

Chicopee Register

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COMMUNITY

Abbey Brook Restoration in Szot Park is making progress

Three-phase, \$17 million project could take 5-7 years

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
dzbierski@turley.com

CHICOPEE – State officials traveled from Boston to Szot Park on Tuesday morning to tour the construction site that exists as the city eliminates multiple dams and restores Abbey Brook.

They were led by city officials and employees, who showcased the progress that has been made on Phase I of the project.

The three-phase, \$17 million project could take between five and seven years to complete, GIS Coordinator Michelle Santerre estimated. Phase I, involving the removal of the Lower Bemis Pond Dam and restoration of lower Abbey Brook, will be complete by summer's end.

Phase II will include the replacement of the Front Street culvert and “daylighting” the underground section of the brook while Phase III pertains to the removal of the Upper Bemis Pond Dam and further restoration of Abbey Brook.

Abbey Brook is a 1.5-mile long waterway that rises in Springfield, flows through Szot Park in Chicopee and empties into the Chicopee River after



TURLEY PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

The three-phase, \$17 million project to restore Abbey Brook in Szot Park is progressing.

traveling through the small culvert underneath Front Street.

For generations, the brook's flow was interrupted in Szot Park by both the Upper and Lower Bemis Pond Dams, which were originally installed to harvest ice. The dams outlived their intended use and began to degrade and impact water quality, requiring the city to act.

Szot Park sits on nearly 70 acres of land, and almost half of it is covered within Abbey

Brook's confines, said Benjamin Strepka, director of Parks & Recreation. Beyond improving safety, the project has added benefits.

“When we address that (safety) problem, we also address another problem in creating some new passive recreation areas throughout the park,” Strepka said. “While we do have a robust park system with over 30 parks (in Chicopee), we are lacking in passive recreation ar-

ea. So, this (allows for) having trails and paths through a natural area where people can come and enjoy nature.”

Mayor John Vieau emphasized that “it's all about passive and active recreation.”

He recalled making many fond memories at Szot Park growing up and said it is important that future youths have the same opportunities.

“I think this is our crown jewel. This is our Boston Com-

mon. This is our Central Park, and we want to look at renovating, updating and modernizing the park to meet the needs of future generations. That's the goal,” Vieau said.

Vieau embarked on the muddy tour of the construction site alongside Rebecca Tepper, the state's Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Undersecretary

See **SZOT PARK** page 7

COMMUNITY



TURLEY PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

The old library on Springfield Street will live to see new use.

Vieau sees new life for old library on Springfield Street

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
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CHICOPEE - After the City Council approved funding for the former Central Library renovation project on Jan. 30, Mayor John Vieau reacted positively to the decision.

The proposal, which was presented by Vieau and Director of Planning & Development Lee Pouliot, focused on turning the former library space on Springfield Street into a multi-flexible community hub for several areas. Also,

the building would become ADA-compliant with an elevator installed, have its roof replaced and undergo general repairs.

The total project budget is \$10,778,985, with available funding including a \$750,000 bond approved by the City Council in 2019, a \$500,000 earmark from the State Legislature and approximately \$2.6 million in ARPA Funds.

Vieau explained how the space has sat vacant for over 20 years after the library moved to

See **OLD LIBRARY** page 8

COMMUNITY

Chicopee celebrates Black History Month in flag-raising ceremony



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Chicopee Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware cranks the lever to raise the flag as Anne Gancarz, assistant director at Chicopee Public Library, Laura Bovee, director at Chicopee Public Library, Jennifer Pickering, district director for State Sen. Jacob Oliveira (D-Ludlow), Ward 1 City Counciler Abigail Arriaga, City Council Vice President/Councilor-at-Large Robert Zygarowski and Mayor John Vieau watch during the Black History Month flag-raising ceremony in Chicopee on Feb. 2.

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - Residents, community members and elected officials gathered at City Hall Plaza on Feb. 2 to celebrate Black History Month with a flag-raising ceremony.

Black History Month, cel-

ebrated annually in February, remembers the important people and events in the history of the African diaspora.

Mayor John Vieau, Nia Rennix, executive director of the American Red Cross of Central-Western Massachusetts, State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), State Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield), U.S.

Army Veteran Antwaun Irvin, vice president of the Chicopee Braves Football and Cheer Association, and Ayanna Crawford, chief of staff to State Rep. Orlando Ramos (D-Springfield) and president of the Kwanzaa Collective, provided remarks.

See **BLACK HISTORY MONTH** page 8

City to move forward with Fill Management Plan

More than 240,000 tons of soil will fill Baskin parcel, lower tier of Uniroyal property

By Dalton Zbierski
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CHICOPEE – After receiving a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicopee can move forward with its Fill Management Plan for the lower tier of the Uniroyal property and low-lying areas of the Baskin property.

“It’s been estimated in excess of 240,000 tons of soil will be used to fill that space,” Mayor John Vieau said during his Feb. 6 mayoral briefing.

The City Council unanimously approved a \$2,650,625 mayor’s appropriation to the Special Account for the RiverMills Fill Program from stabilization funds on Tuesday to help launch the process. Vieau expressed his enthusiasm.

“It’s no secret that we’re really excited about the Baskin property, which

is that four-acre parcel,” Vieau said. “We have a preferred developer that’s going to be building I believe just over 100 residential units, a multi-purpose indoor sports complex and also a brewery, converting the old Baskin building.”

Vieau also said that a preferred developer is interested in the Uniroyal property, which sits on more than 12 acres. He anticipates the properties could one day generate money for the city.

“As part of the redevelopment of those sites that everyone’s hoping like I am to get on the tax rolls, we need to implement a fill program,” Vieau said.

Lee Pouliot, director of Planning & Development, said the project is many years in the making. It took the city seven years to get permitted with the ACOE to fill the lower tier of the Uniroyal property and back portion of the Baskin parcel.

Pouliot shared the city’s vision.

“The proposal is to solicit other entities from across Massachusetts to purchase volume where they can bring soils that meet our criteria as detailed in our

Fill Management Plan to our site so we can use it as backfill,” Pouliot said.

The city proposes backfilling the two sites at a level that is close with the existing top of the levies to make both areas more developable and consistent with redevelopment plans slated for the Baskin property.

Vieau said the current market fee for the tipping is approximately \$20 per ton. If everything goes well, the city estimates a revenue of approximately \$4.8 million, which would offset the costs approved during Tuesday’s meeting.

