to laud everybody for their

work on this," McAuliffe said.

Ward 4 Councilor George Balakier also praised the Planning Department.

"Under Lee's expertise, we've gotten a lot of grants through the years and every dollar that we can get into the city, it's not burdened by the taxpayers. It's a great job," Balakier said. "So, again, thank you Lee and thank you Planning Department."



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IN THE CITY



Baking bread with herbs

There has been a resurgence lately in doing things the "old fashioned way!" I am definitely all for that, since I have often felt I was born a century too late.

People are making their own soap and laundry detergent, growing gardens, and canning and preserving the harvest. Many have also gotten the sourdough itch, and are baking all sorts of breads, rolls and treats using sourdough starter. My niece shared some of her starter with my husband and I! It traveled several states to make it to us and boy was our first loaf delicious.

I don't feel as if I will give up making yeasted bread entirely, though, especially since my favorite bread of all time is a braided bread that incorporates herbs. (You knew that eventually I would weave in a gardening topic!) I'm excited to share the recipe with you.

Maybe you will even become inspired to grow your own herbs to use in this or any number of recipes down the road.

This time of year it is likely you won't have fresh herbs on hand, so before we begin, I'd like to give you some tips for using dried herbs.

First, remember to break them up finely just before you incorporate them into any recipe. Honestly, there is nothing worse than coming across a full-size piece of Rosemary foliage, for example. It's like you are chomping on a pine needle!

Besides making the herbs more palatable, the flavor will be released ever so nicely once they are finely ground. Small amounts of herbs can be crushed between your fingertips – larger amounts can be ground up using a mortar and pestle.

Pulverize whole spices in a coffee grinder. Some folks gently roast them first to intensify their flavor. If you want to substitute fresh herbs for dried in any recipe, use at least twice as much; likewise in this recipe you would use only have the amount if using dried.

Store dried herbs and spices away from heat and light; even so, they will start to lose their flavor after about a year. When I buy a new jar of dried herbs, I find it helpful to mark the date right on the bottle.

Without any further ado, here is the recipe for that wonderful bread – as pretty as it is flavorful. Certainly a nice addition to a bowl of soup on a winter's night! And it makes the best croutons, too!

COUNTRY HERB BREAD TWIST

1 envelope active dry yeast
1 teaspoon sugar
¼ cup water (110 degrees)

½ stick unsalted butter, melted (2 tablespoons)
2 ½- 3 cups all-purpose flour

1 ½ teaspoons salt
1 tablespoon minced fresh oregano
1 tablespoon minced fresh thyme

1 tablespoon minced fresh rosemary

Sprinkle yeast and sugar over ¼ cup warm water in a large bowl; stir to dissolve. Let stand until foamy (approximately 15 minutes).

Blend 1 cup water and 1 tablespoon of the melted butter into the yeast mixture. Combine 2 ½ cups flour and salt.

Stir into yeast mixture ½ cup at a time to form a slightly sticky dough, adding up to ½ cup additional flour if necessary.

Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface and knead until smooth and elastic, about 5 minutes. Place dough in a large bowl that has been lightly buttered.

Turn dough to coat entire surface. Cover with a clean cloth and let rise in a warm, draft-free area until the dough has doubled in volume, about 1 ½ hours.

Punch dough down. Divide into thirds.

One by one, take each third and knead in the individual herbs. Roll each dough ball between the palms of your hands into a rope about 20 inches long. Taper the ends.

When complete, lay the three side by side and working from the middle, braid each end. Transfer the bread to a buttered baking sheet and cover loosely with a clean cloth.

Allow to rise in a warm place for 45- 50 minutes, until doubled in size.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Brush loaf with remaining 1 tablespoon of melted butter and bake for 20-30 minutes or until golden and loaf sounds hollow when tapped.

Cool for 30 minutes before serving. Serve it warm with a pat of butter or have some olive oil handy for dipping!

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 poumette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



By Ellenor Downer



Male evening grosbeak

A resident of Lake Lashaway saw her first ever evening grosbeak in the morning at her feeder on Sunday, Jan. 4.

The evening grosbeak is an eight inch long, chunky, thick billed finch, which wanders widely in winter.

The males are yellow and brown with black and white wings. The females are gray with white and black wings. Both sexes have a thick bill. They have notched, square tipped tails and pointed wings.

Often evening grosbeaks visit feeders in large flocks. They inhabit conifer forests and in winter are seen in box elders, maples and fruiting shrubs. They breed in the coniferous and mixed forests. They are seen in spruce and fir trees in the northern forests and pines in the western mountains. They are seen in winter in deciduous woodlands and semi-open country. Their song is a series of short,

musical whistles. Their call note is similar to the chirp of a house sparrow, but louder.

The female lays three to four pale blue to blue green, blotched with brown, gray or purple eggs. The female does all the incubating, but the male may feed the female during this time. Both parents feed the nestlings.

Their diet is mostly seeds and some berries and insects. They prefer seeds of box elder, ash, maple, locust and other trees. At feeders, they prefer sunflower seeds. They also will feed on oozing maple sap. They extended their breeding range eastward in the 19th century and early 20th century. The population declined in the east in recent years.

Other birds at Lake Lashaway

The Lake Lashaway resident also had red cardinals, blue jays galore, gold finches and a red bellied woodpecker. She said bald eagles are very common visitors on the lake.

Brimfield birds

I received an email from a Brimfield resident on Jan. 5. He said, "Not much happening in the yard. We've seen one white-throated sparrow after recent snow storms and a group of about a dozen house finches show up often. Yesterday there was a group of American goldfinch in a birch tree eating seeds but they didn't come to the feeder."

Christmas bird count

He said, "My wife and I did the Christmas Bird Count with the Allen Bird Club again this year. We cover the town of Ludlow. The weather was fine but the birds were not cooperating. We managed 26 species which is a few below our average. Woodpeckers (only 1 downy) and sparrows (3 junco) were hard to find."

He also said, "At the Ludlow Reservoir there was a good amount of open water but few birds, eight hooded mergansers and four mallards. Curiously last year there was a lot less open water at the reservoir but a lot more birds. Go figure."

People may visit <https://netapp.audubon.org/CBC/Observation/CurrentYear/ResultsBy-Count.aspx> to obtain Christmas Bird count results. Enter the county and state to get Massachusetts counts. He said he did not know the Springfield count results, but the Worcester count had 78 species.

Snowy owls

He also heard there have been two snowy owls in Northampton for a few weeks now. Initially they were seen in fields north of Route 9, but lately have been seen in the fields near the airport.

Barred owl and pileated woodpecker

I saw a barred owl and a pileated woodpecker in the same day, Jan. 6. The barred owl was perched in a tree and stayed awhile before flying off. When I went to pick up my grandson at the bus stop, I saw a pileated woodpecker on Lincoln Road.

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.

Why didn't my friend's wife get all her SS immediately?

Dear Rusty:
A friend told me about what he believes is a strange thing in the Social Security system.

His wife reached her full retirement age of 66 several years ago. She delayed filing for Social Security past her FRA and claimed on her 68th birthday in June of that year, exactly two years after her FRA. When she filed, she was told she would receive approximately \$300 per month, which, of course, was more than she would have received at her FRA.

She was told however that she would only receive \$300 per month as of Jan. 1 of the following year. Between June of the year she turned 68 and filed for SS until the end of that year, she would receive an amount less than \$300. This lower amount was the amount she would have received if she had filed in December, the year she turned

67. She said she was told that was how SS works. She would never receive the difference in benefits she lost from June through December of the year she filed. If the above is true, can you explain?
Signed: Astounded Friend

Dear Astounded:
What your friend described is, indeed, a unique methodology for how Social Security handles benefit payments for those who choose to wait beyond their Full Retirement Age to claim SS benefits. To understand it, let me first describe how Social Security retirement benefits are calculated.

At Full Retirement Age, a person is entitled to 100% of the SS benefit they have

earned from a lifetime of working. That FRA benefit amount is known as the person's "Primary Insurance Amount" and is based upon the highest earning 35 years over the individual's lifetime.

From those past years, average lifetime monthly earnings are computed, known as the person's "Average Indexed Monthly Earnings." Their AIME is subjected to a formula which yields their Primary Insurance Amount – the benefit the person is entitled to in the month they attain their full retirement age – typically about 40% of the person's average monthly lifetime earnings. However, if the person chooses to do so, they can wait beyond their FRA to claim Social Security to get a monthly benefit even higher than their

See **SOCIAL SECURITY** page 8

ANNUAL REACTION OF COMMUTERS...



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Send letters to:
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chicopeeregister@turley.com.
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 journals@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.

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for The Chicopee Register, please email chicopeeregister@turley.com.

IN THE CITY



Mayor John Vieau with Mason's Mission Founder and CEO Tina Perreault.



Attendees lined up for photos during the cocktail hour.

GALA from page 1

The special fundraiser was spearheaded by Perreault, who expressed gratitude and shared that every year the event continues to get bigger and bigger from the one prior. Also, a sense of melancholic acceptance was in the air, because her furbaby, Mason (whom the charity is named in honor of), isn't here to celebrate and take in the success.

"Mason meant a lot to me; he was my soul dog, and I do this for him, because I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for him," Perreault said. "And there is a story behind him, and I know he's looking down on us, and I know he's excited, and that I can't wait to make Mason's Mission bigger and better and eventually be a rescue, and I just love what I do."

Perreault then pivoted to how, originally, this partnership wasn't planned, and it's one born from the prospect of making a dream come true.

