

Chicopee Register

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COMMUNITY

Harmony House shares volunteer opportunities, tour

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE – Harmony House, of Western Massachusetts, a social model home providing end-of-life care support, held an Open House on Jan. 13 to share volunteer opportunities and provide tours.

Harmony House, located on View Street, was founded in 2007 by the late Ruth Willemain and has five bedrooms, multiple accessible bathrooms, a kitchen, common room space and a chapel area for spiritual and quiet reflection.

The next open house is on Jan. 31 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Gina Mazza, Harmony House's Board of Directors president, explained that the open house is an opportunity to bring in volunteers post-pandemic.

"We want all the folks that ever had anything to do with Harmony House to come back, so we've opened up the house so they can see what we're doing and who we are," Mazza said.

Mazza said there are 100 four-hour volunteer shifts available in areas including companionship, cleaning, respite care, laundry, food preparation, fundraising, maintenance and many more.

She added Harmony House



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

From the left, Diane Dietzen, vice president of the Board of Directors for Harmony House, Pam Quirk, RN, advisory board member for Harmony House, Mark Urban, Marie Deitz, Gina Mazza, president of the Board of Directors at Harmony House, and Louise Labrie take a group photo during the Jan. 13 Open House at Harmony House. The Open House provided residents an opportunity to tour the home, meet volunteers and learn more about what Harmony House has to offer for end-of-life care support and volunteer opportunities.

operates through donations and grants.

"There's so much that goes into keeping this house going," Mazza said. "Because we have

don't any funds related to insurance and private payers, we have to be very cautious about how we spend our funds. So, the more volunteers we have, the more

money we have to provide the necessary requirements of running a house."

Lino Rago said Harmony House is a fantastic service and

he looks forward to the reopening.

"As you look around, it's a

See **HARMONY HOUSE** page 5

COMMUNITY

Capt. Cote completes Command Officer Development Course

10-week class included
400 hours of training

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
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CHICOPEE – Last year, Police Capt. Holly Cote completed an extensive course, learning skills that help her better serve the men and women she supervises at the police department.

In November 2023, Cote successfully passed the Southern Police Institute's 93rd Command Officer Development Course through the University of Louisville. She was able to complete 10-week satellite course in Wethersfield, Conn. at the Wethersfield Police Department.

"It's a command-level course that is 400 hours of programs for upper-level personnel that involves categories such as organizational communication, leadership, problem-solving, evidence-based policing, crime and intelligence analysis, intelligence-led policing and strategic management for 21st Century policing," Cote said.

The training focused on leadership, mentoring and coaching as well as budgeting and professional development.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CHICOPEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Capt. Holly Cote completed the Southern Police Institute's 93rd Command Officer Development Course through the University of Louisville.

A big component of the course was intelligence-led policing or using data to forecast trends in policing and assist in developing plans for asset allocations.

See **CAPT. COTE** page 6

COMMUNITY

District looks to employ early childhood coordinator

By Dalton Zbierski
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CHICOPEE – Chicopee Public Schools is searching for an early childhood coordinator, Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware announced during the Jan. 17 meeting of the School Committee.

The committee voted to approve a job description for the role, and the district will begin seeking candidates.

"This is a new position that we are looking to create due to the fact that our early childhood needs are busting at the seams," Ware said. "Currently, we have Szetela Preschool, and we have preschool students at five other schools in our district, and so we are growing due to the fact that we made a pledge to offer universal preschool."

Ware said one of the requirements through the Department of Early and Secondary Education necessary to use Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds is to focus on pre-K and early childhood literacy and access for students. The early childhood coordinator would oversee that process.

The individual would also oversee the lottery process that "supplies the students that go



TURLEY PHOTO BY TEDY MAKUCH, CHS SENIOR

Chicopee Public Schools headquarters, pictured at 1345 Dulong Circle. The district is looking to add an early childhood coordinator.

to all our different programs as well as work closely with the assistant superintendents," Ware said.

The early childhood coordinator would additionally assume some of the responsibility that currently falls on the

district's executive team.

"(The position will help steer) accountability and instruction as well as student support services as well as spe-

See **SCHOOL COMMITTEE** page 9

Senior center presents 'Art of Rightsizing' workshop

Seniors learn about downsizing and space planning

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - Seniors learned tips and tricks for downsizing on Jan. 17 during an "The Art of Rightsizing" workshop at the RiverMills Center.

The workshop was led by Christina Marques, general manager at Caring Transitions of Hampden County, and provided information on what to consider when downsizing and liquidating a home, including space planning, home clean outs, estate sales, online auctions and packing, unpacking and relocating.

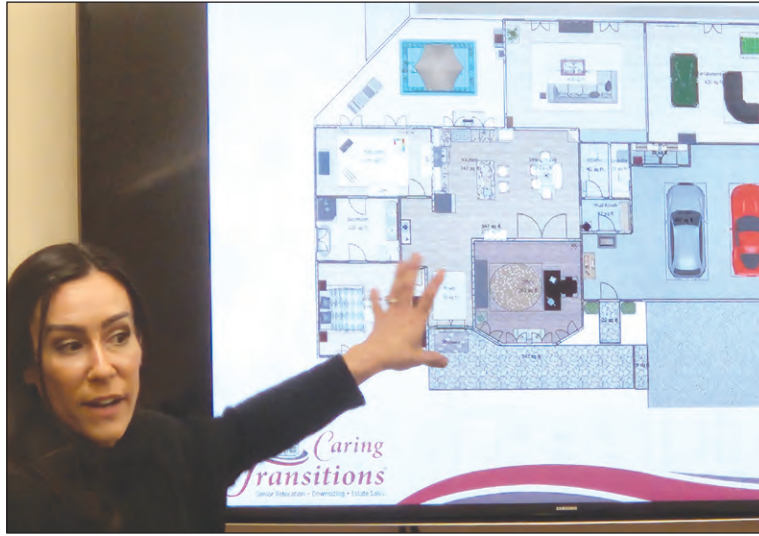
Marques also provided visual examples of the dos and don'ts of packing items and staging a home for sale.

A worksheet provided with a folder given to every attendee also shared information about the highest or lowest values of items people would sell.

Marques explained Caring Transitions has been around since 2015 and she works alongside her husband, having looked for a similar service for her family.

She previously held a corporate background and left that world to help more people in her work.

"I kind of threw everything into it because I believe in it, and I know that it's a needed service. At the end of the day, it feels good because I'm helping people. I'm offering them solutions, I'm helping them with things that they can't do on their own," Marques said. "We have a lot of happy clients because of that, you know. We're giving something that's needed, and it's



A close-up shot of Christina Marques, general manager at Caring Transitions of Hampden County, showing an example of a floor plan during "The Art of Rightsizing" workshop at RiverMills Senior Center.



Seniors listen and receive information during "The Art of Rightsizing" workshop at RiverMills Senior Center.

appreciated."

One aspect of Marques' presentation focused on space planning, which is part of the relocation process.

"So, if somebody is moving into somewhere much smaller than where they are and they have to make decisions on what is going to fit in their new apartment, we build them a custom floor plan that is drawn to scale of their apartment and then we put their furniture pieces that they're hoping to take with them and we build them a floor plan and put those pieces of furniture on there," Marques said. "And at that point in time, if something doesn't fit, we can start making decisions about removing some pieces or swapping pieces out with smaller pieces."

Marques was happy with the turnout.

"There's always a lot of questions when we do workshops because this is not like your regular move. There's a lot of moving parts when it comes to the downsizing process, so we usually get a pretty good turnout because people want to know where to start a lot of times. So, a lot of what I do is just give guidance," Marques said.

One thing Marques hopes attendees learned is thinking about what they can do now to prepare for downsizing.