Pouliot said the project will be broken into two parts and likely take several years. The Baskin property will be filled first because the developer is hoping to break ground as soon as possible.

The Uniroyal property requires more infrastructure work and will take longer. Filling can’t begin until Michelin North America, Inc. completes their work in the lower tier, and several other changes must be made.

“For example, the Oak Street pump station, which is behind the Uniroyal

property, will no longer be needed, and we’ll be able to abandon and demolish that. It will be one less pump station that the DPW will need to maintain and manage once the fill management is implemented,” Pouliot said.

Most of the fill will go to the Uniroyal property, and the speed at which it is completed will rely on the timeliness and size of the shipments of fill the city receives.

“We may very well get a few very large-scale generators that want to buy up most of the volume that’s available, which will be great and efficient for us. It will be less packages that we need to review, and we’ll complete it faster,” Pouliot said.

However, if several smaller projects respond with smaller volumes, it could take longer.

“I would anticipate that when we release the RFP to provide the private sector with the opportunity to purchase space, and we start getting responses, we’ll have a better idea of how much volume we’ll be taking and how fast this will move,” Pouliot said.

Vieau meets with seniors at ‘Coffee with the Mayor’

The event takes place every first Thursday of every month

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
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CHICOPEE - Mayor John Vieau met with seniors on Feb. 1 for a “Coffee with the Mayor” event at the RiverMills Center.

The event, taking place the first Thursday of each month, provides seniors the opportunity to meet with Vieau to share their questions and concerns about Chicopee.

This month, Vieau talked with residents about renovations to the former Central Library, beginning implementation of the FUSUS Real Time Crime Center, taxes, scams and Vieau’s goal of touring all the schools in March and fostering more community engagement.

Vieau was thrilled with the turnout, stressing how he wants seniors in Chicopee to know the city cares about them.

“I’ve always said they put in their time and now it’s time for Chicopee to help take care of them, and I’m thankful for their accomplishments, their contributions to our community,” Vieau said. “It’s an opportunity to help, like I said, our older adults. To communicate with them, to get a pulse on what they’re



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Mayor John Vieau answers questions from residents during “Coffee with the Mayor” at RiverMills Senior Center on Feb. 1. Vieau holds these events the first Thursday of every month.

feeling and to help them address issues and concerns they have about the city of Chicopee, and I think we’ve been able to accomplish a lot by having that open dialogue.”

Vieau said he enjoys doing the event, saying “anything goes.”

“They can ask me any question, and I’ll try to get an answer. If I don’t have it, I’ll try to get it for next month and I

think they really appreciate that,” Vieau said. “I think it’s been very successful and that’s why I continue to do it.”

Vieau also appreciates the engagement with attendees.

“It’s nice to see that people are paying attention and some are learning about what’s actually happening in the city of Chicopee and they’re there to be informed,” Vieau said. “We talked about a lot of things that are, I think, really important to the people who live here.”

Vieau reflected on the impact “Coffee with the Mayor” has left on attendees, sharing the story of two people who met with him the day before after they

attended one of the events.

“One of them said, which really resonated with me, is that, ‘You know, the mayor’s very approachable. He’s a down-to-earth guy and you can come and talk with him on just about anything,’” Vieau said. “And they shared that message with someone else because they said they were going to come here to talk about the concern they had, and it wasn’t their first time here.”

Vieau encourages the community to check out “Coffee with the Mayor”. He wants residents to know he will listen to their questions and concerns.

“I think that’s what it’s all about is that I’m approachable. I care about what you think. You are a resident or a stakeholder, you’re invested in Chicopee in some way, shape or form and you have a voice, and your voice should be heard,” Vieau said. “And can we help you with some challenge that you’re facing in your life that is within our realm of helping? We want to be able to help you. Sometimes, there’s things I can’t help people with, but most of the time if there’s a will, there’s typically a way.”

Vieau’s message is to get engaged in the community, and he’s ready to engage with residents.

“If you want your voice heard, I’m willing to listen. I’ve learned to be a good listener and I think ‘Coffee with the Mayor’ is about that,” Vieau said. “I get to give information sessions and keep people up to date. But I am also there to listen.”

The next “Coffee with the Mayor” takes place on March 7 at 9:30 a.m.

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LEGAL NOTICE

The Annual Meeting of Corporators of Country Bank for Savings will be held on Monday, March 11, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at 420 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA for the election of Corporators, Trustees and any other business as required by law or the Bylaws of Country Bank for Savings.

Dawn Piechota
Clerk of the Corporation

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School Committee receives pedestrian safety updates, Safe Routes to School assessments

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE – The School Committee received updates on Feb. 7 about pedestrian safety and the status of Safe Routes to Schools assessments.

Ward 4 Representative Sandra Peret brought up the item “as a focus” after the student pedestrian accidents around Bellamy Middle School, which took place last year on Nov. 9 and Dec. 11.

Also, Peret mentioned Safe Routes to School, a free, federally funded program through MassDOT working on increasing safe walking, biking and rolling for elementary, middle and high school students through a collaborative-community-based approach to bridge the gap between health and transportation.

“I was just wondering what the status was of that. If we did a study of all of our schools?” Peret said.

Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware said yes, directing the conversation to Assistant Superintendent for Student Support Carol Kruser, who spoke on

behalf of Shelley Dellaquila, director of transportation, who was unable to attend the meeting.

Right now, Kruser explained, Dellaquila and Safe Routes to School have been working on mapping arrival and dismissal observation on all schools, walk audits to look at crossing areas and crossing staff and sending all addresses to the program so they can create radius maps of the schools.

“So, then we’ll sit down and talk about the results that they found and how we can increase pedestrian safety, bicycle safety. So, we’re working right in conjunction with them,” Kruser said.

Kruser added Dellaquila wanted the committee to know assemblies on pedestrian and bicycle safety are being worked on at the elementary and middle schools for the spring.

“So, we’re working very closely with them and we’re very fortunate to have them working with us as well,” Kruser said.

Peret next mentioned the Walking School Bus program as another item of helping children get safely to school.

“I know that last year, Stefanik School had talked about probably starting that. I don’t know if that occurred or is it still in the process?” Peret said.

Ware replied, “It hasn’t started yet” and said he has met with Principal Amanda Theriault about the idea and also heard from Streiber Elementary School Principal January Wilson and Belcher School Principal Samuel Karlin.

“So, we’re actually going to have a bigger conversation about that,” Ware said.