"So we never had a relationship before this; so I had a vision of this event for five years before I even did one, and then one year I said I was going to do it, and then I searched for organizations, and I found 'Kane's and 'Christmas with Kane's' and

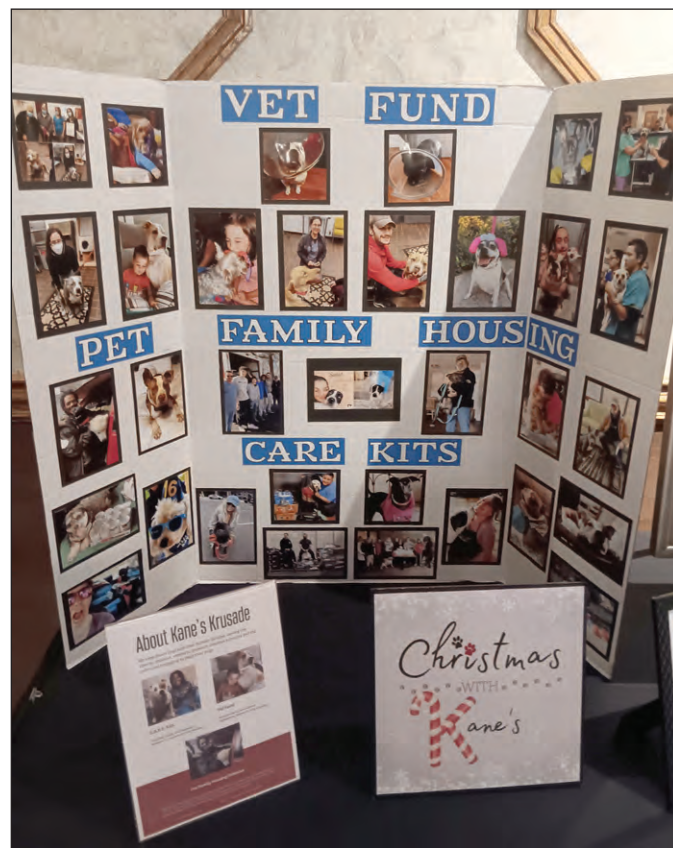
the 'K' with the candy cane, it just fit," Perreault said. "So I reached out to Kim. So, she had a meeting with the board, and she saw I was serious, and they made it happen."

Echoing a similar insight was George, who said that Perreault is "amazing," and is appreciative of the partnership.

"All that Mason's Mission does is raise money and in-kind goods for animal welfare organizations, and that's huge for any group that is trying to fundraise because the less time and energy we have to put into fundraising allows us to allocate more time into direct service, to help the dogs and their owners," George said. "So what Tina does is instrumental to us because it's integral to us; because she does the heavy lifting out of the goodness out of her heart and passion for dogs, and so the synergy between the two groups is really neat."

George discussed that with the 15th year benchmark, Kane's and the board have some new ideas to roll out, before reflecting on the journey from day one to the present day.

"We're going to be looking back via our social media and retelling those most popular stories, which we call 'Tails Of Hope,' and we're



TURLEY PHOTOS BY BRENDAN ROONEY

Board of pics and services provided by Kane's Krusade.

going to do that as one of the celebrations throughout the year. We're going to feature our best stories, and we have a lot of them," George said. "It's a way of life, and a mission that is part of what I do, and I am just so blessed that I have so many amazing people

that believe in what we do."

And the celebration didn't stop as all eyes shifted to Perreault, who took the mic and discussed the importance of the work that has been implemented throughout the years, before offering an ode of gratitude to the countless

sponsors that helped make the event a guaranteed success.

She then introduced her students from All-Star Dance Studio out of Westfield, with the attendees later getting holiday candy canes as a token of appreciation for attending and providing support.

Among those in attendance was Mayor John Vieau, who noted that the work being put forth by both charities is one near and dear to his heart as a pet lover.

"It's exciting to be here, to support Kane's and Mason's Mission, and all of the work they do," Vieau said. "I find it incredible that Kane's has been doing their 5k fundraiser (Pawsome 5K Festival), which took place last year at Snot Park here in the city, and my daughter has a cat, so my family and I are all pet lovers."

He also expressed that he sympathizes with the struggle and concern of alleviating costs toward vet bills, which can be a bit pricey, and something that he commends Kane's for.

"I recently lost my dog last year. It's very sad, and I know how expensive vet bills can be, and they (Kane's) help people with those particular needs," Vieau said. "And (Mason's Mission) are instrumental in redistributing gen-

tly used supplies via donations is tremendous, and look, man's best friend, and not being able to help them can get costly, and I know some that spend up to 17K in medical bills, and I know that entities like this really help, because that's the last thing that you're thinking about and I want it known their assistance goes a long way."

Vieau also noted the community support, while acknowledging the fervent passion to continue the cause exemplified by the charities.

"It's clear everyone here in this room are all pet lovers, and it is incredible to see," Vieau said. "And lastly I commend them (George and Perreault) for continuing the mission, because some people will give up and say 'I had enough', but they continue the mission because it's a great cause."

All benefits and proceeds gathered were returned to Kane's as its ongoing efforts to continue its mission of supporting pet families and preventing pet relinquishment carry on.

And mark your calendars, as it was revealed that the Fourth Annual 'Christmas With Kane's' will be taking place next year on January 30, 2027.

CABOTVILLE from page 1

quirements, parking and noise level were also requested.

The Chicopee Register reached out to Papowitz for comment but received no response.

History and Where Things Stand Right Now

Mayor John Vieau explained how, in 2022, the building was emptied due to major safety concerns after the building and fire inspectors determined multiple code violations, which deemed the building unsafe.

Since then, Vieau said, Papowitz had stopped paying taxes and "was court-ordered to protect the building with security and other things and then stopped paying for that."

"So, we have been incurring those costs because of the size and uniqueness of the property. The city of Chicopee is on the hook to protect this community and we are, right now, paying for security, we actually paid to board it up and they are in delinquency with the taxes for a two-year period, (which) triggers tax title—the process—and it started it," Vieau said.

Vieau later added Papowitz was offered "many opportunities to rectify all of those deficiencies" at Cabotville.

"For example, the freight elevator didn't work, the fire suppression system was not up to speed and working properly, the emergency exits were dilapidated," Vieau said. "And many in there without a CO. They were moving in there without certificates of occupancy."

Vieau clarified with the tax title taking process, it does not mean the city took ownership of the property.

"The city of Chicopee does not have title to Cabotville. We have no intentions, right now, of taking title to Cabotville. It's a last resort," Vieau said. "We don't want to own people's property, but we do care about the future of Cabotville. It is an amazing shell with so much potential and we want to see it redeveloped in some way, shape or form. Certainly, something has to give. It can't sit dormant like that with the city incurring the costs of security and protecting it and maintenance too."

Vieau also explained, to his knowledge, where things stood with the most recent prospective buyer.

"So, Mark Yunger and Bridgewater Capital had worked with a local architect or design engineer and had gone through the permit process and had actually received a permit that was contingent upon paying the back taxes and then—my understanding that—something happened. Again, we're not privy to what the agreement is—the purchase and sale agreement or if there was one or the agreement with the current owner and the prospective buyer—we didn't see any of that," Vieau said. "But, we worked with that prospective buyer who went through the process because they applied for it and they did everything they were supposed to do. Did get a permit contingent upon paying those (taxes) and it didn't happen."

Also, another prospective buyer has come forward "who showed some interest" in December.

"We don't own the property, so they came here and asking about specifics about what is related to Chicopee, meaning the permit process, how much is owed in back taxes and those types of things," Vieau said. "But, when it comes to redeveloping it, Chicopee's not the entity to negotiate with. It's privately-owned by 4 Perkins LLC and not the city of Chicopee."

Moving Forward

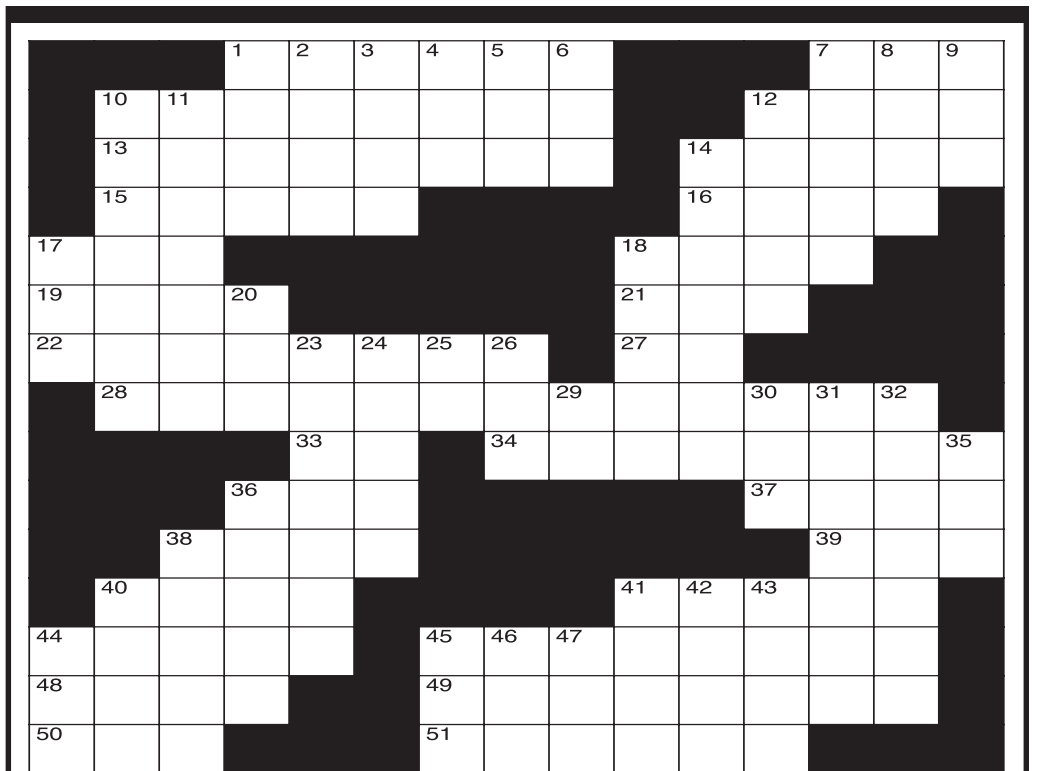
Vieau is hopeful Cabotville can still be redeveloped, noting three permits had been approved before.

"I can share that I am on board with any developer that has a bona fide offer and has the capabilities of redeveloping the property. I'm on board with that. We want to see this turn into something special. Everyone wants to see it redeveloped," Vieau said.

His message to the taxpayers was this.