"It's never too early to go through and just get rid of things that you don't need, that you don't use, that are going to be a problem later for potentially your children or somebody," Marques said. "But it also will get them so that they're a little bit more prepared once they get to that point in time because sometimes those points can come

quicker than expected."

Marques wants the community to know Caring Transitions is available to them and they tailor their projects to the needs of their clients.

"So, if there's things that they don't need from us that won't be a service we're trying to offer to them. The goal is just to make it as seamless as possible," Marques said.

Marques thanked the attendees for checking out the workshop.

"Whenever they're ready, I hope that they're confident and they want to give me a call, and I'm more than happy to walk them through the process and get everybody comfortably into their new home," Marques said.

To learn more, visit caringtransition-shampdencounty.com.



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MARCH 3, 2024



SCAN



TURLEY PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

The Chicopee golf course was discussed during the Jan. 16 City Council meeting.

City Council approves public hearing request on golf course maintenance

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
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CHICOPEE – City Council approved a motion on Jan. 16 to call the Chicopee Country Club golf course pro, auditor and Golf Commission before the Finance Committee to discuss golf maintenance company concerns.

The concerns pertain to the department's expenses, revenue and status of becoming self-supporting.

Ward 3 Councilor Susan Goff met with the Auditing Department this week and received the facts and figures. One thing that stood out to her was when the Golf Commission reported their income versus revenue, the indirect cost was not included.

"So, the numbers actually came in worse than what I thought they were going to be. The only year they did make money was in 2021. They made \$28,000. If you add in all the indirect costs from the time that the contract was signed in 2013 to 2023, the golf course has lost \$1,948,000," Goff said.

Goff referred the request to the Finance Committee "so they can go over when the golf course plans to be self-sufficient."

"Right now, we have a lot of departments, essential departments that don't have the money to give pay raises, to hire people, to (hire) staff. The golf course is not an essential department," Goff said. "The revenues have increased, but also the expenses have increased, and, for some reason, the indirect costs are not being added into those figures."

Ward 6 Councilor Samuel Shumsky asked if the motion, which originally stated the golf course would go before the Finance Committee, could be amended from profits to "review of actual finances."

Goff declined the proposed amendment, adding how the hired golf maintenance company "was supposed to make the golf course self-supporting."

Shumsky shared he spoke with Golf Pro Ed O'Neill and Auditor Sharon Riley, receiving auditing reports from Riley dating back from 2006 to 2023.

"When we discussed it – when I talked to Sharon and Mr. O'Neill – the golf course is not a for-profit course. It's a rec-

reation just like we have baseball fields, swimming pools, parks, bikeways, boat ramps and stuff like that. The Golf Commission and the staff of the course operate the facility at the best to break even and they're not charged with making a profit," Shumsky said. "So, in no other part, no other city department is charged with making it a profit."

Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello thinks the request is reasonable, adding the request for the golf maintenance company was done by former Mayor Michael Bissonnette at the time at the Golf Commission's request.

"I think the concern is that that particular goal that was set in 2013 to hire the Maintenance Department was not achieved as of 2024," Costello said. "And I think that the research that Councilor Goff has done indicates that a public hearing should be held and that way the taxpayer who was paying the bill can hear about since 2013, what were the revenues? What were the expenses? And is it possible, is it feasible that this at some point can become self-supporting?"

Costello agreed with Goff about supporting other city departments, citing the council having approved salary increases in the School Department earlier that night.

"So, I think this is a reasonable request to have a public hearing, to go to finance, have that hearing, find out what's really going on and take it from there," Costello said.

Shumsky later clarified he was not against the order going to the Finance Committee

Ward 7 Councilor William Courchesne then suggested a friendly amendment to have Riley at the meeting, followed by Councilor-at-Large Tim Wagner suggesting a friendly amendment of sending the request to the Recreation Department instead.

Both friendly amendments were declined.

After Attorney Tim Riley suggested a friendly amendment to have the golf pro, auditor and Golf Commission coming before the Finance Committee instead of the golf course, Goff agreed.

The amended motion request passed 11-0, with the motion to call the golf course pro, auditor and Golf Commission to come before the Finance Committee passed 10-1.

Needles disposal location could come to Fairview

City Council approves public hearing request

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE – The City Council approved a request on Tuesday for a public hearing to consider the establishment of a used needles disposal location in Chicopee's Fairview neighborhood.

There are currently two used needle disposal locations in the city, at the Department of Public Works and the senior center.

Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello requested the motion be withdrawn and amended from sending the request to the Finance Committee and, instead, go to the Public Safety Committee.

After the amendment passed 11-0, Costello explained the order includes an invitation to Board of Health Director Lisa Sanders and was requested by several constituents looking to expand the number of disposal locations.

"For people who that are using needles for diabetes or whatever condition they have, that can be very difficult to get to those particular locations and also, they can call Tapestry Health in regard to picking up the needles," Costello said. "What the resident is concerned with besides the inconvenience for senior citizens that have physical problems, the resident is also concerned with needles going into the regular trash. They feel that it would be more efficient if there could be more than two sites."

Ward 6 Councilor Samuel Shumsky asked Costello this.

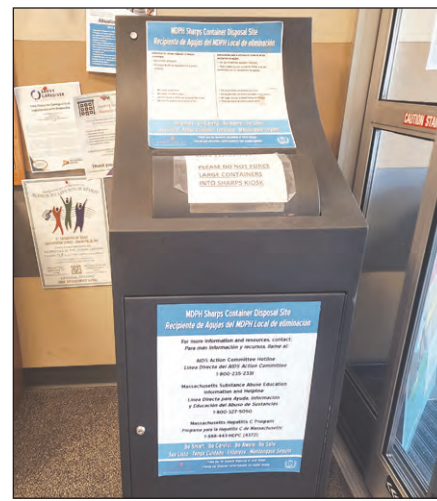
"Do you have an idea where this location would be? Would it be one, multiple? Like would it just be a pilot program?" Shumsky said.

After President/Councilor-at-Large Frank Laflamme said those questions would be taken up in committee, Costello affirmed that and thanked Shumsky for his questions.

The motion passed 11-0.

Next, public hearings for multiple proposed ordinances for parking regulations were approved. The proposed ordinances relate to traffic and safety concerns raised by residents after the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts moved to Chicopee on Carew Street in 2023.

The residents request no parking or stopping vehicles or standing on that sec-



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

This used needle disposal location at the RiverMills Center was discussed during the Jan. 16 City Council meeting. The agenda item pertained to a request for opening a used needle disposal location in Fairview.

tion of Carew Street.

Ward 5 Councilor Frederick Krampits said the motion would be sent to the Ordinance Committee for a first reading and public hearing.

"We're having some issues with trucks parking before they can get in there on the streets, particularly on Carew Street where there are residents," Krampits said. "So, we worked with engineering and this and two others are going to go before the Ordinance Committee for further discussion."

The motion passed 11-0.

Next, no parking, stopping or standing on East Main Street, both sides, from Carew Street to the American Legion Memorial Bridge.

"Again, this is the same issue with the trucks parking before (they can get in the Food Bank)," Krampits said.

This motion passed 10-0, with one councilor, Ward 8 Councilor Gary Labrie, out of chair at the time of the vote.

Lastly, no truck idling on Carew Street.

Krampits said this request "is a little different than the previous two."

"The residents in that area did not want 'no parking' restrictions in front of their houses, so working with engineering, we came up with this for no truck idling and we're going to give this a shot and see if it reduces the issues with the trucks waiting to get into the Food Bank," Krampits said.

The motion passed 10-0, also with one out of chair.