Speaking with those principals, Ware shared how his previous district had the Walking School Bus program for many of the neighborhood schools.

“Sometimes we don’t pay attention to the fact that the walking school bus is a method of transportation for families who are not mobile or are unable to actually make sure that their child has a safe way or be with a responsible adult to actually get to the school,” Ware said. “So, we are actually having a large conversation about expanding that to the schools that are truly neighborhood

schools and have a large walking population, but they haven’t started just as yet.”

Ware hopes to have another update at a future meeting.

Ward 7 Representative Donald Lamothe expressed another safety concern: people not shoveling their sidewalks.

“You go down Chicopee Street, where we’ve had some pedestrian deaths, they’re not shoveled. So, I was wondering if this team that’s the walking school bus can impart upon the parents if their sidewalks aren’t shoveled on the way to school that they say something, you know, see something, say something,” Lamothe said. “Because we need to start getting this, making sure these sidewalks are shoveled when it snows.”

Lamothe noted it’s been a milder winter, but the issue still needs to be addressed.

“It’s melted in a day or two, but that’s a day or two of kids walking possibly in the street,” Lamothe said.

Ware agreed, with the discussion ending there.

Books, stories & art

Visual art inspired by books with *Enchanted Circle*

CHICOPEE – Through the Holyoke-Chicopee Family & Community Program, which coordinates services and engages families, join “Books, stories & art: Visual art inspired by books with *Enchanted Circle*”.

Enchanted Circle will lead these hands-on sessions with fun art and literacy projects for families with children ages three to five years old.

Tuesdays, Feb. 13 – April 2 from 10:30 a.m. to Noon

Informal playtime at 10:30 a.m.
At the RiverMills Assisted Living at 7 River Mills Drive, Chicopee

Register with Christine at zaskeyc@

VOC kicks off 2024 Tax Assistance Program

Offering free tax preparations to eligible residents

CHICOPEE – Valley Opportunity Council, which manages the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program providing free tax preparation to those of low and moderate-income, began its 2024 tax preparations on Monday, Jan. 29.

VITA in-person tax preparation appointments are available from Jan. 29 through May 15 at 35 Mt. Carmel Avenue, Chicopee, 300 High St., Holyoke and new this year, 20 Lathrop St. in West Springfield.

To schedule an appointment, call 413-612-0206. Those eligible for the VITA program must live in Massachusetts with an income of up to \$60,000. Appointments are available on weekdays, evenings and Sundays.

Certified volunteer tax professionals help qualified individuals prepare and file basic state and federal tax returns and prior year returns. VOC also offers free electronic filing (e-filing) of tax returns,

allowing for individuals to receive their refunds much quicker than paper filings.

The core mission and goal of VITA is to assist low- to moderate-income taxpayers in satisfying their tax responsibilities and minimize financial hardships, in turn saving taxpayers thousands of dollars in filing fees.

In 2023, VOC helped 743 individuals file their state and federal tax returns through the VITA program. VOC has been providing the VITA program for 25 years in the communities of Chicopee, Holyoke, and more recently, Westfield.

VOC is the largest and most diverse Community Action Agency in Western Massachusetts with an annual budget of \$45 million. With this Federal designation, VOC has established a powerful network of support and collaborative services intended to encourage community members to actively achieve self-sufficiency for themselves and their families. VOC employs over 250 staff members and has 150 local vendors, providing a significant economic investment in the community.

Open registration for George Webb Memorial Basketball Tournament

CHICOPEE – The Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee is happy to announce its 17th Annual George Webb Memorial Basketball Tournament. Registrations are now being accepted and can be completed at the Club or by visiting their website at www.bgcchicopee.org.

The double elimination tournament is open to teams in the following grades for boys and girls: 3rd & 4th, 5th & 6th and 7th & 8th.

All tournament games will once again be held at the Club’s Chicopee Savings Bank Gymnasium.

If you are interested in entering a team in the tournament, please call Julius Santos, Athletics Coordinator at the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee, at 413-206-4107.

The tournament is scheduled to begin Thursday, March 7. The cost is \$300 per team. Full registration is required by Feb. 27.

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ANSWERS ON PAGE 7

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you, Chicopee residents, for donating to Goodwill

To the Editor,
Thank you, Chicopee residents, for donating clothing and household goods to Goodwill! In 2023. You donated 27,000 pounds and, in doing so, made a difference for those most in need in our community.

Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries is a community-based nonprofit organization. Its mission is to help individuals with barriers to self-sufficiency to achieve independence and dignity through work. Your donations support this mission by helping individuals in our job training and career programs find jobs and by making low-cost quality goods available to individuals and families looking to stretch their dollars. You can learn more about our mission at goodwillmass.org.

Now more than ever, we need your donations. Please continue to bring your gently used clothing and household goods to our Fairview store at 1604 Memorial Drive.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Goodwill!

Sincerely,
Joanne K. Hilferty
President and CEO

Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries

GUEST COLUMN



Fox sparrow

I received an email from a birder in Brimfield, who sends bird updates on a regular basis. He reported an acquaintance in Hardwick have five fox sparrows visiting their yard this winter. He said, "Lucky them, I only see one or two fox sparrows in the yard during migration and didn't see any this year."

The fox sparrow is a large sparrow about 7 inches in length. It has rufous streaking and a gray head and back. The tail and rump are reddish brown and the underparts whitish with brown streaking. There is a central, irregular shaped dot on the breast

Like many sparrows, it feeds on the ground eating seeds, fruits and insects. It jumps forward and back pulling up ground debris to uncover food beneath. It may come to feeders where seed is scattered on the ground.

Fox sparrows inhabit deciduous or coniferous woods, brushy areas and wood edges. Their song is a short series of clear, melodious whistles.

The female lays four to six light blue green eggs in a cup like nest of grasses, lichens and leaves lined with hair fur and rootlets. The nest is placed on the ground under a small tree or shrub.

Brimfield birds

I received an email from a Brimfield resident. He said, "[I] wanted to pass on some of my backyard action this winter. I was surprised to see five or six cowbirds along with a solitary red wing blackbird last week." He has a lot more juncos around with the white throated sparrows. He said chickadees and

See **BACKYARD** page 6

GUEST COLUMN



Spare the vase this Valentine's Day

My husband gave me a bouquet of roses on the first Valentine's Day we spent together.

They were beautiful in the vase, but I felt bad that he had spent the money he did for the gift. Being in the business, I told him how much roses are marked up because of the holiday.