"We have to use our resources to do those things, but we have the wherewithal to do it too. Even though we're doing it, our intention is to recoup all of our losses, whether it'd be the back taxes owed and the liens put in on for boarding up, security and the things they drop the ball on, we have to be accountable and do that because we can, and we have to protect our community," Vieau said.

To learn more about the tax title taking process and what this means, check out this week's edition.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Mechanical lever
7. Rocky peak
10. Leave a country
12. Discount
13. D.C. ballplayer
14. Partner to "oohed"
15. Engine sound
16. Japanese ornamental box
17. Fido is one
18. Amounts of time
19. DiFranco and Phyo are two
21. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
22. Make secret plans
27. "Tiny Bubbles" singer
28. "His Airness"
33. Morning
34. Perfected
36. Winger guitarist

CLUES DOWN

1. Yugoslavian communist leader
2. Exchange rate
3. High school dance
37. Abba __, Israeli politician
38. Self-immolation by fire ritual
39. A way to save money
40. Pulpit
41. Make ecstatically happy
44. Once more
45. Works on
48. Nocturnal S. American rodent
49. State again
50. Expression of disappointment
51. Type of door

4. Peter's last name
5. When you anticipate arriving
6. Israeli city __ Aviv
7. Goat-like mammals
8. Margarine
9. End-of-the-spectrum color
10. Make poisonous
11. Popular beverage
12. Actress Lathan
14. Where planes land and depart
17. Political fundraising entity
18. The distinctive spirit of a people or an era
20. Buffer used in microbiology
23. Light, open carriage
24. Metrical feet
25. Email subject line feature
26. A street with lots of nightmares
29. Rapper Rule
30. River in Scotland
31. One who settles a dispute
32. Most chummy
35. We all have our own
36. Arab tribe
38. Slap
40. Ottoman military commanders
41. Scottish or Irish Gaelic language
42. Emit coherent radiation
43. Sun or solar disk (Egyptian mythology)
44. Inclined to
45. Olfactory reference syndrome
46. Chest muscle (slang)
47. Body part

IN THE CITY

Check out the CPL Scrabble Club

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - On Jan. 9, the library's very own Scrabble Club met for their weekly meeting.

The club meets at 10 a.m. every Friday and has been doing so for 20 years now. The Scrabble Club meets in the conference room on the bottom floor of the library.

Turnout for the club was high in numbers with multiple games of Scrabble going at the same time. The club is self-run by its members.

Senior Reference Librarian Carol Lynn Bagley shared how the club had a rocky start, but now it's well loved by the community.

"So, the Scrabble Club has been going for a really long time, for about 20 years and they have a lot of dedicated players and, occasionally, we'll see new people pop in and that's fun to see too. They really love their Scrabble, and we enjoy having them here. We started out just doing board

games, we tried to do that, and it just wasn't flying. And then we did Scrabble, specifically, and it lasted a few months and then just kind of petered out. Then they came to us and said, 'Can we try one more time?' Then it stuck," Bagley said.

Bagley, a Scrabble enjoyer herself, only had good things to say about this club that has been such a major staple in the library's schedule for so long now.

Scrabble Club member Noreen Fredrick shared why she started attending, why she loves Scrabble and the inner workings of the club.

"I retired and I've loved Scrabble since I was a kid. I saw that they had Scrabble, so I came down and that was it. I've been hooked ever since. I started playing with a woman that lived down the street, and she was like my grandmother. And she got me hooked on it, and I've always loved words. And nobody at home would play with me, so I have to find somebody, so that's why I came here," Fredrick said.

Fredrick said playing Scrabble has other benefits

too.

"It keeps your mind going. It's an activity that you meet so many nice people through. I've made friends from here, I've gone to do other things because of the people that I've met here. We have a friendly game here. It's not, you know, a tournament. We look at books, and we cheat," Fredrick said.

Fredrick added newbies to avid players are always welcome.

"You can be a newbie. You don't have to buy anything. It's a great two or three hours when you get down here. It keeps you going. What we do is we pick numbers, so you're not playing with the same people. It's randomly picked. On average you play three to four games," Fredrick said.

When asked what she would tell somebody looking to join Scrabble Club she said this.

"If you want to have a social life, if you want to keep your brain active, and if you love words then join," Fredrick said.

About why we need libraries within society Frederick said, "it gives you outlets to everything."

Scrabble as a game in itself provides an opportunity to learn, form connections and friendships, as well as have fun. With the main point being forming words, Scrabble is a game that allows people to expand their vocabulary and by playing with other people, one can have fun socializing as well.

Like all programs at the library, Scrabble Club fosters community and provides a space for people to meet and bond over what they love, in this case Scrabble. Many of the members have been regulars at the club for some time now, showing how engaging the club is. Registration is not required to join the club; all are welcome.

For more information on upcoming events at the CPL and to see when the next Scrabble Club meeting is, visit chicopeepubliclibrary.org.

OBITUARIES

Michael S. Walas 1956-2025

CHICOPEE - Michael Steven Walas, 69, of Chicopee, passed away on Monday, December 29, 2025 at home. He was born on June 6, 1956 in Springfield and was the son of the late Stanley P. ("Smiley") and Evelyn J. (Rzasa) Walas. Michael was a retired employee of the City of Chicopee Housing Authority.

Michael is survived by his sons, Michael Parenteau of Portland, Oregon and Tim Parenteau of Maitland, FL, and his longtime partner, Sharon Willette of Chicopee. He will be missed by his sister Kathleen Walas (Thomas Sarakatsannis) of New York City and Greenport, NY and sister-in-law Katherine Walas of Springfield, as well as sister Beverley Stevens (Richard Stevens) of Chicopee. Michael had two granddaughters, and several nephews and

DEATH NOTICE

Michael Walas
Died Dec. 29, 2025
Services are private.
Cierpial Memorial Funeral Home

nieces, grandnephews and grandnieces. He was predeceased by his parents, Stanley and Evelyn, and brother, Alan.

He was an avid sports fan—especially of the Patriots, Red Sox, Bruins, Celtics and UMass teams. A true outdoorsman, Michael enjoyed hiking the trails of New England, camping, and logging miles on his bicycle throughout his life. Michael enjoyed art and was a creative builder, handyman and mechanic.

The family will hold private services.

Please visit: cierpialmemorialfuneralhomes.com.



Programs at RiverMills

Impaired driving and medication information session

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will offer the program "Understanding Impaired Driving and Medication Management" on Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 10:00 a.m. at RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street.

Join Public Health Nurse Fiona Cioch for a program on impaired driving and medication man-

agement. During this program, you will learn the risk factors and medications that may impact your ability to drive. You will also learn about supports in the community that promote safe driving for older adults. You must register in advance by stopping by RiverMills or by calling 534-3698.

Basic Nutrition workshop

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will offer a Basic Nutrition workshop on Thursday, Jan. 29 at 10 a.m. at RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street.

Join Rosemary Santeniello of Spark Nutrition for a conversation on basic nutrition. During this talk, you will learn about macros and micros, what they are and why we need

them. You will also go over what a balanced diet looks like and what we need as we get older. Not only will this workshop cover nutrition, but you will also learn about exercise and muscle and bone strength, leading to a healthy and longer life. You must register in advance by stopping by RiverMills or by calling 534-3698.

WATSON from page 1

we brought in new technology, and in that role, I've found myself working alongside Chief Major, where I not only oversaw but was also taught how to handle key areas of focus such as managing, planning, and budgeting responsibilities. I do feel that through it all, working in conjunction with Chief Major was extremely instrumental in helping prepare me for this role."

He also shared that his peers approve of the promotion and feel the foundation and tools left behind by Chief Major will continue to be utilized and held in place.

"It's been great, and I know that everyone loved Chief (Major), and I'm hop-

ing that they understand that we were kind of in lockstep together, and that in the time that I'm going to be Acting Chief, I hope they can expect and realize something similar, and I feel it's comforting for others to know that we're going to continue to be on the same page and continue down the path we started," Watson said.

Watson then offered insight on providing a small sample and general overview of the RTIC (Real Time Information Center), a cloud-based real-time crime center project that been in the works for a little bit of time, which is now being run by a team of analysts and detectives who can enhance law enforcement agencies by utilizing license plate recognition cameras,

surveillance videos, floor plans and other informational databases to help officers respond to emergencies more quickly and efficiently. And despite the sense of regionalizing the new command center, Watson confirmed the base of operations will remain in Chicopee.

"It brings a sense of satisfaction and a proud moment to see it take off and see it work and keep our officers and the community safe every day, and it gives you a sense of validation that what we strived to do has been accomplished, and it's only going to get better," Watson said.

He also acknowledged that the command center being an initiative he brought forth, and one he wants to stay close with, confirming that he

will remain in both roles as Acting Chief and a main staple of the RTIC team.

"So, during my tenure as Acting Chief, I will still maintain my previous duties as well as the role of Chief, I can confirm," Watson said. "Luckily, we have a great command staff who I will be able to alleviate the weight, and they are willing and ready to step up and assist anywhere necessary."

And I want to add my previous role, I loved that role, the sense of research and development, that's what I've been doing since 2018, I wouldn't willingly give that up, but we can manage both for right and weather the storm."

Also, the police department looks to maintain its ongoing success with Watson now as the Acting Chief.

"Last year was another busy year for the men and women of the Chicopee Police Department.

We responded to over 67,000 calls for service, completed just under 5,000 incident reports, and issued over 6,000 motor vehicle citations. We responded to over 2,000 motor vehicle crashes, made 938 arrests, and requested over 1,500 criminal complaints," Watson said.

A full recap and deeper dive into the ceremony where Watson was sworn in can be found in next week's edition.

Events & announcements schedule

First Central Bible Church Announces Programs for Children and Youth

CHICOPEE - First Central Bible Church, located at 50 Broadway Street in Chicopee, is now offering five age-suitable programs for infants through grade 12 that are designed to help children and youth come to know the Bible, grow closer to God, and build a Christian community.

Sunday Morning: Before Sunday service, from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m., the church's Sunday School partners with parents and caregivers in nurturing children's faith through engaging lessons and activities. Classes are held for ages two through grade 9. Nursery care is provided for children through age two. For adults, a variety of studies are available during this time.