Public Announcement Concerning Chicopee Rehabilitation and Nursing Center 44 New Lombard Road Chicopee, MA 01020

On January 8, 2024, the Department of Public Health, Division of Health Care Facility Licensure and Certification (the "Department") received notification of a proposed change of ownership of Chicopee Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, located at 44 New Lombard Road, Chicopee, MA 01020 (the "Facility"). The transaction involves the transfer between the direct owners of the current licensee, Chicopee Rehabilitation and Nursing Center LLC (the "Current Licensee"). Current Licensee is currently owned equally by Akiva Horowitz, with an address at 18 Woodside Road, Springfield, NJ 07081, and Ephram Lahasky, with an address at 34 Lord Avenue, Lawrence, NY 11559. Akiva Horowitz, if deemed suitable by the Department, intends to purchase Ephram Lahasky's ownership in the Current Licensee. There will be no changes in the bed capacity or the services currently provided by the Facility. A public hearing may be requested upon a petition by any group of 10 adults. Such petition shall include the name, address, and signature of each adult and must designate one member as a representative of the group. Written comments concerning the Facility's ability to provide quality long-term care services, and petitions for a public hearing, may be addressed to the Department of Public Health, Division of Health Care Facility Licensure and Certification, Suitability Review Office, 67 Forest Street, Marlborough, MA 01752, or submitted electronically to HFLicenseAction@mass.gov, for a period of 14 days following this publication. All written or oral comments submitted to the Department may be posted on the Department's website and released in response to a request for public records.

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GUEST COLUMN



Can someone work while collecting Social Security Disability?

Dear Rusty

If a person is collecting Social Security disability benefits, can they, at any point, work at all? If they can, what is the maximum they can earn and still keep the disability benefit? I am asking because my husband is still young, but his injuries will not allow him to go back to the job he had prior to his injuries and surgeries. He does not just want to sit at home doing nothing.

Signed: **Concerned Wife**

Dear Concerned:

Actually, the Social Security Administration encourages those collecting Social Security Disability Insurance benefits to attempt to go back to work and they provide considerable leeway for them to do so. The monthly earnings limit for those collecting SSDI benefits in 2024 is \$1,550 and as long as your husband earns less than the limit while working, his SSDI benefits will not be in jeopardy. Your husband should contact Social Security's Ticket to Work program directly to protect his disability status and discuss returning to work while collecting SSDI benefits.

The Ticket to Work program assists those now receiving SSDI benefits who wish to test their ability to return to work without putting their SSDI benefits at risk. The program provides considerable assistance, including new career training opportunities and connection to potential employers and it is voluntary and costs nothing. Here is a link to Social Security's information on the Ticket to Work program: <https://choosework.ssa.gov/>

It's not mandatory for your husband to enroll in the Ticket to Work program but, in addition to other available assistance, he can request a Trial Work Period, which would allow for nine months, over a rolling five year period, during which he can earn any amount even over the normal monthly limit mentioned above without risking his SSDI benefits.

Within the Trial Work Period, only those months he earns over the normal monthly SSDI limit would count as a Trial Work Month. So, for example, your husband could work part time regularly earning under the normal monthly limit and if, in some months (up to nine), he earned more it wouldn't affect his SSDI benefits.

So, your younger disabled husband can, indeed, work while on Social Security disability, for as long as he wishes while earning under the monthly SSDI limit, the SSDI earnings limit changes yearly. He may also wish to enroll in Social Security's Ticket to Work program for assistance with developing a new career. Plus, he can take advantage of using trial work months in the event his work earnings will, at times, exceed the monthly SSDI limit.

If your husband earns over the SSDI limit for more than the nine trial work months and his benefits are consequently stopped, he can within the five-year Trial Work Period have his benefits reinstated (without again going through the full application process) if his disability, once more, renders him unable to work full time.

For starters, I suggest your husband contact Social Security's Ticket to Work program directly at 1.833-889-0108 to discuss returning to work part time. Social Security will guide him through the entire process.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with

GUEST COLUMN



Dreaming of roses, blueberries bushes and more? Get those orders in!

For me at least, a much needed break from the garden has given way to the return of other hobbies this winter.

Quilting for one. I've enjoyed working on a Christmas tree quilt and have plans to start a pumpkin quilt.

I guess when I can't garden, I take horticulture any way I can get it – even in cloth! Quilting is fun in that you can exercise your love of color by playing with different combinations.

I like to see what looks good together and stand back and admire. It seems very similar to the admiration of a thoughtfully planned out flower garden. Well, you didn't start reading to learn about my sewing fancy, so let's get to some garden talk.

Do you dream of expanding your mini orchard or berry patch? Maybe you have a particular rose you are interested in.

If you desire to shop by mail, place your orders early (yes, now) for home delivery in April and early May.

I will start my dreaming with the Nourse Farms catalog (www.noursefarms.com or 413-665-2658). Located not far away in South Deerfield, this company specializes in producing high quality berry plants (and asparagus roots plus).

It would be great to extend my blueberry picking season over a month or more, just like my parents did with their patch. I will plan to order early, mid at late season varieties to accomplish this.

Last year, Nourse switched from selling bareroot blueberry plants to selling them in one liter pots. According to the listing, plants are cut back to just over a foot. They will increase in top growth the first year.

They have found that selling potted plants

eases transplant shock and reduces the chance of the roots drying out in shipment. Sounds great to me!

Take care to amend the soil to the proper pH and site the plants accordingly and you could enjoy blueberries for decades. My parents' bushes are still bearing some 70 years later.

Maybe you are in the market for apple trees this year. For well-rooted, hardy Maine grown plants, shop the Fedco Trees Catalog (www.fedcoseeds.com). Fedco Trees offers a great selection of heirloom apple trees, sci-onwood and rootstocks for home grafting, pears, plums and grapes among other types of nursery stock and ornamentals.

For heirloom apple enthusiasts or those interested in planting a cider orchard, this is an amazing resource. The final order deadline for trees is March 1.

The catalog changes a bit every year, so be sure to check back or reach out to them if you are looking for a specific variety and you don't see it listed in print.

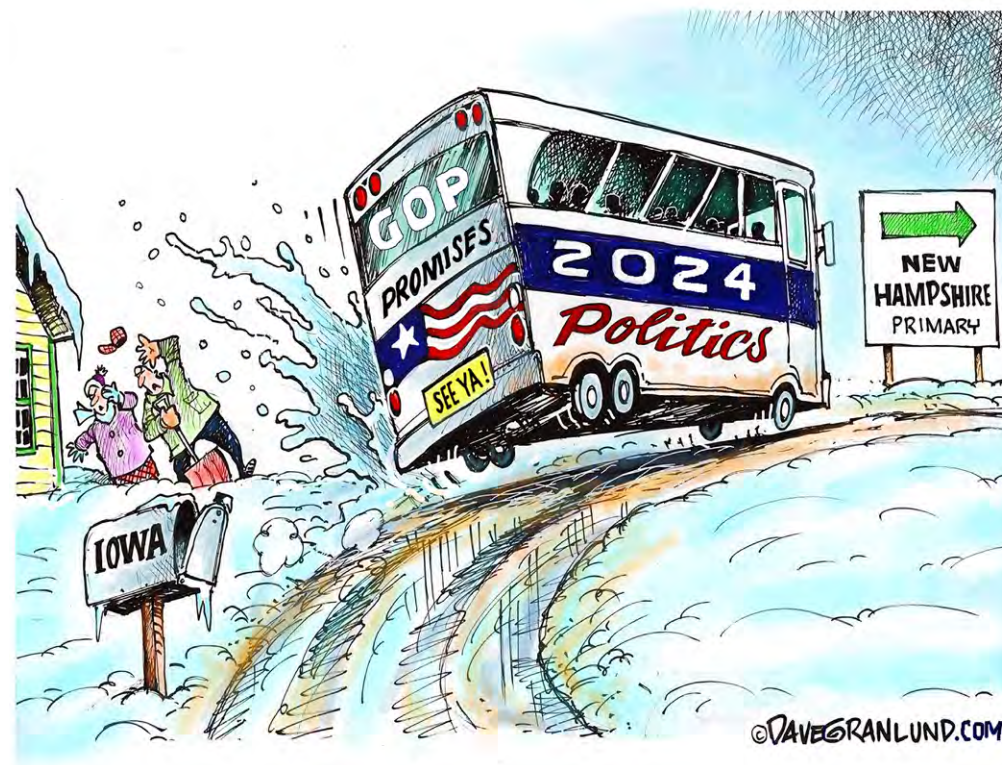
It's been a few years since I've found a reputable mail-order nursery for heirloom roses. Recently, I stumbled upon High Country Roses (www.highcountryroses.com), and I'm impressed with the variety of roses they carry, many of which I am familiar with from working at Old Sturbridge Village: Rosa gallica officialis and versicolor, Harison's Yellow, Rosa eglanteria and more.