It's a supply and demand thing mostly, and tradition to give them of course, but wouldn't it be nice if we received a gift that kept on giving? One solution would be to pre-order your sweetheart a rose bush through a mail-order nursery.

What excitement it will bring when it arrives in springtime, and then imagine the delight when it blooms year after year. If your interest is piqued, then read on to learn about proper planting techniques and basic rose culture, so that you (or your sweetheart!) will be a successful rose grower.

Rose bushes will be shipped once it is deemed safe from freezing temperatures. In my experience, mail-order roses can arrive anywhere from the end of April through the end of May.

First off, unpack the rose and soak its roots in room temperature water for at least one hour (and up to twelve). This is necessary to rehydrate roots that may have dried out in the shipping process.

Once rehydrated, the rose is ready for a quick pruning. Carefully snip back any broken or crossing canes.

A rose bush 8-12" tall at planting will start out nice and bushy. If you need to trim back canes that are longer than that, prune back to an out-facing bud, that way growth will be directed out and not towards the plant's center.

Consider placement carefully. To bloom their best, roses need, at the very least, six hours of sunshine.

Morning sun is preferred, so that dewy foliage will dry quickly, diminishing the chances of foliar disease such as black spot or powdery mildew. Soil should drain well and be rich in nutrients or amended to that end.

The planting hole should be prepared while the rose bush is soaking. Dig a hole about twice the diameter of the plant's roots, roughly one and a half feet by one and a half feet.

As long as the soil removed from the hole is decent, in other words, not all sand or clay, 50% of it can be mixed with well-rotted manure (fresh will burn!) or cured compost, and used as back fill. First, take a small amount of the mixture and make a mound in the hole for the plant to sit on and the roots to spread down.

In our locale, and anywhere that temperatures dip below 0°F, the graft union (the bump at the plants base), if there is one, should be planted two inches below the soil surface. With that in mind, position the rose on the mound at the proper depth and begin to refill the hole with soil, a third of the hole at a time, firming as you go.

Once the rose bush has been planted, water it well at the base of the plant (a couple gallons at least). If you find that the water isn't sinking in, but running away, dam up a couple inches of soil about a foot away from the base of the plant to act like a basin.

Water is crucial at this stage; never let a newly planted rose dry out. A three inch layer of bark mulch or cocoa bean hulls can be applied around the rose to reduce moisture loss and discourage weed competition.

Avoid fertilizing until the rose has broken dormancy and is growing vigorously. Use half strength fertilizer and only do so until mid-July so that succulent growth will have a chance to harden before cold weather hits.

This way your rose will be less prone to winter kill. I do not provide any winter cover for my roses.

There will likely be a few branch tips that suffer winter kill regardless. Those I prune back in springtime when the roses start to leaf out.

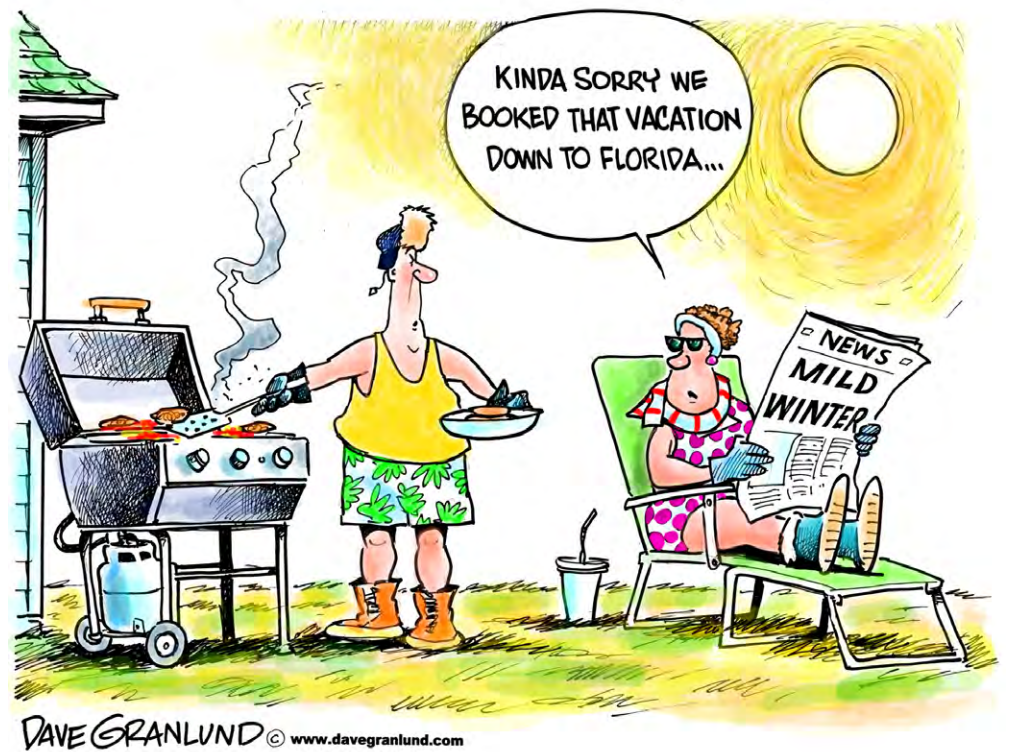
I prune just past the damage, at a leaf bud. Besides that, and general shaping, the only other pruning I do is deadheading.

Spent blooms should be removed from rose bushes to direct energy away from seed production and back to flower production. Where the cut is made depends on the type of rose that you have.

Over the last decade, tremendous gains have been made in rose breeding, resulting rose bushes that blend well into landscape plantings and require less maintenance for the homeowner. I still enjoy my heirlooms, and grow the Rugosa to remind me of the beach.

Still others prefer climbers or hybrid teas. Whatever your sweetheart may fancy, indulge this Valentine's Day in a gift that will keep on giving!

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.



WE CARE ABOUT YOUR NEWS!

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

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Chicopee Pharmacy opens on Prospect Street

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
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CHICOPEE – Chicopee Pharmacy, the city's newest pharmacy, opened its doors last month at 635 Prospect St.

Owner Mike Shenouda, RPh, graduated in 2018 from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, earning his pharmacy degree. He spent time working at Walgreens and CVS before establishing his own pharmacy.

"I'm starting to build a small customer base. We offer a lot of good things," Shenouda said. "I have competitive prices. In the long run, I think I will do well here, but it takes some time."