During the service, from 10:15 to 11:30 a.m., First Central offers Junior Church for age five through fifth

grade. While adults attend the service, children experience Bible teaching at their level through lessons, songs, games, and projects. The nursery is available for children through age four.

Wednesday Evening: Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8 p.m. children ages two through fifth grade are invited to participate in Awana, which combines Scripture memorization, Bible teaching, fun activities, and mentorship to help children know, love, and serve Jesus Christ. Please register on the church website at www.firstcentral.church.

Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m., young people in grades six through twelve can join the church's Youth Group, which combines large- and small-group discussions. Sample topics include how the world's values differ from God's and the nature of sin. Participants explore their view-

points while learning to apply Christian principles to their lives. No registration is required.

First Central Bible Church, located at 50 Broadway Street, Chicopee, exists to glorify God by making and maturing disciples of Jesus. Sunday service is held at 10:30 a.m. All are invited to join us in worship, prayer, learning from the Word, glorifying God, and feeling the warmth of fellowship. For more information, please visit www.firstcentral.church.

First Central Bible Church of Chicopee launches Awana Program

CHICOPEE - First Central Bible Church today announced the kickoff of Awana, a global, Bible-based discipleship program that helps churches and families raise children and youth to know, love, and serve Jesus Christ.

The program is open to

the community and will be held at the church located at 50 Broadway Street, Chicopee.

Weekly sessions run on Wednesdays from September 10, 2025 to May 20, 2026 from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm and are for children ages two through fifth grade. Registration is required on the church website at www.firstcentral.church. There is no charge.

All families looking for a positive activity for their kids are welcome.

Awana combines Scripture memorization, Bible teaching, fun activities, and mentorship to help young people build a lasting foundation of faith. The program provides a safe, structured environment where kids can make new friends, build confidence, grow spiritually, and explore how God's Word applies to their everyday lives.

If you have questions, please call the church office at 413-592-5353.

FIREFIIGHTERS from page 1

not happen so I'm happy to see that," Courchesne said. "The cost-of-living increases was actually kind of unique from what I've seen in contracts and I'm very happy to see that dollar amount and a percent. So, I think that's huge."

Another thing Courchesne mentioned was the education stipend "as a percent added to base."

"I'm making notes for our next contract negotiations because not only is that going to increase with your salary because most times they're just bonuses and it's a flat rate, but it's going to go to retirement too. So, this is a huge win for the fire department and I appreciate the mayor working with these guys and giving them what they deserve. This is phenomenal," Courchesne said.

Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello thanked the fire department and its members for their hard work in the city.

"I think of any department, you get the most compliments. People love it when you're there. They feel safe and your personalities are so workable. Thank you for everything," Costello said.

Councilor-at-Large Jessica Avery has met with

the firefighters' union and understands "the work that they do not just day-to-day, but also what they're bringing home as well."

"I think that when we're looking at not also the pay increases, but also looking at benefits as well, this is a great step in the right direction and and I look forward to continuing to support our fire department," Avery said.

Councilor-at-Large Joel McAuliffe said it was great "to see these collective bargaining agreements come to fruition."

"It's a lot of give and take on both sides, but ultimately seeing the amount of work, the amount of training that is now required of our firefighters and the professionalization of the job—not that it wasn't before—but the different kinds of certifications and training and whatnot that you were required to go through. It looks like a contract that is representative, though, of that work and we are greatly appreciative of the agreement," McAuliffe said.

Ward 8 Councilor Douglas Girouard said, "you can't put a dollar amount on public safety."

"You guys, each and every day, keep the city of Chicopee safe and the residents. So, thank you for everything that you guys do," Girouard said.



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Comp offense scores big in win over Agawam

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM—Following back-to-back road losses to Springfield Central and Pope Francis, the Chicopee Comp boys' varsity basketball team were determined to get back into the win column in another road game against Valley League rival Agawam.

After falling behind, 8-0, in the first three minutes of the opening quarter, the Colts outscored the Brown-

ies, 55-23, during the remainder of the first half and cruised to a 96-63 victory before a large crowd at Cliff P. Kibbe Gymnasium, last Thursday night.

"We came into this game with a little extra motivation, especially after we lost our last two games on the road," said Comp senior Brody Fay, who scored 15 of his team-high 20 points in the second half. "It didn't matter who the opponent was, we were going to come out and play

Comp basketball tonight. That's something we have been lacking in our past two games. We just played very well as a team."

Fay was one of the Colts eight scorers against the Brownies (5-4), who had won their previous four games by ten or more points.

Three other Comp players also reached double digits.

Junior's Jacoby Haney and Elijah Kleps both finished with 19 points, which

junior Xavier Kleps scored 16 points.

Prior to hitting the little bump in the road, the Colts (5-2) began the regular season with four victories. Three of those wins came in front of their supporters at Herbert H. Curry Gymnasium.

It has been more than five years since the Colts have scored 96 points in a game.

Comp began this season with an 86-49 win over cross-town rival Chicopee

High at the annual Pioneer Valley Tip-off, which took place at the Mullins Center located on the UMass-Amherst campus. A year ago, they celebrated a 90-57 road victory against the High School of Commerce.

The Brownies were led offensively by sophomore Trevor Moynihan, who scored 20 of his game-high 33 points before halftime. Sophomore Brody Sheehan finished the home game with nine points and junior Gavin

Cruz added eight points.

A little more than a minute into the first quarter, the Brownies took a 2-0 lead following a hook shot by junior Yusef Ebrahim (4 points) in the lane. Then Moynihan was fouled while making a lay-up and he made the bonus free throw.

With 5:30 left in the opening quarter, Moynihan buried a 3-pointer from the left corner making the score

See COMP page 8

Comp edges Agawam girls basketball

CHICOPEE – Last Tuesday evening, Agawam High School girls basketball traveled to Chicopee Comprehensive and trailed late, unable to shoot past a struggling

Chicopee Comprehensive team 37-36.

The win for the Colts was their first of the regular season. Sheyenne Santiago had a good game for the

Colts, scoring 16 points as the home team improved to 1-8. Agawam fell to 2-6 and got 15 points from Isabella Laprise.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Kelsey Morrisette shoots from the free throw line.



Joaneliz Soto-Cintron tries the one-hander.



Trinity McCarthy shoots while under pressure from the Agawam defense.



TWalleris Pena attempts an underhand layup.



Sheyenne Santiago overcomes a pair of blockers to shoot.



Elnis Isaac steps up for a jump shot.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Cassidy Pytel gets the open shot.



Sophia Moreira enters the other side of the court.



Kiyah Price shows the ball before making a pass.

Chicopee girls defeat Amherst with 46-35 win

CHICOPEE – Last Monday evening, Chicopee High School girls basketball held Amherst to just 12 first half points and used that to pick up a 46-35 win at home. Chicopee High had three double-digit performers, led by Kiyah Price

with 20 points. Cassidy Pytel came in with 13 points and Sophia Moreira had 10 points. The Pacers are now 3-5 on the season and are back in action on Monday, Jan. 19 with a matinee matchup against Easthampton at 2 p.m.



Cassidy Pytel heads down the right side of the court.



Gisele Rivera attempts the layup.



Nylah Francis attempts a three-pointer.

T-Birds stunned by Phantoms

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (13-15-4-2) were snakebitten by a three-goal third period rally as the Lehigh Valley Phantoms (19-11-2-2) came away with a 3-2 win on Saturday night before a sellout crowd of 6,793 inside the MassMutual Center on Indians Throwback Night.

Entering the game having allowed only two total goals in their prior three victories, the Phantoms and their netminder, Carson Bjarnason, made it clear goals would not come easily for the T-Birds, as the rookie backstop turned away all 10 first period at-

tempts from the home side.

At the other end of the rink, Georgi Romanov had a relatively quiet first period, making all seven saves asked of him in the Springfield crease. Neither team could connect on a power play chance, and each goalie came up with a timely save off an odd-man attack, with Romanov stoning a Phil Tomasino 2-on-1 bid and Bjarnason rejecting a Juraj Pekarcik breakaway.

The T-Birds' power play wasted little time getting to

See T-BIRDS page 8

Registration set to open Feb. 1 for Quabbin Valley

SOUTH HADLEY – On Sunday, Jan. 11, the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, an over-28 recreational league, held its first meeting of 2026 to prepare for the upcoming season.

At the meeting it was determined registration for players will open up on Sunday, Feb. 1.

For the 2026 season, the cost will be \$215 and will include a 16th game added to the regular season schedule.

During the 2025 season, the league experimented with playing on Mother's Day Saturday as well as a week-

night game to allow players an opportunity to play under the lights. While the night games were very successful, the Mother's Day Saturday games were rained out.

Those elements will return along with a 16th game with an opponent to be determined as the league's board explores possibilities for interleague matchups with another league in the region.

For returning players to the league, the deadline is Mar. 22 at 12 noon to be registered for the 2026 season in order to be guaranteed a ros-

ter spot. There will be open practices for all players but specifically targeted at new players scheduled for March 29 and April 4 at times and locations to be announced. The draft is currently scheduled to take place on April 4 following that practice.

The season is currently slated to start on Sunday, April 19 and following the success of the six-team fall league last year, the league will also have a fall league in September and October this season.

The registration link will be live on Feb. 1 at www.

quabbinvalleybaseball.org. Players must register and then pay the league dues via Venmo or contact the league leadership if an alternate form of payment is needed.

Aside from the week-night and Mother's Day games, other games take place Sundays at 10 a.m. outside of Mother's Day, Memorial Day and July 4 weekends. Playoffs will be in August.

This is the 30th season for the league and league officials are looking to celebrate the anniversary with a couple of events.