If heirlooms aren't your thing, check out the number of ARS (American Rose Selections) winners for proven success. All of the roses they sell are grown on their own roots by vegetative propagation and are not grafted.

Some arguments in favor of own root roses include better hardiness, increased blooms, vigor and longevity. With over 600 varieties to choose from there is something for new and seasoned rose enthusiasts alike, and a lot of useful information for growers on their website.

Yes, it is the middle of winter and all should be quiet on the gardening front, but it is also a great time to get your orders in to your favorite mail order catalogs. Shop early for the best selection!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



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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.

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

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The Arbors residents deliver police sandwiches and snacks

Gesture made to celebrate Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

CHICOPEE/SPRINGFIELD – To celebrate Law Enforcement Appreciation Day on Tuesday, Jan. 9, residents from the

Arbors visited the Chicopee Police Department and Massachusetts State Police barracks in Springfield to deliver officers and troopers sandwich platters, beverages and snacks.

Their message to the first responders: “We appreciate you.”



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TINA FERRI.

Food Bank of Western Massachusetts announces new board officers

CHICOPEE – The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts was thrilled to announce on Jan. 11 the appointment of its new officers to the board of directors, effective Jan. 1, 2024. Charlotte M Boney, M.D. assumed the role of President. In her professional capacity, Dr. Boney is the Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at Baystate Health. The 1st Vice President, Willette H Yarbrough Johnson, a retired educator from the Springfield Public Schools after having served 38 years in a variety of capacities. She continues exploring her love of education as a member of the Coalition of Experienced Black Educators, an Educational Consultant group.

Our 2nd Vice President is Omar Irizarry, M.S. NMP, Director of Cross Agency Initiatives at the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health. William Harju, Treasurer, is Chief Financial Officer at USA Hauling & Recycling, and our Clerk is Shannon Yaremchak, Director of Grants and Latino Economic Development Opportunities at Partners for Community, and Director of Mission Advancement at New England Farm Workers’ Council.

These appointments reflect the Food Bank’s commitment to diverse voices and strong leadership to carry out its mission to feed our neighbors in need and lead the community to end hunger in Western Massachusetts. Dr. Boney has a proven track record of successful leadership in academic medicine, as both Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at UMass Chan Medical School-Baystate and Pediatrician-in-Chief, Baystate Children’s Hospital. “I am humbled and honored to serve as President of the Board. As a pediatrician, I have seen first-hand that food is medicine, and food insecurity

prevents children and families from living their best lives. I am thrilled to be a part of the Food Bank’s mission to end hunger in our community.”

Willette H Yarbrough Johnson brings a wealth of experience in education, and a deep understanding of the challenges faced by individuals and families struggling with hunger. “Being an officer on the Board of the Food Bank allows me the privilege of serving in a decision-making role with such a vital organization. This new year affords our Board and staff the opportunity to contemplate and generate new ways of interrupting the existence of hunger as a true enemy plaguing many in our communities. I will continue to support the mission of the Food Bank to reach the goal of ending food insecurity in Western Massachusetts.”

In their new capacities, the new officers will lead the Food Bank to implement innovative strategies, expand partnerships, and elevate the organization’s impact. “I’m excited to work with such a dynamic group of community leaders in this next chapter of the Food Bank now that we are settling into our new home in Chicopee to serve all four counties of our region more effectively and efficiently,” said Andrew Morehouse, Food Bank Executive Director.

Two new board members also began their tenure - Joesiah González, Chief Philanthropy & Communications Officer at Home City Development, Inc., and Xiaolei Hua, First Vice President of Commercial Lending at PeoplesBank.

The Food Bank extends its heartfelt gratitude to the outgoing officers and board members for their invaluable contributions during their tenure.

HARMONY HOUSE from page 1

warm house. It was built with dedication and it’s just wonderful,” Rago said.

Pamela Quirk, a retired registered nurse and advisory board member, said the open house helps residents see what they are and how it provides “peace and comfort in those last days with people who are very compassionate.”

She reflected on how Harmony House helps open conversations around end-of-life care.

“It’s a topic no one wants to talk about, but it has to be talked about. People’s wishes need to be known. People need to speak with family and friends about what do they want at end-of-life,” Quirk said. “The premise of Harmony House is the community taking care of its own community members.”

Diane Dietzen, the Board of Directors vice president, enjoys having meaningful conversations with people about what they need and what matters to them for end-of-life care.

“It really cuts through the things that people don’t necessarily want to talk about or feel like they’re not supposed to talk about when you can sit down and say,

‘Let’s talk about what’s important to you. Let’s talk about where you got to be. Let’s talk about how we make this work for you and your family,’” Dietzen said. “The answers you get are so amazing. It’s just so rewarding to be a part of that.”

Mazza encourages the community to support Harmony House however they can through volunteering, donations or spreading the word about their mission.

“Whatever goodwill they can give us we’ll take it,” Mazza said.

Rago also encourages residents to stop by.

“If nothing else, just walking in here for a five-minute tour will give them the idea, because it’s one thing to hear of something of a house there and so forth, but once you walk in and you see it, it really resets your mind as to how it can operate and what part might I have in this,” Rago said. “Maybe I’m not an expert in this field or that field, but there’s plenty of things that need to be done and you could find yourself involved in one of those things for a good cause, for an important cause.”

To learn more, visit harmonyhouse-wma.org, email at harmonyhousewma@gmail.com or call 413-315-9784.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

An exterior shot of Harmony House on View Street in Chicopee.



A wide shot of the chapel area inside Harmony House, a space providing time for reflection, contemplation and spiritual connection. The stained glass was donated by Fr. Dan Pacholec.

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Chicopee Public Library hosts programs for kids and families

CHICOPEE – Each month, the Chicopee Public Library hosts a variety of free programs for children and families. The Youth Services Department seeks to provide opportunities for entertainment and enrichment that explore literacy and promote creativity. Here is the slate of events for February 2024.

LEGO Zone will be held in the community room on Thursday, Feb. 1 at 4 p.m. It is an hour of open building time with a big pile of LEGO bricks for ages six and up.

Little Movers will be held in the children's program room on Fridays, Feb. 2 and 16 at 11 a.m. Babies crawling to 24 months and their caregivers are invited to join us for free play followed by circle time exploring songs, fingerplays and movement!

This month's All Ages Playgroup will be an extra special one in honor of Take Your Child to the Library Day, a local library holiday started by libraries in Connecticut in 2011. Playgroup will be held in the children's room on Saturday, Feb. 3 from 1-3 p.m. There will be extra toys out in

the playspace, a simple craft, and light refreshments. It is a great time for families to meet up and play. There will also be a few simple feedback questions posted for parents to respond to as a part of the library's planning process for the year.

On Tuesdays, Feb. 6 and 20 at 10:30 a.m. in the Community Room, the library will have a Little Kid Dance Party geared for kids age five and under and their caregivers. There will be songs, dancing and big movement. Older kids are welcome, as well, especially on the Feb. 20, which falls during February School Vacation.