Shenouda is very patient. He spent a year looking at possible locations for his pharmacy. His travels took him all throughout Massachusetts and into Connecticut.

Shenouda chose to launch his business in Chicopee because the price of commercial buildings was much more affordable. He also enjoys the people and likes everything about his location on



Mike Shenouda, RPh, opened Chicopee Pharmacy on Prospect Street last month.

Prospect Street.

Long before he opened a pharmacy, Shenouda was a resident of Alexandria, Egypt. In his home country, Shenouda was a medical student; he was always intrigued by biology, chemistry and physics and gravitated toward the medical field at a young age.

Shenouda also developed important skills working with his father, a businessman. He helped run the business and learned how to connect with customers.

"The best thing is if people like you. If people like you, your business will grow no matter what," Shenouda said. "Wherever I go, I build a good relationship with people and (make) friendships. They like me, I like them, and that's how I like it. I enjoy retail in general."

Reflecting on his experience working at CVS and Walgreens, Shenouda recalls how busy he was. He would see countless customers daily, teaching him how to work with rhythm and pace.

At his own pharmacy, Shenouda is prioritizing the customer experience over the quantity of customers he services.

"I hope that by managing my own pharmacy, I will have fewer customers but (provide) much better service for the people," Shenouda said. "They will get very good, competitive prices, even better than CVS. People have the wrong impression that because CVS and Walgreens are big, they will get a better price. That is not true. We deal with same insurance company and do the same transaction. By owning, I can be more flexible with the price."

Shenouda also hopes to provide a delivery service, bringing prescriptions to those who cannot make the trip to Prospect Street.

When he isn't operating his pharmacy, Shenouda is a man of the community, as he is a deacon at a church in Charlton.

Asked what his ultimate dream is, Shenouda hopes to one day collaborate with his close friends and open a larger pharmacy.

"I have friends who want to open an independent pharmacy. I'm the first to (open one). We keep talking to each other. Hopefully, we'll have a very successful (business) here. If everything goes well, I might open a bigger one with my friends. Then, I'll keep growing the franchise," Shenouda said.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

Mike Shenouda, RPh, is originally from Alexandria, Egypt. He opened a pharmacy in Chicopee in January.



Greater Springfield Habitat introduces 'Hearts and Homes' challenge, fundraiser

WEST SPRINGFIELD - Every \$20 donation made to Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity by end-of-day Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2024, will be entered for a chance to win a Spa Renewal Day gift card for two people at the exclusive Canyon Ranch in Lenox.

The winner will be drawn at our Valentine's Day dedication, celebrating the completion of our newest home in Holyoke. Participants don't have to be present to win.

"We are very appreciative of Canyon Ranch for partnering with us on this fundraiser. Stable affordable housing plays a key role in a family's well-being and Canyon Ranch wants our donors to have a chance at increasing their well-being by supporting our programs," said Aimee Giroux, GSHFH executive director. "What a fantastic way for us to celebrate the completion of a home on Chestnut Street in Holyoke that will be dedicated and sold to the Santos family on Valentine's Day."

The "Hearts and Homes" challenge

came about when a volunteer asked the resort that focuses on prioritizing its clients' well-being, if it would be interested in supporting Greater Springfield Habitat through a fundraiser. The donation committee complied and donated a gift card worth \$700.

To donate, visit habitatspringfield.org/donate; <https://bit.ly/3lq36gO>; or text "BUILD413" to 44-321 and follow the prompts.

GSHFH is dedicated to strengthening communities by empowering low-income families to change their lives and the lives of future generations through homeownership and home preservation opportunities. Since 1987, Greater Springfield Habitat has built or repaired 129 homes in Hampden County. This project represents the first home to utilize ICFs, which will further reduce long-term costs for the future homeowners.

For more information, contact Brandy O'Brien, Marketing and Communications manager, at obrien@habitatspringfield.org or (413) 739-5503 x1005.

Events and announcements

Hatha Yoga Classes

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Parks & Recreation Department is offering a Hatha yoga class. The class is being offered on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. It runs through Feb. 28.

This class series is open to all levels of experience from those wanting to start, restart or maintain an ongoing yoga practice. It is designed to increase strength and flexibility in an accessible way. Focusing on providing a movement-based practice that can be used for stress management, can help boost circulation and will promote overall health and wellbeing. All classes will be held at Chicopee River Mills Senior Center. Exercise Studio #17 room located on the second floor of the building at 5 W. Main Street, Chicopee. This class is open to ages 15 years and older. Instructor Caitlin Lavin has over 10 years of teaching Hatha Yoga and over 15 years experiencing other various forms of yoga. The cost for a six-week session is \$80/Resident \$90/Non-Resident or a drop-in fee of \$15/Residents \$17/Non-Residents per class. Space is limited so register now! To register go to www.chicopeerec.com.

CPR/AED & First Aid Training Class

CHICOPEE – The Parks Department is offering a certification class in First Aid/cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an automated external defibrillator on Saturday, Feb. 17 from 8:30

a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Chicopee Parks & Recreation Dept. 687 Front St. This class is open to people ages 11 and up.

The cost for the full class is \$80 for residents and \$90 for non-residents. These are basic certifications & do not apply for daycare providers, lifeguards and nurses. Participants are invited to bring a snack. Class space is limited! To register go to www.chicopeerec.com. Deadline to sign up is Thursday, Feb. 15.

Child and Babysitting Safety Class

CHICOPEE – The Parks Department is offering a Child and Babysitting Safety class for youth ages 11-15 years old. The class will be held at the Chicopee Parks office 687 Front St. on Thursday, Feb. 22, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$80/Residents \$85/Non-residents.

The class will cover such topics as playtime, behavior management, phone skills, common do and don'ts, bathing, feeding, changing diapers and fire safety. Class space is limited! To register go to www.chicopeerec.com.

Open Swim in Chicopee!

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

The swim season 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.

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City Council approves reviewing allotted time for public input

Rules Committee will hold a public hearing on the item

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE – The City Council approved on Feb. 6 for the Rules Committee to consider reviewing the time allotted during public input.

Currently, residents are allowed three minutes to speak during public input. If changed, the allotted time would increase to five minutes.

Ward 1 Councilor Abigail Arriaga thinks adding two minutes would help constituents, citing numerous times residents have told the council three minutes is not enough time to share their thoughts.