PUBLIC NOTICES

**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 30, 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.

2015 Nissan Altima
VIN: IN4AL3AP4FC171176
Dylan Conover
256 Grove St.
Chicopee, MA 01020

1998 Honda CR-V
VIN: JHLRD1860WC079304
Anthony All Mitchell
15 Ballard St., Apt. 15D
Easthampton, MA 01027

2014 Utility Trailer Mfg Base
VIN: 1UYVS2484EG053201
Ryder Truck Rental Inc
3100 Industrial Parkway
Jeffersonville, ID 47130
Tank Transpro

VIN: LLPTGLHE9S1030130
Damien Barreto
41 Beacon Cir.
Springfield, MA 01119

2011 Infiniti G37
VIN: JN1CV6AR1BM401800
Taisha Rivera
101 Lakeside Dr., Unit 94
Bristol, CT 06010

2004 Honda CRV
VIN: JHLRD77454C025397
Richard White
306 Ash St., Apt. 246
Willimantic, CT 06226

2004 Nissan Sentra
VIN: 3N1CB51D14L489803
Timothy Curran
86 Wilmont St., Apt. 3
Springfield, MA 01108

2003 Honda Odyssey
VIN: 5FNRL18653B060830
Peddle
3800 N Lamar Blvd., Suite 230
Austin, TX 78756
01/16, 01/23, 01/30/2026

**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 23rd, 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.

2012 Chevrolet Malibu
VIN: 1G1ZC5E00CF325665
Hector Mateo
64a Osgood St., Apt. 41
Springfield, MA 01107

2016 Bmw 428xi
VIN: WBA3N9C50GK248609
Ryan Reeves
115 S Shore Rd.
Hinsdale, MA 01235

2013 Kia Optima
VIN: 5XXGM4A74DG126999
Valerie Delgado
10 Nonotuck Ave., FL. 1
Chicopee, MA 01013

2008 Wabash National Corp
Base
VIN: 1JJV532WX8L148636
Favoree Services Inc.
24 Kenmar Dr., 226
Billerica, MA 01821

2002 Toyota Rav4
VIN: JTEGH20V726002354
Luz Lebron
1678 Northampton St., Apt. 1
Holyoke, MA 01040

2006 Nissan Sentra
VIN: 3N1CB51D76L543561
Aldo Avellan

34 Gould Road
Ware, MA 01082
01/09, 01/16, 01/23/2026

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No.
HD25P2632EA
Estate of:
Eugene Kida
Date of Death:
September 04, 2025
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Elaine M. Goulet of San Pedro, CA**.

Elaine M. Goulet of San Pedro, CA 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 of 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.
01/16/2026

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No.
HD25P2644EA
Estate of:
Huguette Therese Lemire
Also Known As:
Huguette T. Lemire,
Huguette Lemire,
Date of Death: May 3, 2024
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Lyne Mularski of Easthampton, MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Lyne Mularski of Easthampton, MA

ton, 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 of 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.
1/16/2026

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No.
HD25P1339EA
Estate of:
Paul R. Neece
Also Known As:
Paul Richard Neece
Date of Death: May 3, 2025
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Jeffrey A. Neece of Westfield, MA**.

Jeffrey A. Neece of Westfield, 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 of 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.
01/16/2026

**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.
HD26P0019EA
Estate of:
Irene Ann Pezda
Also known as:
Irene A Pezda
Date of Death: 10/24/2025
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 **Sharon L Szady 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 **Sharon L Szady 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 02/03/2026. 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 ad-

ministration 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: January 06, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
01/16/2026

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No.
HD25P2659EA
Estate of:
Nathan L. Wilbur
Date of Death:
February 4, 2025
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Liam A. Wilbur of Chicopee, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Liam A. Wilbur 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 of 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.
01/16/2026

**COMP from page 7**

8-0. He wound up scoring 14 points in the opening quarter.

Moynihan, who has scored more than 900 career points, began his varsity basketball career at Hoosac Valley before transferring to Agawam High School prior to the start of the school year.

A couple of years ago, Moynihan played on the same AAU basketball team with the Kleps twins. The team was coached by Comp varsity basketball coach Gavin Miller.

“Trevor is a very special basketball player, and Agawam is a good basketball team,” Miller said. “We just performed very well in tonight’s game. It’ll probably be a little bit different game when we face them again.”

The Colts finally broke the ice when senior Colby Paul (9 points) drained a 3-pointer from the left side.

Comp finished the game with a total of eleven 3-pointers.

Xavier Kleps, who’s Comp’s sixth man, then entered the contest and scored

14 points during the final four minutes of the first quarter, which helped the Colts build a 27-19 lead.

“They did throw the first punch by taking an 8-0 lead, but we just locked in after that,” said Fay, who has scored more than 800 career points. “X gave us the spark that we really needed off the bench. He’s an important part of our team. He always plays with a lot of energy.”

Xavier Kleps started a couple of games earlier in the season, but the Colts head coach likes having him

come off the bench.

“Xavier is one of our better defenders and he’s also a very good scorer,” Miller said. “We needed a spark coming off the bench and we talked to him about being our sixth man. He gives us a whole different look. We’re a very deep team this year.”

After Moynihan made a pair of free throws with 5:52 left in the first half, the Brownies were only trailing by six points (31-25).

The Colts then closed out the first half with an im-

pressive 24-6 run.

Haney, who also came off the bench, scored 10 of his 13 points during that span.

The visitors took a 43-27 lead with 3:10 left in the first half following a lay-up by senior Modesto Galindrez (8 points).

During the final minute of the opening half, sophomore Gabriel Pluta made a 3-pointer from the right corner before Haney converted an old fashion three-point play, which extended the Brownies advantage to 55-

29. Moynihan ended the half with a lay-up, but the Brownies didn’t make a second half comeback.

The Colts pushed their lead to over 30 points after scoring the first nine points of the second half and they didn’t look back after that.

“Our backs were against the wall coming into this game,” Miller said. “Our goal is to get a little bit better every day.”

T-BIRDS from page 7

the lead in the opening minute of the second, as Calle Rosen gathered a pass from Matthew Peca at the top of the left circle and picked the top corner over Bjarnason’s glove to make it a 1-0 Springfield lead just 52 seconds into the frame.

That same man-up unit added to their tally at 16:53 on a gorgeous three-man passing play, as Alek Kaskimaki slid a pass to Chris Wagner at the left post. From there, Wagner stuffed a perfect between-the-leg pass over to Matt Luff, who fired home his team-leading 12th goal to make it a 2-0 game into the intermission.

The third period began at 4-on-4, and the Phantoms finally got on the board as Lane Pederson curled to the middle of the ice before snapping a perfect shot upstairs over Romanov at the 27-second mark, cutting the Springfield lead to 2-1. On a power play just 2:40 later, Christian Kyrou dissected the T-Birds’ defense and chipped a forehead over Romanov’s glove, bringing Lehigh to a rapid tie, 2-2.

The 2-2 tie made it all the way to the game’s final seconds, but a bad-angle shot from Anthony Richard at the bottom of the left circle somehow found its way home with 11.9 remaining, and Lehigh Valley escaped with the victory.

**SOCIAL SECURITY
from page 4**

PIA, by earning Delayed Retirement Credits.

DRCs are applied to the person’s PIA when they claim Social Security. For each month after FRA the person claims, they will have .667% added to their PIA. That means that for each full year of delay, that person will get an extra 8% added to their PIA. For someone (like your friend’s wife) who claimed 24 months after her FRA, she would receive a benefit 16% higher than her FRA amount. However, Social Security normally only applies DRCs in January of each year.

So, even though your friend’s wife claimed her SS benefits in June, 24 months after her FRA, she would initially only get the DRCs she had accumulated through the end of the previous year - in this case, about 18 months’ worth of DRCs or an SS pay-

ment about 12% higher than her PIA (her FRA amount).

She would not get her remaining earned DRCs (another 4%) until January of the following year. So, in effect, the wife’s initial benefit didn’t reflect all her earned DRCs until her later January benefit payment. Thus, the wife essentially lost that extra benefit money for the period between June and December of the year she claimed Social Security. In other words, she wouldn’t get the full 16% amount until SS applied the additional 4% DRCs to her benefit payment the following January. And that is why your friend’s wife initially received a payment a bit less than the \$300 Social Security said she was entitled to by waiting two years after her FRA to claim.

This surprises many who choose to wait beyond their full retirement age to claim Social Security. But, curiously, this process doesn’t apply

to those who wait until age 70 to claim their SS benefits.

For those who wait until age 70 to claim, Social Security will immediately apply all DRCs that they have accumulated and provide them with their maximum SS benefit immediately.

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


**PUBLIC NOTICES
ARE NOW ONLINE**

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Visit us at
www.turley.com



CAREER Education

HCSS: Empowering students for a brighter future

Are you searching for a school where academic excellence meets a supportive community? Hampden Charter School of Science (HCSS) is a top-ranked, tuition-free public charter school serving grades 6-12 in Western Massachusetts. Since its founding in 2009, HCSS has been dedicated to preparing students for college, careers, and a lifetime of success.

Why Choose HCSS?

HCSS stands out as a premier choice for families because of its unique combination of academic rigor, personalized attention, and community spirit. Our two campuses—the Middle School in West Springfield (Grades 6-8) and the High School in Chicopee (Grades 9-12)—offer students a seamless transition from middle school to high school and beyond. Here's what makes HCSS truly exceptional:

Academic Excellence: Our rigorous curriculum is guided by the College Board's AP standards and the Common Core. With honors courses beginning in 7th grade, 15 AP offerings in high school, and innovative programs like Project Lead The Way (PLTW), students are challenged to reach their full potential.

Comprehensive College and Career Preparation:



HCSS begins college and career readiness as early as 6th grade, including SAT/PSAT prep, dual enrollment opportunities, and experiential college campus visits. With a 100% college acceptance rate and over \$49M in scholarships awarded in 2025, our graduates are set for success.

State-of-the-Art Technology: Students benefit from one-to-one Chrome-book access, SMART Inter-

active Displays, and hands-on science labs, preparing them for a tech-driven world.

Award-Winning Extracurriculars: From robotics, drone, and science olympiad clubs to competitive athletics and social activities, students thrive outside the classroom as well.

Join Us for an Open House

Explore what HCSS has to offer during our upcoming Welcome Saturday Open

House events. Meet our dedicated staff, tour our campuses, and learn how HCSS can help your child achieve their dreams. Interested families can also join a Virtual Information Session for an in-depth look at our programs from the comfort of home.