On Saturday, Feb. 10, Elaine from Made By You Creative will present a Valentine's Day String Art. Children 8-12 are invited to learn how to do a string art craft for Valentine's Day! In this creative workshop, kids will be provided with wooden blocks pre-made with nails shaped as a heart and will be offered various colored string and instructions to make their own unique string art design. To complete this fun project, kids will also have a variety

of markers and embellishments to decorate the space surrounding their hearts. Children will leave this workshop with their own unique heart plaques - perfect for displaying or gifting on Valentine's Day! Registration is required for this program. Please contact the Chicopee Library Children's Room to sign up.

Storytime will be held in the children's program room on Wednesday, Feb. 14 and 28 at 10:30 a.m. Storytime is based loosely around the early childhood literacy skills: sing, talk, read, write and play. It is a great way for preschool aged kids to practice skills they will need for school. Library staff lead a circle time where they read picture books and lead the children in song and movement, afterwards they do a craft or activity.

Kids ages six to nine are invited to come to the Maker Zone for projects, crafts and experiments focused on Science Technology Engineering and Math. Maker Zone will be held on Thursday, Feb. 15 at 4 p.m. in the children's program room.

The second half of Story

Arts sessions will be in February. This program is for kids ages five and up to explore picture books. Story Arts will meet on Tuesdays at 4 p.m., Feb. 6 and Feb. 13. Each week will focus on a different artist. The artists for February are Dan Santat and Phoebe Wahl. The group will read books and look closely at the artwork, then make a project inspired by that artist's work.

The Anime Club, for middle and high school students, will meet on Thursday, Feb. 15 at 3 p.m. This month's theme is mochi. There will be a cute mochi-inspired craft to make and other activities.

During February School Break, the library will have some fun family programs.

On Tuesday, Feb. 20, there will be the aforementioned Little Kid Dance Party at 10:30 a.m. (see above). In the afternoon at 2 p.m., there will be a Watercolor Resist Painting activity. When you draw on paper with a white crayon and then paint with watercolor, the part with the crayon does not absorb paint! It's a fun art activity for the whole family.

On Wednesday, Feb. 21 at 2 p.m., families can play Bingo for Books. Come in for a few rounds of bingo and the winners will take home a book.

On Thursday, Feb. 22 at 2 p.m., an Art Workshop will be presented by Fermata Arts Foundation. Students in grades three to five are invited to hear a brief presentation on art, participate in an instructional drawing exercise and create art that will be sent to children in Uzbekistan. The library will host an exhibit of art from children in Uzbekistan during the month of February. This is a great opportunity for students from different countries to learn about each other. Fermata Arts Foundation encourages intercultural dialogue between countries. Children will learn that they share common values with children all over the world. The Chicopee Cultural Council has provided financial support to Fermata Arts Foundation to present this program.

For more information about the Chicopee Public Library, go to www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org.

CAPT. COTE from page 1

For instance, on a midnight shift with a lower call volume, it is unnecessary to assign as many officers to the street as one would during a busy daytime shift.

"It's really looking at the data and compiling best practices," Cote said, noting that she was able to share information with Police Chief Patrick Major to help make the department as effective and efficient as possible.

Cote has been working to develop her mentoring and coaching skills for some time; she's taken multiple courses focused on that area of growth. She explained why it is meaningful to attend leadership classes.

"I really want to bring the best out of the people we work with. I have five lieutenants that I work with and 10 sergeants, along with the 60-plus officers that work in patrol. We definitely are a team," Cote said.

The course Cote completed included 45 officers from 16 departments. She and four other people served as officers; Cote was the class historian.

"The historian ended up be-



Last year, Police Capt. Holly Cote was recognized for completing the Southern Police Institute's 93rd Command Officer Development Course through the University of Louisville.

ing the person who made sure all the photos were taken and that all the class points of interest were taken care of. It's kind of like the mom of the class," Cote said.

Back in Chicopee, Cote is optimistic that the experiences and information she has shared with the department can inspire her colleagues to become life-

long learners. She hopes they too will pursue opportunities to further their education and leadership.

Reflecting on the course, Cote feels fortunate she didn't have to travel to Kentucky to the University of Louisville. The course lasted five months, with two weeks of training each

month, but she was still able to see her family on a regular basis.

Cote noted that Capt. Doug Lambert completed a class last year with the Federal Bureau of Investigation that required him to travel to Virginia multiple times.

"I still had a family life, which is nice because I still want to see my kids and my family," Cote said.

Despite its relative proximity to Massachusetts, Cote committed fully to the course and is gracious that members of her team kept the operation moving when she wasn't present at the department.

"During that time, the lieutenants that are my shift commanders really stepped up and helped me," Cote said. "They covered for me during the time that I was away, but I was still on call and making sure I had a pulse on what's going on. Trying to make sure that everything is taken care of back here and then also going over there (to Connecticut)."

One of Cote's main takeaways from the course is that policing is constantly evolving. She said it is important for the department to be as progressive as possible, and that requires networking with other agencies.

"Policing in 2024 is so much different than it was when I started 27 years ago. You really have to keep up with the times and try to be on the cutting edge. The evidence-based policing and data driven policing are about cutting the edge," Cote said.

In recent months, Cote has stayed in touch with her class. After a string of car break-ins in Chicopee, she communicated with law enforcement personnel in Connecticut who experienced the same trend last year.

"When you're talking to a group like that, you kind of work together to come up with solutions or problem solve for the future," Cote said.

Moving forward, Cote looks to continue learning. She already signed up for another course in March to expand her knowledge.

Knowing she is fortunate to have opportunities for growth, Cote thanked Major and Mayor John Vieau for their encouragement. She again thanked the members of the department for having her back.

"We're all a team, and without them being here every day and making sure the work gets done, I wouldn't have had the opportunity to go to such an amazing class. I can't thank the Chief, the Mayor and all officers I work with enough," Cote said.

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TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Elijah Kleps drives for the hoop.



Kayden Miller makes his way down the court following a defensive rebound.

Colts get win in fast-paced matchup

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE — Prior to last Saturday afternoon, not very many opposing boys' basketball players had walked into Chicopee Comp's Herbert H. Curry Gymnasium and scored 45 points.

That's exactly what Shepherd Hill senior guard Lucas Miglionico, who's the leading boys' basketball scorer in Central Mass, did.

The outstanding offensive performance by Miglionico wasn't quite good enough for the visiting team from Dudley. The Colts squeaked out an 83-77 victory over the Rams in a non-league home game with the help of five double figure scorers.

"This is my fifth season coaching the Comp boys' varsity basketball team and I don't ever remember an opposing player scoring more than 40 points in this gym," said Comp head coach Gavin Miller. "You

have to give that kid a lot of credit. At times, it looked like he could do whatever he wanted on the court. I'm very glad that my team won the game. It took a total team effort today."

Senior guard Tineus McCluster led the way offensively for the Colts with 20 points.

"We really wanted to prove ourselves against one of the best teams from Central Mass.," McCluster said. "We showed that we're capable of playing well against any team. Everyone played a key role in today's game."

Comp's other four double digit scorers were junior guard Garrett Gauthier (16 points), sophomore guard Brody Fay (14 points), freshman guard Xavier Kleps (12 points), and senior guard Kayden Miller (10 points). The other two Colts scorers were sophomore guard Francis Jordan (6 points), and freshman guard Elijah Kleps (5 points).

Shepherd Hill and Chicopee Comp entered their first



Garrett Gauthier heads into the paint.

meeting on the hardwood with a combined 15-3 record.

Comp, who had an 8-2 overall record following the home victory, won their first five games of the regular season before losing back-to-back games to Taconic and Putnam. The Colts won their third con-

See COLTS page 8

Pacers win two of three

CHICOPEE — During the past week, Chicopee boys basketball has started to put some wins on the board after dropping their first five games. The Pacers defeated Amherst and Longmeadow in consecutive games

followed by suffering a defeat against Fitchburg last Friday night.