“Not everybody is good at public speaking and sometimes just a few more extra minutes does give a few more just that focus time to truly get their point across and sometimes we do need to kind of listen for a few extra minutes,” Arriaga said. “The point of the public input is to give them the opportunity to speak to us.”

Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello agreed with Arriaga, asking Attorney Tim Riley if the order should be more specific in citing the minutes change and naming City Council and subcommittee meetings.

Riley replied he understood the point Arriaga was making but said, “It’s not specific.”

“I think it would have to be specific as to we want to change this rule, we want to delete three minutes and insert five. The way it looks to me reading it, it looks more like a discussion than an actual rule change,” Riley said.

Ward 4 Councilor George Balakier asked Arriaga what other cities and towns do for public input.

“Do you know, for example, if I say, for example, either Holyoke or Springfield, if they have five minutes or is this just an arbitrary figure that we’re using? Do you know?” Balakier said.

Arriaga replied no for Holyoke and

Springfield and said “It’s kind of a mix” across the state.

“It just really depends on the city and what the city wants to do,” Arriaga said.

Councilor-at-Large Tim Wagner then presented a motion to amend the language for the order to read “City Council Rule 12D be amended from three minutes to five minutes.”

Before the amended motion was voted on, Ward 5 Frederick Krampits shared he doesn’t “necessarily agree or disagree with the five minutes” and understands the motion, adding how some subcommittee meetings had 20 people for public input, and at three minutes per person, that’s one hour of public input taking place.

“But then if you had five minutes, that’s another added on to that. Now, I’m not saying that we need to rush through the process restricting it – by keeping it – at three minutes,” Krampits said. “But I know from past meetings I have had constituents that are frustrated that they were like, ‘Well geez, it took me over an hour to speak on something.’ So, you know, from a process point of view, I just want the Rules Committee to be aware of that when they’re discussing it. I mean, if it ends up being five minutes, it’s five minutes. If it stays at three, it stays at three.”

Costello appreciated the council having the discussion.

“We have to have discussions and we have to have public meetings in regard to issues that taxpayers bring to our attention. So, I feel that this is a legitimate, a very legitimate request to refer something like this to the Rules Committee and, hopefully, we all agree that a discussion should take place because it’s driven by their constituents, many of them,” Costello said.

After receiving clarification from Riley on Rule 12D, President/Councilor-at-Large Frank Laflamme halted the discussion so it could be taken up in the Rules Committee.

The motion to amend the language for the order passed 12-0, followed by the amended order passing 12-0.

Getting from here to there in Western Massachusetts

New RIDE WMA tool maps transportation gaps

CHICOPEE – Affordable and reliable transportation for individuals facing food insecurity is a key concern at the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts as it confronts the underlying causes of hunger. A 2019 USDA study found that 46% of individuals living in the United States with low incomes and without cars live more than a half mile from a grocery store.

Reliable and frequent public transportation is crucial, as the alternative is time-consuming treks combining public buses with long walks, bike rides on busy streets and/or costly rideshares. These transportation challenges extend beyond food access, creating obstacles to employment, medical care, education and more.

To help identify communities with little to no connectivity to public transit, the Food Bank is releasing RIDE WMA, a new mapping tool commissioned by the Food Bank, funded by T4MA, a statewide coalition focused on improving Massachusetts’ transportation systems, and Feeding America, the national network of Food Banks, and developed by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. The tool maps the region’s public transportation options in relation to grocery stores, places of employment, higher education, and medical care.

Included in the map are all three major RTA’s (Regional Transit Authorities) that operate in Western Massachusetts: the PVRTA serving Hampden and Hampshire Counties, the FRTA serving Franklin County, and the BRTA, serving Berkshire County. The tool also includes information about the area’s often overlooked micro-transit options that are especially effective in rural towns.

The map can help the public better understand how well their communities are being served by public transit. People can use the tool to ask questions such as,

How well is my neighborhood connected, via public transport, to jobs with

second and third shifts throughout the region?

Are people in my community able to access places for food and health care services if they don’t own a car?

If I take a bus to my doctor’s office near the end of the day, will there be a bus running late enough to take me home?

“Anyone who lives in Western Massachusetts understands how challenging it can be to get from one area to the next if you don’t own a car, but RIDE WMA really makes clear that difficulty,” said Laura Sylvester, the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts’ public policy manager. “We hope that the tool will illustrate the need for increased funding for the RTAs and for innovative solutions like micro transit in rural areas. Better transportation options will lead to better health, education and employment outcomes for our residents. We’re grateful to PVPC for their great work and to T4MA and Feeding America for the funding.”

Revealing gaps in public transportation is crucial for demonstrating the need for funding. Too often, transportation funding gets stuck in a feedback loop that prevents necessary improvements. People who rely on public transportation are then forced to cobble together increasingly fewer options to get from one place to another. This tool will help us track inefficiencies.

“The RIDE WMA online tool provides a great first step for advocates evaluating potential transit gaps in western Massachusetts” said Jacob Dolinger, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission senior planner/GIS analyst. “It also helps inform the public of transit options in the area and provides an opportunity for contributions to advocacy through the submission of email comments.”

The Ride WMA tool aims to break the negative cycle of inadequate services and help make the case for additional funding for public transport in neighborhoods and communities in need across the region.

To access the RIDE WMA transportation tool, visit: <https://www.pvpc.org/RideWMA>.

BACKYARD from page 4

nuthatches and the titmice population is down a bit He had a few starlings that stop by now and then along with cedar waxwings. He has not seen as many wild turkeys this year.

Golden crowned kinglet

A Brookfield resident emailed two photos of a golden crowned kinglet he took on Saturday, Jan. 27. He said, “Walking into my home, I spotted this tiny bird at the door.” Tiny is an apt description of this bird as it is only 3 ½ inches long.

More Brimfield birds

A frequent emailer said he read about the sighting of bluebirds and grackles in this column. He wrote, “Coincidentally we had a lone grackle in the yard last week. It showed up for a couple of days. I thought it was unusual to see just one grackle, they are most often seen in a group especially this time of year.”

The Brimfield resident said, “When I mentioned to a friend from Belchertown that I had seen a grackle at the feeders he mentioned that he had a group of about 30 grackles visit his feeder briefly one day last week.”

He said three days ago “I noticed a male bluebird at the feeders. It has visited daily since first being seen. The bird is feeding on suet cakes and a ‘log’ that is made of seeds, fruit and meal worms.”