What Parents and Students

Love About HCSS
Parents and students consistently praise HCSS for

its nurturing environment, where every student feels valued and supported. The school's commitment to diversity and inclusion fosters a vibrant community that celebrates different perspectives and cultures. Families also appreciate the convenience of free transportation and extensive tutoring services, ensuring all students have the tools they need to succeed.

Student Success Stories

HCSS alumni have gone on to attend prestigious universities, including Ivy League institutions like Harvard, Columbia, and Dartmouth. Our students' achievements are a testament to the school's dedication to academic and personal growth. With a consistent college matriculation rate of over 95%, HCSS prepares students not just to attend college but to excel once they get there.

How to Apply

Applications for the 2026-2027 school year are now open. Rising 6th-10th graders should apply no later than March 1, 2026, to secure a spot in our admission lottery. Visit www.hampden-charter.org to apply and take the first step toward a brighter future.

At Hampden Charter School of Science, we believe every student deserves a world-class education. Join our community of learners, achievers, and leaders today—because your child's future begins here.

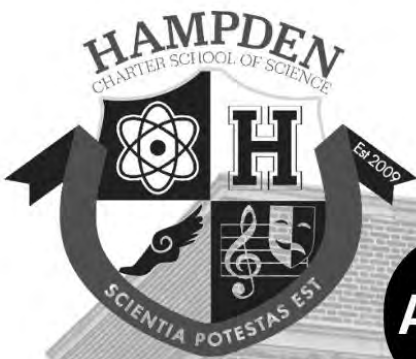
HCSS High School

20 Johnson Rd.
Chicopee, MA 01022
Tel. 413-593-9090

HCSS Middle School

511 Main Street
West Springfield, MA 01089

Tel. 413-278-5450
hampdencharter.org



HAMPDEN CHARTER SCHOOL OF SCIENCE

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR GRADE 6-10



Why Hampden Charter School of Science?

- NO COST
- FREE TRANSPORTATION
- COLLEGE-PREP EDUCATION
- TECHNOLOGY IN CLASSROOM
- EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMICS
- ATHLETICS
- ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES and CLUBS
- 100% COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE

WELCOME SATURDAYS

11:00 AM - 1:00PM

January 10th
January 24th
February 7th
February 28th

VISIT:

WWW.HAMPDENCHARTER.ORG

APPLY NOW / DEADLINE

MARCH 1, 2026





CAREER Education

St. Joan of Arc School offers comprehensive education

Located in Chicopee, MA, St. Joan of Arc (SJA) School is a private Catholic institution serving students from Pre-K through Grade 8.

St. Joan of Arc School provides a comprehensive educational environment focused on physical, intellectual,

and spiritual wellness.

In the fall the school community welcomed Mrs. Ashley Mahan as the new principal. A lifelong Chicopee resident and former educator in the local public school system, Mrs. Mahan brings extensive experience and a personal connection to the community.

Students can engage in several new and returning enrichment opportunities this year, including:

- Creative Arts: Liturgical Dance Troupe and Choir.
- STEM & Literacy: Robotics, 3D Printing, LEGO,

Book and Newspaper Clubs.

• Curriculum: Academic programs are integrated with technology, music, library, and physical education.

• Student Services: The school offers free breakfast and lunch programs and has hot meal options available for students.

• Extended Care: Affordable extended care and extracurricular programs are available to support families.

• Language Learning:

Innovative offerings include foreign language instruction through tools like Duolingo.

• Our Preschool program for ages 3 and 4 offers full and part-time care, geared toward preparing your child for Kindergarten. Children learn Kindergarten readiness and pre-reading skills through a developmentally appropriate teacher-created curriculum designed to hold your child's interest and spark their curiosity.

The school will be holding an Open House on Saturday, Jan. 31 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (no appointment needed). Appointment only tours for families will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 3 and Thursday, Feb. 5 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Please call Janine or Chris in the Business Office at 413-276-4608 for registration information, or to make an appointment. To learn more visit www.sjachicopee.org.

We look forward to meeting you.

ST. JOAN OF ARC SCHOOL

Pre-K to Grade 8

587 Grattan Street, Chicopee ~ 533-1475

sjachicopee.org

Learning Rooted in Christian Values



OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, January 31st, 9am-12 noon

No Appointment Needed

Tuesday, February 3rd & Thursday, Feb 5th, 3pm-7pm

By Appointment Only



Affordable Tuition & Extended Care ~ Free Breakfast & Lunch

Extracurricular Programs ~ Technology ~ Physical Education

Music ~ Library ~ Duolingo

Welcoming, Safe & Secure School Community

Social, Physical, Spiritual & Intellectual Wellness Tuition Assistance

Easy Access to I391 & I90



St. Stanislaus School students shine as servant leaders

St. Stanislaus School proudly announces the success of its recent community service initiatives, exemplifying its motto: "Servant Leaders for Today and Tomorrow."

In a spirited effort to support those in need, Student Council organized a can drive that collected an impressive 3,500 items, surpassing their original goal by 1,000 donations. The drive demonstrated the school community's commitment to service, teamwork, and making a tangible difference in the lives of local families.

Building on this momentum, St. Stanislaus students also gathered toiletries, diapers, and other personal items to fulfill the wish lists of The Gray House and Christina's House in Springfield. These organizations provide critical support and safe spaces for individuals and families facing challenging circumstances.

"This can drive is run by our Student Council in grades 4-8," said Mrs. Katherine Rorrio, Principal of St. Stanislaus School. "This drive aligns with the state-

ment that we believe our students are servant leaders for today and tomorrow. It assists our school community in understanding the global community, where we are all neighbors and members of God's family. Our school theme this year is 'Go Make Disciples of All Nations.' Our students are wonderful examples of disciples going out and making a difference in the community. We are so proud of all of our students and families for being so generous to those in need."

St. Stanislaus School remains committed to fostering a culture of compassion, responsibility, and service, preparing students not only for academic success but also for meaningful engagement in their communities.

Founded over 125 years ago, St. Stanislaus School has a rich history of serving families in Chicopee and surrounding communities. Although the original building was lost to fire, the school will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its current building on Saturday, Jan. 31, beginning with Mass at 4 p.m., followed by an Open House and

Celebration. Families interested in scheduling a private tour at another time may call the school at (413) 592-5135.

St. Stanislaus School is a Roman Catholic, Franciscan, co-educational Pre-K through 8th grade school. Students are assisted in developing their potential spiritually, physically, and socially within a safe and diverse community. A foundation of academic excellence is created to prepare students to become contributing members of a global society.

The school has a welcoming Franciscan environment, modern air-conditioned facility, strong core curriculum, enrichment classes, certified faculty, full-day preschool (PreK 3 & 4) and Kindergarten, free breakfast and hot lunch, before and after school program, and one-to-one use and integration of iPads and Chromebooks into curriculum. Financial Aid is available. Interested students are invited to spend a day with us. To learn more please visit www.saintstansschool.org.

We can't wait to meet you.

ST. STANISLAUS SCHOOL

SERVANT LEADERS FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW



CALL TO SCHEDULE A PRIVATE TOUR!



- Welcoming Franciscan environment
- Strong core curriculum
- Enrichment classes
- Certified faculty
- Full day Preschool & Kindergarten
- Free breakfast and hot lunch
- Before & After school program
- One to one use and integration of iPads & Chromebooks into curriculum
- Modern facility - full gym, full cafeteria, air conditioned, carpeted classrooms.

Call us for more information and to schedule a tour. We welcome the opportunity for you to experience St. Stanislaus School! Interested students are invited to "spend a day with us."

PREK - 8TH GRADE SCHOOL
PHYSICAL, SPIRITUAL, AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

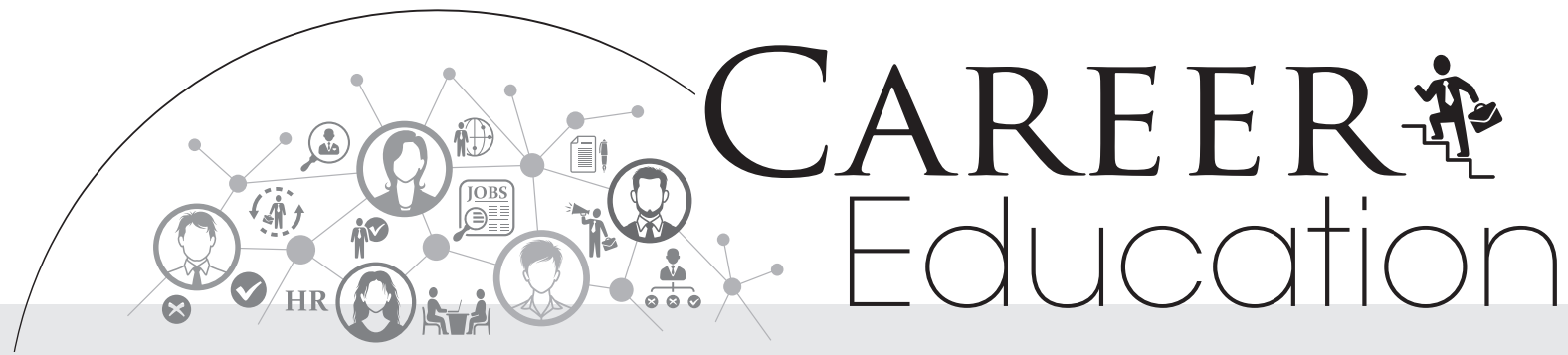


To learn more



www.saintstansschool.org
534 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013
413-592-5135





CAREER Education

HCC opens registration for Spring 2026 noncredit classes

Holyoke Community College has opened registration for its Spring 2026 catalog of noncredit personal enrichment and professional development classes.

The spring calendar begins Jan. 12, with individual classes running on different schedules throughout the semester.

New next semester is a series of classes for seniors focused on basic technology. Each one-hour class is available for just \$20 and cover a wide range of subjects, including Windows 11, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, Canva (for graphic design), Artificial Intelligence, Zoom, smartphone use (Android or iPhone), managing and editing photos, document storage, web browsers, and computer scams.