The Pacers are now 3-7 on the season and need some more wins to get back to .500 and look for a tournament spot.



Jaycob Andujar drives toward the hoop.



Jeremy Rodriguez takes a free throw.



Dominic Garcia goes for the long-range jump shot.



Nadir Johnson fights for a layup chance.

Chicopee falls to Chaug

CHICOPEE — Last Wednesday, Chicopee wrestling was defeated by Minnechaug at home.

There were some Pac-

ers who scored wins in their matches, as Jacob Lopez, Matthew Beach, and Michael Jenkins were winners in their respective matches.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Jacob Lopez gets ready to grapple at 215.



Matthew Beach looks for the leverage at 144 pounds.



Michael Jenkins gets the takedown at 138.



Khalil Verdugo starts his match at 132 pounds.

Divisional win streak ends in Utica

UTICA, N.Y. -- The Springfield Thunderbirds (18-13-3-2) saw their five-game win streak against North Division opponents come to an end on Saturday in a 6-3 loss to the Utica Comets (12-13-3-3) at Adirondack Bank Center.

The T-Birds quieted the notoriously noisy "Aud" just 49 seconds into the first period. In his first shift back with the T-Birds since being returned from St. Louis, Jakub Vrana gathered in a puck near the top of the right circle and whipped a pass toward the crease. Nikita Alexandrov deflected the first attempt off the pads of Utica goalie Isaac Poulter, but Alexandrov jammed his own rebound into the twine, giving Springfield a 1-0 lead for a second straight night.

After shutting out the Comets on Nov. 24, Vadim Zherenko had tougher sledding in the first period on this night, as the Comets evened the score, 1-1, at 9:50 on a well-placed wrister from Filip Engaras under the crossbar.

With time winding down, Comet defenseman Michael Vukojevic crept up into the high slot and was given room to slap one along the ice past Zherenko at 17:51 to give Utica a 2-1 advantage.

With less than a minute to play in the period, the Comets added insurance after a lengthy stretch of zone pressure. It culminated in a funky goal at the 19:29 mark. Ryan Schmelzer arrived for a one-timer from the high slot. The Comets captain muffed the shot, as it badly missed wide of the goal, but glanced off a defender and careened behind Zherenko to give Utica a 3-1 lead into the intermission.

Things took another turn in Utica's favor when Chase Stillman drew a penalty shot when he was hooked on a breakaway chance just 1:21 into the second period. The rookie winger made no mistake from there, as he bested Zherenko with a backhand-to-forehand deke, giving the Comets a 4-1 advantage.

Springfield stopped the four-goal run at 9:25 shortly after the first of three power-play chances that eluded the visitors. After winning puck control in the left corner, Alexandrov sauced a pass into the middle of the ice for Will Bitten. Bitten's backhander caromed off Poulter's chest and, in turn, found Zach Bolduc, who one-timed the rebound through the Comets goalie to cut the Utica lead down to 4-2, a score that stood to the end of the period.

Dylan Coghlan made things even more interesting when he one-timed his league-leading 11th goal from the blue line at 7:13 of the final period to cut the deficit down to 4-3. However, this time around, the T-Birds ran out of comeback magic. Graeme Clarke scored a momentum-killing goal at 10:02, using a screen to beat Zherenko over the glove from the left-wing circle.

Springfield's power play scuffled on the evening against the AHL's top PK unit, going 0-for-4 and leaving another chance on the table in the final period while trailing 5-3. In the end, the T-Birds ran out of time in this comeback try, and Justin Dowling rounded out the scoring with a tally into an empty net in the final minute.



RiverMills Center announces upcoming programming

CHICOPEE – The following programming will occur at the RiverMills Center, Chicopee's senior center at 5 West Main Street.

Coffee Hour with the Chicopee Commission on Disability

The Council on Aging will host the Chicopee Commission on Disability on Monday, Jan. 22 at 9 a.m. at the RiverMills Center.

Join members of the Commission on Disability as you learn what their purpose is and how they can help advocate for any inclusion, safety or accessibility issues you may have within the city of Chicopee. The snow date for this event is Wednesday, Feb. 7. You must register in advance by stopping by RiverMills center or by calling 534-3698.

Dental Wellness at RiverMills

The COA will offer the program "A Lifetime of Dental Wellness" Thursday, Jan. 25 at 10 a.m. at the RiverMills Center.

Join Frederick J. Kapinos, DDS of Chicopee Dental Care for a presentation on dental care past and present, and learn the importance of routine dental exams and oral health. You must register in advance.

Relaxation for Sleep at RiverMills Center

The COA will host the workshop "Relaxation for Sleep" on Friday, Jan. 26 at 1:30 p.m. at the RiverMills Center.

During this one-hour class, you will explore ideas about improving your quality of sleep using holistic tools and methods to relax and set an environment to comfortably rest and restore the body's energy that it needs to maintain health and wellness. This class is facilitated by Jeffrey Wyda, RN, HN-BC, H.S.M.I. You must register in advance by stopping by RiverMills center or by calling 534-3698.

Meet the Chicopee Police Chief at RiverMills Center

The COA will host a coffee hour with Police Chief Patrick Major on Monday, Jan. 29 at 9:30 a.m. at the RiverMills Center.

Major will be at RiverMills Center for an opportunity to meet and ask any questions you may have about the police department and what goes on daily with the CPD. You must register in advance by stopping by RiverMills center or by calling 534-3698.

COLTS from page 7

secutive game against Shepherd Hill (8-2). The Rams' only other setback was at Tantasqua Regional, 59-44, two days after Christmas.

Sean Mackin, who's the Athletic Director for the Chicopee Public Schools, was also previously the A.D. at Tantasqua.

Both teams were also ranked in the top ten of the initial MIAA Division 2 state power rankings.

Shepherd Hill, which is a regional high school, was ranked seventh, while Comp was ranked ninth.

A year ago, the Colts lost to Leominster, who's another Central Mass. team, in a Division 2 preliminary round game. It was the first time that they qualified for the new state tournament.

While Miglionico scored his team's first 18 points of the game with the help of four 3-pointers, the duo of McCluster and Miller combined to score 15 of the Colts' 22 first quarter points.

With 15 seconds left in the opening quarter, an inside hoop by Shepherd Hill senior forward Alex Lanpher (7 points) tied the score for the first time at 20-20. Then Xavier Kleps made a lay-up giving his team a two point lead entering the second quarter.

The Rams were leading 32-29 with four minutes remaining in the first half before the Colts put-together an impressive 14-1 run.

"I think our run at the end of the second quarter made a big difference for us," coach Miller said. "We had a ten point halftime lead, and we didn't trail in the second half."

The home team retook the lead at 34-32 following a McCluster old fashion three point play. He scored 11 points in the first 16 minutes of the contest.

Then Gauthier, who scored 12 first half points, made a 3-point-er and a lay-up which

pushed the Colts lead into double digits (44-33) for the first time.

The Colts held a 44-34 halftime lead before Miglionico began the second half with another 3-pointer and a jumper that closed the gap to five points. He finished the game with a total of nine 3-pointers.

With the help of a 12-4 run, the Colts took a 56-43 lead following a Fay coast-to-coast lay-up with a little more than three minutes left in the third quarter.

Another Miglionico 3-pointer sliced the deficit to 59-56, but Xavier Kleps also hit a long bomb sending the home team into the final eight minutes holding a 62-56 lead.

Xavier Kleps scored six more points during the first three minutes of the fourth quarter, which helped Comp keep the lead.

The Rams couldn't get any closer than four points over the final minutes, as the Colts celebrated their eighth victory of the regular season.

Shepherd Hill senior forward Zach Wennerberg scored all 16 of his points in the second half.

The two teams could meet for the second time this season in the Division 2 state tournament.