He counted over 70 juncos and four white-throated sparrows in the yard. He recently had three starlings, who seemed to like a feeder containing suet pellets. He

said he rarely sees starlings at his feeders. He removed the feeder to deter the voracious eating starlings.

Bluebirds

This seems to be the year for flocks of bluebirds showing up at feeders. On Friday, Jan. 26 six or eight male and female bluebirds were at my suet cake, which contained fruits. I removed the ice from a small dish like feeder, I use for mealworms, grape jelly or orange halves. The bluebirds ate all the mealworms and I filled it again. They have been hanging around daily and I put out mealworms twice a day.

Tuesday, I looked out the window and saw several bluebirds perched on my car. One occupied a side mirror, another was on the roof and two on the hood by the windshield wipers. I think they may have been drinking the water from the melting snow on the car.

Later, when I looked to see if they were still there, a mourning dove was perched by the wiper blade.

Large flock of robins

A North Brookfield resident, who lives on Lake Lashaway, emailed on Friday, Jan. 17 she had a flock of 30 or more robins zoom in to the neighborhood.

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

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IN THE CITY



Construction is ongoing to restore Abbey Brook.

SZOT PARK from page 1

tary for Environment Stephanie Cooper and Tom O'Shea, commissioner of the state's Department of Fish and Game.

Vieau said they arrived to view how the city is spending federal, state and local funding, as the project progresses. Gov. Maura Healey and Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll recently included a \$5.6 million earmark in the upcoming budget to help cities such as Chicopee improve infrastructure, which Vieau appreciates.

"First, I think it's best for us to always work together," he said. "It's a collaboration and a team effort and, hopefully, the end result is something special that we'll all be proud of."

Santerre led the tour, as Director of Planning & Development Lee Pouliot was unavailable. She described the importance of viewing the site in person.

"Actually, seeing it versus looking at some photographs, there's just no replacing the actual visual of being on site. I would say a day like today is vastly important for everybody," Santerre said.

Ultimately, the project will eliminate a public safety risk posed by the dams, improve water quality, reduce the flood risk and enhance recreational activities for the community.



GIS Coordinator Michelle Santerre led the tour on Feb. 6.



Upper Bemis Pond Dam will be removed as part of Phase III of the project to restore Abbey Brook.



From left, Tom O'Shea, commissioner of the state Department of Fish & Game, State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), Rebecca Tepper, the state's Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Undersecretary for Environment Stephanie Cooper and Mayor John Vieau in Szot Park on Feb. 6.



State and city officials toured the construction site in Szot Park on Tuesday.

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From the left, Jennifer Pickering, district director for State Sen. Jacob Oliveira (D-Ludlow), State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), City Council Vice President/Councilor-at-Large Robert Zygarowski and Mayor John Vieau watch as Ucee-Uchenna Nwachukwu performs "Lift Every Voice and Sing" during Chicopee's Black History Month Flag-Raising ceremony on Feb. 2.



U.S. Army Veteran Antwaun Irvin, vice president of the Chicopee Braves Football and Cheer Association, reflects on Black History Month as Jennifer Pickering, district director for State Sen. Jacob Oliveira (D-Ludlow), Ward 1 City Councilor Abigail Arriaga, State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), City Council Vice President/Councilor-at-Large Robert Zygarowski, Mayor John Vieau and State Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield) listen.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH from page 1

Also, Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware cranked the lever to raise the flag as Ucee-Uchenna Nwachukwu performed "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

Crawford, who also received the proclamation from Vieau, explained how discrimination and racism still exist and "as we move forward this month, we have to be really thoughtful in thinking through how are we really celebrating Black History Month."

"I implore all of our educators to not just have a worksheet about a particular African-American famous person or what have you but really delve into the central aspect of Black culture, African culture and really make sure that your students understand that we, along with

everyone else in this country, have been able not only to sustain ourselves, but be a part of what America is today," Crawford said.

Rennix highlighted those paving the way for her, including Frances Reed Elliot Davis, the first officially registered African American nurse accepted into the Red Cross nursing service, Dr. Jerome Holland, the first African American appointed to chairman of the American Red Cross Board of Governors, and Jesse Thomas, the first African-American hired at the Red Cross and who led the organization's racial integration.

"So, as executive director of Central and Western Massachusetts American Red Cross, I proudly continue to add to the work of these amazing, amazing leaders who paved the way for me and all the

others who look like me at the American Red Cross," Rennix said.

Arriaga said, "The resilience that the African community has shown time and time again is incredible."

"It shouldn't just be a worksheet. It should be a fabric, it should be an understanding because from understanding, we have love and with love, there's no hate and that's how we change the world," Arriaga said.

Irvin reflected on athletics, urging athletic directors and governing board members to create more opportunities for minorities to become head coaches in local sports, citing the NFL having nine head coaches of color.

"Just maybe one day soon we can see the same change in Chicopee," Irvin said. "I want to thank the city of Chicopee for accepting me as a role model, a mentor, a football coach and a life coach for some. A responsibility that's never done. I will

continue to uplift all of our children and look into their souls instead of their appearance."

Gomez emphasized Black History "is American History celebrated every single day."

"History is not just a chapter in our past; it's an integral part, the fabric of our nation's story. It is a reminder of the resilience, creativity and the leadership of African Americans throughout history, shaping our culture, our politics and economy in a profound way," Gomez said.

Ware ended the ceremony with this. "I just want to say that I am Black History and I am here to celebrate it with you. I'm really happy that I'm here," Ware said. "February's great. I represent every day, so I am here for the students, I want the students to see me as that person and I want you to see me as that person as well."

OLD LIBRARY from page 1

its permanent location on Front Street in 2004. The city later worked with a Transformation Development Initiative Fellow from MassDevelopment to help revitalize downtown through utilizing the space.

Requests for bids, Vieau said, went out to the public, but none were received and a proposal to convert the space into the FDR Museum never came to fruition.

Also, asbestos and other hazardous materials were removed.

"The goal was really to find a way to reactivate this space, and it seemed to make sense that the whole community benefits from it, and we decided that we were going to head in that direction," Vieau said.

Vieau said the goal was to use some ARPA money to fund the project.

"But when it went into design and came out, it was estimated to be a lot more expensive than we had originally thought," Vieau said. "We felt that we could find very creative ways to try to fund this project and one is using most of our ARPA money."

After the City Council unanimously approved the project funding on Jan. 30, Vieau expressed surprise, calling it "unexpected."