Other classes for spring include cooking (Caribbean, charcuterie, Puerto Rican, Southern), wine tasting (winter reds, Tuscany, New Zealand, Rose, summer wines), sewing (for beginners), sewing (machine), watercolor painting, acrylic painting, drawing, piano, conversational French, conversational Spanish, music technology, voiceover coaching, financial literacy, retirement planning, K-12 education (professional development), writing and publishing (fiction, nonfiction,



tion, screenwriting, short stories, query letters, mysteries, travel, blogs), ChatGPT, how to launch a pet-sitting and dog-walking business, and Quickbooks.

Most classes meet in the Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development on the main HCC campus, 303 Homestead Ave. Cooking and wine-tasting classes meet at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, 164 Race St. Some classes meet over Zoom.

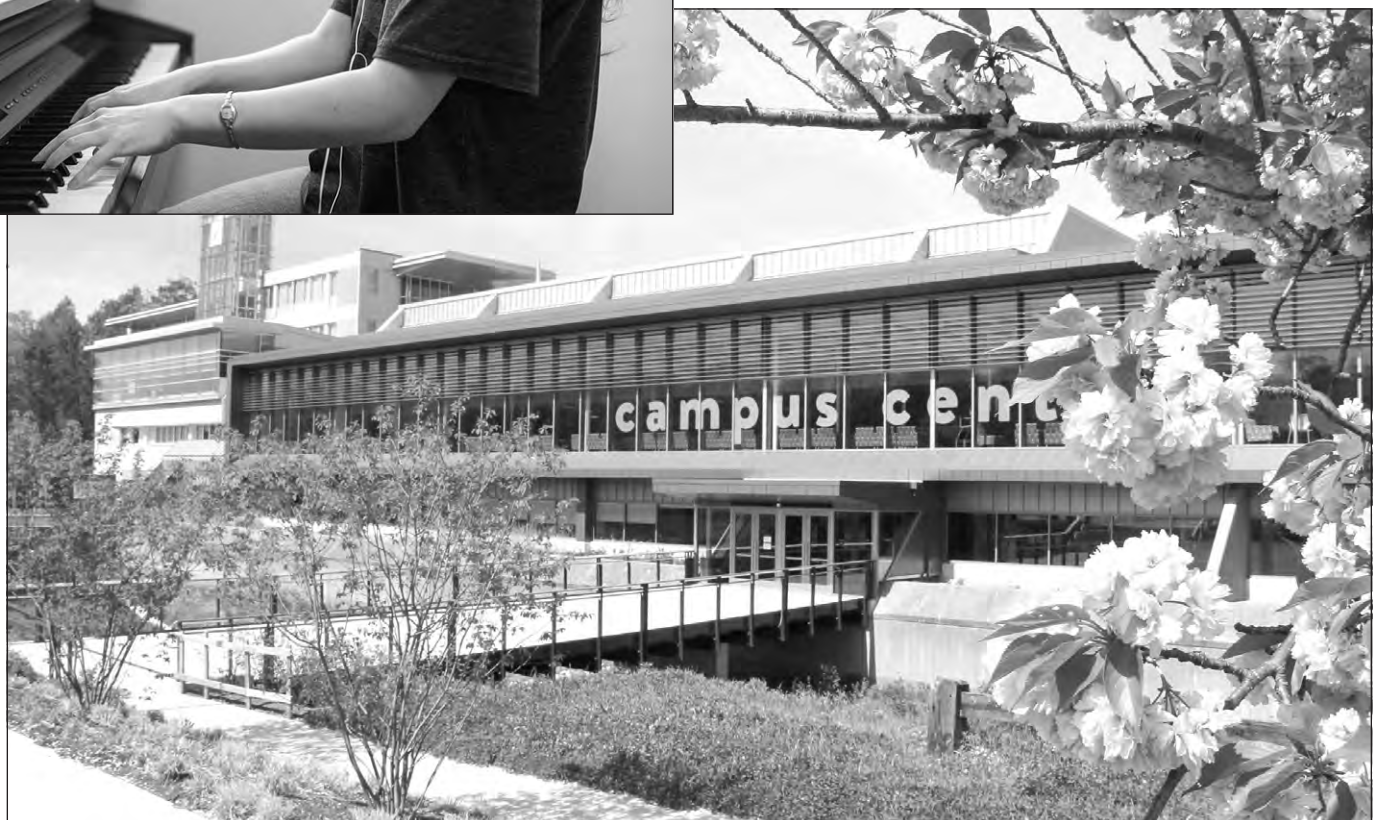
To see complete spring course listings and schedules, or to register, please visit hcc.edu/bcs.

More classes will be added as spring approaches.

The Commonwealth's oldest community college, Holyoke Community College opened its doors in 1946 as the first two-year college in Massachusetts. In the decades since, the college has paved the way for generations of learners from western Massachusetts and beyond, a beacon of hope and opportunity for people

seeking better lives. Please visit us at hcc.edu.

HCC's Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development is the Pioneer Valley's premiere resource for workforce training, professional development, and personal growth. It provides innovative and affordable programming that helps businesses, organizations, and individuals achieve their goals.





HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A premier healthcare educator in our region.

- + Nursing
- + Radiologic Technology
- + Medical Assisting
- + Veterinary and Animal Science

hcc.edu/healthcare



CAREER Education

Jump Start Preschool invites families to learn, play, and grow together

Two Locations in Feeding Hills and West Springfield

Jump Start Preschool is proud to welcome families to a nurturing, play-based learning environment where children are encouraged to explore, grow, and develop essential life skills. Serving children ages 2.9 to 5 years old, Jump Start Preschool focuses on learning through play while fostering independence, creativity, and confidence.

At Jump Start Preschool, social-emotional learning and communication are key components of each age group's curriculum. Children learn how to problem-solve with peers, practice self-regulation strategies, and build the foundational skills that help them succeed academically and socially. By supporting emotional growth alongside academics, Jump Start helps children thrive both in and out of the classroom.

Family and community partnerships are at the heart

of the Jump Start Preschool mission. In support of this commitment, Jump Start Preschool will host a 5K Run/Walk on May 30, bringing the community together to raise funds for Autism Allies and the children of Jump Start Preschool. Sixty percent of all donations will benefit Autism Allies. The event will feature live music, local businesses, exercise, and great company. Community members are encouraged to participate and support children and families.

Event information and registration: <https://MilesOfHopeForAutism.eventbrite.com>

Jump Start Preschool offers a wide range of perks designed to support both children and working families, including:

- Open year-round
- Reasonable tuition
- Family-friendly hours
Feeding Hills: 7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
West Springfield: 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Free healthy morning and afternoon snacks
- Community and in-

house field trips

- Family engagement activities throughout the year
- EEC-certified staff trained in CPR, First Aid, and medication administration
- State-of-the-art playground
- Preschool graduation with a professional photographer
- School photos twice per year
- Free occupational therapy and speech screenings twice annually

"Timeless moments come from learning through movement, creativity, and connection," said Jump Start Preschool. "We invite families to come dance with us and experience the joy of early learning."

Families interested in enrolling are encouraged to visit www.jumpstartpreschoolma.com and complete an interest form. Jump Start Preschool is currently enrolling preschoolers ages 2.9 to 5 at both the Feeding Hills and West Springfield locations.

Watch out — learning is happening.

Various ways newspapers are good for kids

Newspapers have long been part of the fabric of the communities they cover and serve. Whether it's a big-city daily tabloid or a small town weekly, newspapers keep readers and residents up-to-date on the latest goings-on in their communities and across the globe.

Newspapers have been linked to a range of benefits for adults that include greater civic engagement and stronger voter turnout. Such benefits are indispensable, and it's equally important to recognize ways in which newspapers benefit children.

• Reading and discussing newspaper stories can foster stronger language development. A 2022 study published in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* noted that parents who provide newspapers at home for their children to read and then discuss stories with young readers can help kids develop strong language skills, which could ultimately benefit them in the classroom and in their personal interactions. The study also noted that discussing newspaper stories with youngsters creates opportunities for children to explore their thoughts.

• Newspapers can help children develop their critical thinking skills. A me-



ta-analysis examining ways to teach students critical thinking skills published in the *Review of Educational Research* noted that critical thinking skills are vital because they bolster students' ability to interpret, analyze, evaluate, and make inferences. Newspapers are an invaluable resource for educators aiming to bolster kids' critical thinking skills, as they can be used to teach students to recognize why stories were written, how information in a given story was learned and gathered and how to verify information in a news story. Each of those lessons requires interpretation, analysis and evaluation, ultimately instilling in students vital critical thinking skills that can serve them in the classroom and beyond.

• Newspapers help students develop vital communication skills. A 2024 study published in the *Elementaria Journal of Educational Research* found that reading newspapers helped student participants in the study improve their vocabulary, enhance their writing skills and more effectively articulate their ideas. Authors behind the study ultimately characterized newspapers as valuable educational tools, a conclusion that has been reached by researchers across a range of academic disciplines.

Newspapers are part of the fabric of the communities they cover, and children have much to gain from being granted access to their local papers in the classroom and at home.

Jump Start Preschool

Enrolling Now for the

2026-2027 School Year!




Jump Start Preschool provides a safe, loving, nurturing and high-quality childcare and education that promotes and enhances each child's development with the assurance of our parents' peace of mind.

Full Day & Half Day Programs



Preschool & Pre-Kindergarten

Research-based curriculum that builds confidence & excitement about learning

- Social & Emotional Skills
- Language & Literacy Skills
- Cognitive Skills
- Physical Skills

Ages 2.9 to 5 years old



Two Beautiful Locations!

For more information, call or visit our website:
www.JumpStartPreschoolMA.com

- Feeding Hills: 413.789.4987
- West Springfield: 413.301.5694

Interested in a Career with Jump Start Preschool? Please Contact Us



WELDING

- Real hands-on experience
- Includes on site and off site internship
- State-of-the-art facilities renovated in 2022 including a robotic arm

www.grsd.org

Gateway's Welding program is a Chapter 74 vocational education program that prepares students for a career in Metal Fabrication and Welding!