Bonsignore to do pre-season 'test' at Daytona

WADING RIVER, N.Y. – Three-time NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion Justin Bonsignore will compete in the ARCA Menards Series pre-season test at Daytona International Speedway this weekend.

Bonsignore will drive a car prepared by Andy Hilenburg, the 1995 ARCA champion, who also has two Daytona ARCA wins to his credit. The cars are prepared by Fast Track High Performance Racing.

The pre-race test is in preparation for the upcoming ARCA Menards Series opener at Daytona during Speedweeks on Saturday, February 17. The weekend will also include the opener for the NASCAR Xfinity Series and the NASCAR Cup Series Daytona 500.

Seven different drivers have earned the right to take laps around Daytona via the "Road to Daytona" program. Invites include the two regional series that are part of the ARCA Menards Series platform - the three ASA-branded touring super late model series, the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion and the

NASCAR Advance Auto Parts Weekly Series frontrunners. Although current 2023 champion for the Whelen Modified Tour Ron Silk isn't making the trip, Bonsignore is filling the seat to take laps around one of the fastest and iconic tracks in the world.

The trip will be his first laps on the Daytona high-banks of his career.

"Taking laps at Daytona is definitely something every race car driver dreams of when you start racing," Bonsignore said. "Appreciate the opportunity given by NASCAR, ARCA, Andy and his entire team to be able to get behind the wheel. Looking forward to soaking in the experience and showcasing the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour on this stage."

For more information on the ARCA Menards Series, visit ARCARacing.com. For the latest updates surrounding Justin Bonsignore, fans are encouraged to visit JustinBonsignore.com and also follow Bonsignore's Athlete page on Facebook for updates, including from the track on race day.

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Brody Fay fights to get through a pair of guards

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2012 Volvo Vn Vnl
VIN: 4V4NC9EJ0CN542486
A 2 Z Express LLC
38 Greenwood St.
Westfield, MA 01085

2020 Honda Cr-V
VIN: 2HJKRW2H52LH696823
Shawn Burnham
200 Lambert Terr.
Chicopee, MA 01020

2022 Lexus Is 500 F Sport
VIN: JTHUP1D22N5001660

Malena Christine Tracy
38 Mountain Ave.
South Hadley, MA 01075
01/19, 01/26, 02/02/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD24P0040EA**
**Estate of:
Irene Jendrysik
Date of Death: 11/08/2023
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Karen Hughes of Belchertown, 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: **Karen Hughes of Belchertown, 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 02/06/2024.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and

may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 09, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
01/19/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No. HD24P0047EA**
**Estate of:
Geraldine Ann Kagan
Date of Death:
June 10, 2023
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

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

Wendy Zeitier of Chicopee, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

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

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD19P0627EA**
**Estate of:
Rosalia Nubile
Date of Death: 12/12/2017
CITATION ON PETITION FOR**

FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by: **Roberta Nubile** of Granby, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order that **Roberta Nubile** of Granby, MA be appointed as Successor Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

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 02/07/2024.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

The estate is being administered under formal 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 recipients are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 10, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
01/19/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD23P2526GD**
**In the interests of
Orion D Shearer**

of **Chicopee, MA** Minor
NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time:
A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **12/12/2023** by

Jennifer J Davis of Chicopee, MA
Scott L Davis of Chicopee, MA

will be held **03/06/2024 08:30 AM Review Hearing**. Located: **50 State St, 4th Floor, Springfield, MA 01103**

2. Response to Petition:
You may respond by filing a written

2. Response to Petition:
You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the Court; and

Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor:
The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Counsel for Parents:
If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing:
A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.
Date: December 20, 2023

Rosemary Saccomani
Register of Probate
01/19/2024

See More Legals on Page 10



SCHOOL COMMITTEE from page 1

cial ed, as we continue to grow our preschool. We currently do not have someone overseeing that. That's absorbed by the executive team," Ware said.

The position would be new; it is not currently in the district's budget. Ware said it would be funded by ESSER money initially, as one of the allowances through ESSER funds is to cover positions that support evidence-based practices such as early childhood learning.

"So, this person would be under independent contract, and we're looking to actually start this person sooner rather than later because our lottery starts very soon, and we want to get in front of it," Ware said.

Ware acknowledged that ES-

SER funds are going away in September 2024, so he said a three-fold conversation is ongoing to identify funding. First, the position will have to be put into the budget, and Ware is working with his team on the budget-planning process.

Secondly, the position will also be funded through the Student Opportunity Act, which allots money to support early childhood learning. Third, the district has vacant positions on the budget that Ware purposely didn't fill to fund the early childhood coordinator role.

"I have an interpreter position that I didn't fill on purpose to actually support this position," Ware said. "This is just going off of need and paying attention to what was already in the budget and reworking some of those vacancies that I'm

looking not to fill that are not teacher driven but are on the independent contract side."

When the position is filled, the early childhood coordinator would report to Assistant Superintendent for Accountability and Instruction Jennifer Belville. Before the School Committee voted to approve the job description, Ware again stressed the importance of establishing the role.

"This is coming out of need because of the situation we are in with our early childhood situation; the numbers and the actual overseeing of the new curriculum we implemented and things we need to do to be in compliance to actually continue to support our programs," he said.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Wednesday, January 31, 2024 at 6:30 PM*** in the Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Special Permit application under Chapter 275-58 (C)(5) for the purpose of one residential unit in a business building located at 277 Grattan Street. Applicant – Tan Tan & Associates, LLC, Zhi Tan, 39 Beauregard Terrace, Chicopee, MA 01013.

The plans/application can be viewed on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>

The January 31, 2024 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. Zoom credentials are available upon request by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>). You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov. 01/12, 01/19/2024

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Wednesday, January 31, 2024 at 6:30 PM*** in the Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Special Permit application under Chapter 275-58 (c)(5) for the purpose of a property becoming a mixed property. The creation of one residential unit in a business building located at 386 Chicopee Street. Applicant – Dance Dynamics/Angela Klusmen, 386 Chicopee Street, Chicopee, MA 01013.

The plans/application can be viewed on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>

The January 31, 2024 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. Zoom credentials are available upon request by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>). You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov. 01/12, 01/19/2024

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Wednesday, January 31, 2024 at 6:30 PM*** in the Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Special Permit application under Chapter 275-30 B for the purpose of 15 temporary trailer or seabox container storage October 1 through January 31 to assist with Walmart's needed extra storage for holiday merchandise. Waiver requested – duration of temporary trailers on site, where 14 days is permitted, and 120 days are requested located at 591 (545) Memorial Drive. Applicant – Walmart, Wendy Hubbard, 591 Memorial Drive, Chicopee, MA 01020.

The plans/application can be viewed on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>

The January 31, 2024 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. Zoom credentials are available upon request by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>). You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov. 01/12, 01/19/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD24P0084EA

Estate of: Thomas J Anderson Date of Death: 03/11/2023 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 **Stanley Rhodak of Westfield, 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: **Stanley Rhodak of Westfield, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve 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 **February 14, 2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

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

Date: January 12, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
01/19/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD23P2645PM

In the matter of: Gabriele A Gray Of: Chicopee, MA RESPONDENT (Person to be Protected/ Minor)

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 & §5-405

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Raymond Gray of Chicopee, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Gabriele A Gray** is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that **Raymond Gray of Chicopee, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **02/05/2024**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition.