JOIN US! Apply today!



EARLY EDUCATION & CARE



At Gateway you can join our Early Education and Care program (EEC) in 9th grade!

By the time you graduate, you will be ready, certified, and prepared to work with young learners!



You will also be on track to:

- Know how to plan engaging activities and lessons
- Have CPR & First Aid certification
- Experience awesome internship opportunities



Visit:
www.grsd.org
for more information!



CAREER Education

Well-rounded education benefits students

Academic environments have undergone quite a change over the last several decades. Technological advancements have changed the way educators teach and how students learn, but there's also been a notable shift in what students are learning.

Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) has become a point of emphasis in twenty-first century classrooms, and for good reason. The U.S. National Science Foundation notes that a workforce educated in STEM is vital to a country's prosperity and security. Opportunities in STEM fields are on the rise as well, as the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates STEM occupations will grow by roughly 11 percent between 2022 and 2032.

The value of STEM is undeniable. However, students and parents also should recognize the many ways a well-rounded education that includes math and science but also the humanities and social sciences facilitates strong academic performance.

Critical thinking skills

A well-rounded education can instill important and useful critical thinking skills in students. When students direct the bulk of their attention to a single subject or



category of subjects, they're less likely to understand how interconnected coursework, and indeed the world, can be. A well-rounded education can instill in students a more nuanced way of looking at problems and potential solutions. That ability can positively affect students' personal lives and ultimately their professional lives when their formal schooling ends, as they will be in position to better assess situations.

Comprehension

Tests are designed to gauge students' grasp of material. Students' ability to comprehend lessons taught in the classroom is a big part of that, and a well-round-

ed education fosters strong comprehension skills. A 2018 report from the New York State Education Department noted that research has found that students are better readers after they have been exposed to the language and vocabulary of the natural world, the sciences and social studies.

Crossover benefits

A well-rounded education can help students perform better in all of their subjects. In 2021, a University of Buffalo academic and researcher studying children and dyslexia made a startling discovery regarding the value of reading and how it affects performance in subjects like math. The research found that reading proficiency crosses academic domains and actually guides how students approach various tasks and solve problems. That means a well-rounded education that includes reading-heavy subjects, like those in the humanities and social sciences, could actually improve how students perform in STEM classes.

A well-rounded education pays a number of dividends for students. Recognition of those benefits might compel parents to support a curriculum that includes a wide array of subjects and academic disciplines.

Gateway announces expansion of career pathways, Chapter 74 vocational opportunities

Gateway Regional School (GRS) is proud to announce the expansion of its personalized learning model, featuring anticipated openings in its premier Chapter 74 Vocational Programs for the fall of 2026. Designed as a "launchpad" for student success, GRS continues to bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world career readiness for students in grades 6-12.

Innovative Middle School Exploration

The journey begins in the middle grades (6-8), where students engage in an expansive exploratory program. With 26 unique course options—ranging from Intro to Tourism and Woodshop to Data and Statistics in Sports and Sociology—students are encouraged to uncover their passions early.

By the eighth grade, students can gain a head start by accessing Gateway's Chapter 74 vocational programs, providing hands-on introduction to high-demand fields before they even enter high school.

Challenging Chapter 74 Vocational Programs

Gateway's commitment

to excellence is anchored by two flagship programs that prepare students for immediate entry into the workforce:

- **Welding & Metal Fabrication:** This program offers real hands-on experience in state-of-the-art facilities renovated in 2022. Students learn on modern equipment, including a robotic arm, and participate in both on-site and off-site internships.

- **Early Education and Care (EEC):** Starting in 9th grade, students in the EEC program are put on a track to become certified professionals. The curriculum includes lesson planning for young learners, CPR and First Aid certification, and immersive internship opportunities.

A Personalized Path to the Future

As students reach the 10th grade, they participate in a "demonstration of learning" to chart their specific goals for their final two years. This tailored approach allows for meaningful experiences, including:

- **Internships and Co-ops:** Real-world placements in students' fields of interest.
- **College Credits:** Through dual-enrollment and concurrent enrollment

partnerships with universities across the country.

- **Work-Study Placements:** Providing a practical balance between education and professional experience.

"At Gateway Regional School, education is more than coursework—it's a launchpad," Dr. Will Sullivan, GRS Principal, states. "We empower our students to excel in life after graduation through intentionally personalized learning pathways crafted to foster achievement and community impact."

Join the

Gateway Community

Gateway Regional School welcomes students from its six member towns and surrounding communities. Families interested in exploring these opportunities for the Fall 2026 semester are encouraged to apply today.

For more information on programs and how to apply, please visit www.grsd.org.

Media Contact: Gateway Regional School District Website: www.grsd.org

Gateway Regional School District is located at 12 Littleville Road, Huntington, MA 01050.

WELCOME TO GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL



"AT GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL, EDUCATION IS MORE THAN COURSEWORK – IT'S A LAUNCHPAD."

Gateway Regional School (GRS) is proud to educate and welcome students from the six member towns and surrounding communities in a vibrant, forward-thinking learning environment designed to prepare students for life beyond the classroom.

Serving students in grades 6-12, Gateway Regional School is built around one central goal: helping every student discover their interests, develop their strengths, and chart a clear path toward future success. That journey begins in the middle grades, where students in grades 6-8, participate in an expansive exploratory program offering 26 unique course options. From *Intro to Tourism and Woodshop* to *Data and Statistics in Sports, Financial Literacy, Engineering, and Sociology*, students are encouraged to explore new ideas, uncover passions, and start thinking about possible career pathways early on. Eighth-grade students can take that exploration even further by accessing Gateway's Chapter 74 vocational programs in *Early Education and Care* and *Welding*, giving them a hands-on introduction to high-demand fields before they enter high school.

Once students reach high school, Gateway shifts into a highly personalized learning model. In grade 10, students complete a demonstration of learning, sharing their goals and aspirations for their final two years at GRS. These plans guide meaningful experiences such as internships, co-ops, and work-study placements, allowing students to gain real-world experience in fields they are excited to pursue.

Gateway's strong partnerships with colleges and universities across the country further expand student opportunities through dual-enrollment and concurrent enrollment programs, helping students earn college credit while still in high school. Looking ahead, Gateway Regional School is excited to announce anticipated openings in its Chapter 74 Vocational Programs for fall 2026, creating new opportunities for students interested in *Early Education and Care* and *Welding*.

GATEWAY REGIONAL'S COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE AND TO EXCELLENCE:

AT GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL, STUDENTS ARE EMPOWERED TO EXCEL IN LIFE AFTER GRADUATION THROUGH INTENTIONALLY PERSONALIZED LEARNING PATHWAYS AND OPPORTUNITIES, CRAFTED TO FOSTER A FUTURE OF ACHIEVEMENT, CONTRIBUTION, UNDERSTANDING, LEADERSHIP, AND COMMUNITY IMPACT.



CAREER Education

PVPA continues to invest in Arts-focused education



At a time when many public schools are trying to manage difficult budgets by cutting Art programs, Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Public Charter School continues to invest in Arts-focused education for students in Grades 7 - 12.

With an extensive Course Catalog of challenging Academic and Arts courses, PVPA employs 15

full-time Arts teachers, and now has five Arts Departments: Music, Dance, Theatre, Visual Arts and new this year, Technical Design and Production.

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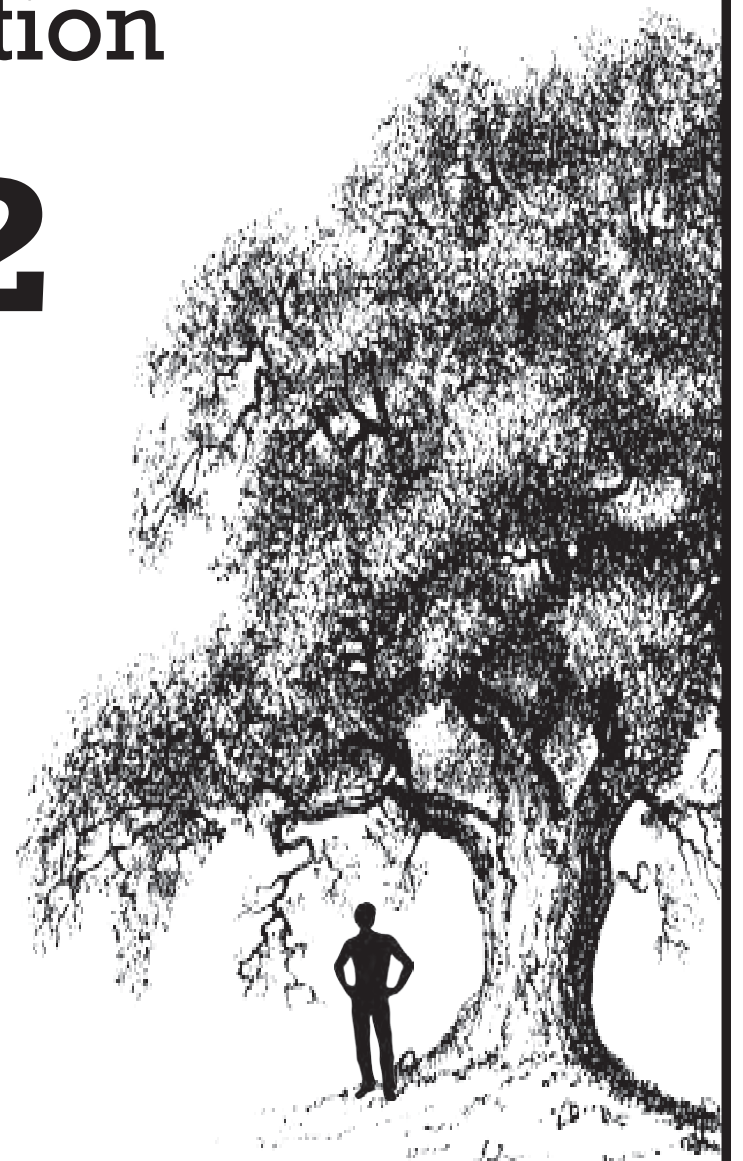
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