If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

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

Date: January 08, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
01/19/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD23P2598EA

Estate of: Premier Chance Hackett Also Known As: Omar Sharif Hackett Date of Death: 6/11/2023 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Vicky Parker Hackett of Waldorf, MD** and **Vicky Parker Hackett of Waldorf, MD**

has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
01/19/2024

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

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on January 22, 2024, at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon

for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2003 BMW 325Xit
VIN:WBAEP33403PF02679
Bruce Alvarez
21 Kenway Dr.
Springfield, MA 01104

2003 Honda Accord
VIN:1HGCM66503A080004
Tania Ortiz
53 Andrew St. #1
Springfield, MA 01109

2005 Acura TSX
VIN:JH4CL96895C003912
Carmen Martinez
27 Deerfield Ave., Floor 3
Hartford, CT 06112

2005 Ford Explorer
VIN:1FMZU74E15UA44871
April Cullinane
77 Hollis St
Lowell, MA 01852

2005 Ford F150
VIN:1FTRF12W65NB40383
Le Grand Bello Trans. & Shipping
63 Joliette St. #4
Manchester, NH 03102

2005 Volkswagen Touareg
VIN:WVGGB77L75D012042
Yaritza Batista
350 Liberty St., Apt. 3L
Springfield, MA 01104

2006 Audi A4
VIN:WAUDF78E56A007079
Tatyana Rios
18 Coomes St. Apt. 1R
Springfield, MA 01108

2007 Honda Pilot
VIN:2HKYF18456H510614
Stephen Elijah Jahred
362 Dixwell Ave.
New Haven, CT 06511

2006 Lexus RX330
VIN:2T2HA31U26C106401
Sean Menard
PO Box 225
Haydenville, MA 01039

2006 Nissan Pathfinder
VIN:5N1AR18W36C610115
Rachel Mello
6 Independence Way Apt. 203
Franklin, MA 02038

2010 Ford Taurus
VIN:1FAHP2DW7AG136181
K'ily Ro'land
1883 Main St. Unit 3633
Springfield, MA 01101

2010 Nissan Murano
VIN:
JN8AZ1MW4AW125942
Lisa Roix
63 Esther St. Apt. 3
Worcester, MA 01607

2012 Ford Focus
VIN:1FAHP3H22CL229875
Connor Howe
6931 Robert Dr.
South Easton, MA 02375

2012 Honda Pilot
VIN:5FN9YF4H21CB053911
Luke Andrews Higgins
986 Longmeadow St.
Longmeadow, MA 01106

2013 Mercedes-Benz Sprinter
VIN:WD3PE7CC1D5737435
K & River Construction Corp
25 Jaques Ave.
Worcester, MA 01610

2018 Ford Transit T-350
VIN:1FTBW3XG9JKA96115
Desmond Pesima
152 Cascade Lake St.
Las Vegas, NV 89148

2019 Benson Flatbed 524A
VIN:1TTF483A6K3136043
Center Transport Inc
523 Houlton Rd.
Easton, ME 04740

2019 Hino 258/268
VIN:5PVENJ8JV4K4S74874
Rentex Inc.
110 Shawmut Rd.
Canton, MA 02021

2019 Volvo Vn Vnl
VIN:4V4NC9EHXKN872292
Big Eagle Express LLC
14433 Triskett Rd. 301W
Cleveland, OH 44135

2021 Wabash Trailer
VIN:IJJV532D0ML253839
Big Eagle Express LLC
14433 Triskett Rd. 301W
Cleveland, OH 44135

01/05, 01/12, 01/19/2024

Public Announcement Concerning Chicopee Rehabilitation and Nursing Center 44 New Lombard Road Chicopee, MA 01020

On January 8, 2024, the Department of Public Health, Division of Health Care Facility Licensure and Certification (the "Department") received notification of a proposed change of ownership of Chicopee Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, located at 44 New Lombard Road, Chicopee, MA 01020 (the "Facility"). The transaction involves the transfer between the direct owners of the current licensee, Chicopee Rehabilitation and Nursing Center LLC (the "Current Licensee"). Current Licensee is currently owned equally by Akiva Horowitz, with an address at 18 Woodside Road, Springfield, NJ 07081, and Ephram Lahasky, with an address at 34 Lord Avenue, Lawrence, NY 11559. Akiva Horowitz, if deemed suitable by the Department, intends to purchase Ephram Lahasky's ownership in the Current Licensee. There will be no changes in the bed capacity or the services currently provided by the Facility. A public hearing may be requested upon a petition by any group of 10 adults. Such petition shall include the name, address, and signature of each adult and must designate one member as a representative of the group. Written comments concerning the Facility's ability to provide quality long-term care services, and petitions for a public hearing, may be addressed to the Department of Public Health, Division of Health Care Facility Licensure and Certification, Suitability Review Office, 67 Forest Street, Marlborough, MA 01752, or submitted electronically to HFLLicenseAction@mass.gov, for a period of 14 days following this publication. All written or oral comments submitted to the Department may be posted on the Department's website and released in response to a request for public records 01/19/2024

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The Town of Huntington is seeking an **INTERIM TOWN CLERK**. This is a salaried position for approximately 18 hours per week. Application and complete job description are available online at www.huntingtonma.us or by emailing **admin@huntingtonma.us**. Applications are due by January 26, 2024. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: **MONDAY AT NOON**
or call: 413-283-8393

CATEGORY:					
1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18
17	18	19	20	21	22
21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.00	23	Base Price \$27.50
24	Base Price \$28.00	25	Base Price \$28.50	26	Base Price \$29.00
27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00	29	Base Price \$30.50
30	Base Price \$31.00	31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00	35	Base Price \$33.50
36	Base Price \$34.00	37	Base Price \$34.50	38	Base Price \$35.00
39	Base Price \$35.50	40	Base Price \$36.00		

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____
Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

Firefighters donate coats, hats, backpacks to Boys & Girls Club

Boston Bruins Foundation and ThreadTech also contribute

CHICOPEE – The City of Chicopee extends its heartfelt gratitude to its incredible heroes, the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts and the Chicopee Firefighters Local 1710!

Thanks to their unwavering commitment to the community, along with the generous support from the Boston Bruins Foundation and ThreadTech Coats, 50 coats, hats and backpacks were successfully delivered to the Boys & Girls Club in Chicopee last week.

This heartwarming event exemplifies the true spirit of community building and stepping up to help where it's needed most. Together, a difference was made, and smiles were put on the faces of countless amazing kids.

Special thanks to Fire Chief Dan Stamborski and the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts for inviting the Mayor's Office to be part of this meaningful event.

A very special thank you goes out to President of City Council, Frank LaFlamme, and Ward 7 City Councilor, Bill Courchesne, for also contributing and showing their unwavering support. The commitment to the community is truly inspiring.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHLOE SOTO, MAYOR'S OFFICE.



WILBRAHAM & MONSON ACADEMY TITAN TALKS

Join us for coffee and conversation to learn more about WMA's programs and community.



MIDDLE SCHOOL
(families interested in grades 6-8)
Tue., Jan. 23, 9 - 10 a.m.

UPPER SCHOOL
(families interested in grades 9-12, PG)
Thu., Jan. 25, 8 - 9 a.m.

RSVP: www.wma.us/TitanTalks

Open Swim in Chicopee

CHICOPEE – Open Swim in Chicopee occurs on Sundays from Noon to 2 p.m. at Chicopee Comprehensive High School at 617 Montgomery St.

The swim season began Jan. 14 and goes through March 10. Please bring ID or Proof of Residence. The cost for Chicopee residents is \$3 and the cost for non-residents is \$5.

Questions? Email Jamey Mercer at jmercer@chicopeema.gov.

EDUCATION

COLLEGE NEWS

Chicopee students named to Quinnipiac University Dean's List

HAMDEN, Conn. – The following Chicopee students were named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2023 semester at Quinnipiac University: Madeline Fournier, Kristin Labrecque, Gracie Martineau and Shreeya Patel.

SNHU announces Fall 2023 Dean's List

MANCHESTER, N.H. – It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University congratulates the following students on being named to the Fall 2023 Dean's List. The fall terms run from September to December. The following Dean's List students are from Chicopee: Skyler Edwards and Christina Harris