"I think they see the same vision that I see (and) that our Planning Department sees, that the arts and cultural community of Western Mass sees. The benefits of arts and culture and how it can impact people's lives and really the multi-purpose flexibility of the space and renovating something that's really been invisible and

reactivating it to a hub of activity," Vieau said.

Vieau said four bids were received for the renovation project, with the city choosing D.A. Sullivan & Sons for the construction bid.

He added a building commission for the former library will also be created.

"Anything over \$2 million requires a building commission, so that's how we're doing that," Vieau said.

On the funding moving forward, Vieau said it includes pursuing grant opportunities and potential earmarks with the federal government.

"Construction costs, labor costs, inflation have moved things to an all-time high and we don't see anything getting better in the future, so if we wait it's going to cost more is how we look at it," Vieau said.

Vieau expressed excitement about the project moving forward.

"It's anticipated, I believe, to be a 13-month project. I don't think they start it until April, and I'm looking forward to seeing us reactivate the Central Library space and really, you know, make it ADA compliant so it's accessible to everybody," Vieau said.

Vieau's message to residents is "The project is for everyone."

"That's really the goal of how we spend APRA dollars is to use this one-time money for the betterment of the whole community, and I think every single resident will have an opportunity to use this space," Vieau said. "I think this is just one key component to the success of downtown Chicopee."

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We try to include our public schools on a weekly basis, both in terms of sports coverage and classroom features. Our education and sports sections run 52 weeks per year. We feel school coverage is probably the single largest reflection of the communities we serve, so this paper is committed to having a strong presence there. We devote more staff and space to these sections than any other editorial realm. We do print free courtesy stories, briefs and photos submitted by teachers, sports teams and students, as we cannot possibly be at every event. If you have a photo you want to run, please include a photo caption identifying those in the image from left to right and a description of the event. Please call or e-mail the editor directly with your school event coverage requests at least three days in advance. If we can't attend, you are always encouraged to send in your own write-up and photos.

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 sport 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.

BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

OPINION

We love letters to the editor and guest columns. It is what the soul of this newspaper is all about. However, we don't print what we can't prove. All letters and columns must be signed and confirmed by us prior to publication. If you are alleging things that we cannot prove, we will consider that a news tip and look into it. We always encourage readers to celebrate their communities versus just slamming them. We also pen a weekly "editorial." Some readers confuse editorials with being objective "news." Our unsigned editorials are opinions formed after doing the research, or com-

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Sports

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Chicopee girls lose to East Longmeadow



Sophia Guzman starts a play as she heads down the court.



Cassidy Pytel looks to get around an opponent.



Giana Garcia stops and takes a long-range shot.



Aubrie Jodoin sends a pass to her right.

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee High School girls basketball team suffered a tough loss last Thursday evening, falling to East Longmeadow 47-26. The Pacers offense had a tough time getting momentum going. They got six points each from Cassidy Pytel, Aubrie Jodoin, and Giana Garcia. The Pacers just have three games remaining in the regular season.

Comp swimming splits final meet

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Comprehensive High School swim teams split their final meet with Belchertown, with the boys suffering a defeat while the girls got an 86-57 win over the Orioles. In the girls win, Megan Kelly won the 200 individual medley and the 500 freestyle. The boys were defeated 119-51. In the loss, none of Comp’s competitors won an event. Comp finished the season 6-4



Jaiden Rutkowski heads down the lane in the medley relay.



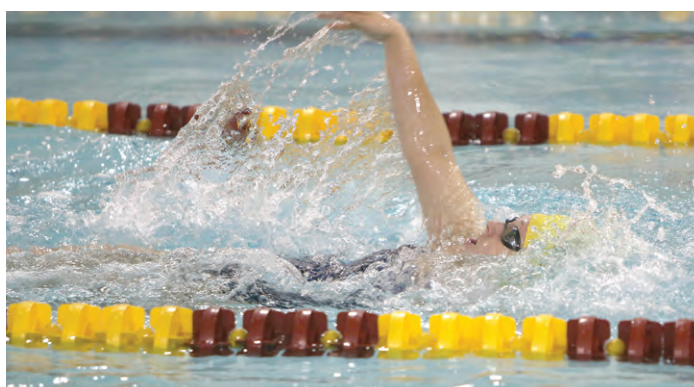
Leia Cabasal does the fly stroke 200 medley relay.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Gavin Belanger extends his arms in the fly stroke event.



John Nawrocki competes in the 200 freestyle.



Megan Kelly makes her way across the pool in the first leg of a race.

Comp girls qualify for tournament

CHICOPEE – Last Friday night, Chicopee Comprehensive girls basketball got that much-needed ninth win of the season and defeated Pittsfield 69-50 to qualify for the state tournament.

The Colts were likely to get in anyways with a high ranking in state, but sealed it with win number nine. The 69-50 win saw the Colts get 23 points from Taryn Carriveau and 22 points from Kaitlyn Gilhooly. The Colts look to strengthen their standing with four games remaining in the regular season.

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching “turleysports.” We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

Modifieds champion plans lengthy 2024 schedule

CHELMSFORD – Modified champion Jon McKennedy announced today that he will drive in over 15 Tour-Type Modified races across the New England region in 2024.

Competing for his own team, McKennedy will mix between Outlaw Open Modified Series races at Thompson Speedway, Open Modified races at Stafford Motor Speedway, select NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour events and a few Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series races to make out a robust calendar for 2024.

“We’re excited to get the ball rolling in our FURY race cars and go chase some trophies,” McKennedy said. “I feel this is a great opportunity for me to go out there and continue to show we can win races. We did have some other opportunities for rides, but felt this was the best route for this season. We have picked some of the higher profile events at my favorite tracks for the 2024 season and feel the competition is going to be stout at all of them.”

A full sponsor lineup for the car and paint scheme will be released in the near future.

McKennedy’s season will begin at Thompson Speedway with the Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series during Icebreaker weekend on Saturday, April 7, followed by the Open Modified event at New Hampshire Motor Speedway’s Northeast Classic on April 13.

He will follow that up with seven more Thompson events during the 2024 season (May 27 - Outlaw Mods, June 13 - Outlaw Mods, June 27 - Outlaw Mods, July 25 - Outlaw Mods, August 7 - Outlaw Mods, August 14 - NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour and October 12 - Outlaw Mods). Thompson Speedway will continue to be operated by the American-Canadian Tour and Pro All Star Series for 2024, keeping short track racing alive at the Connecticut oval.

McKennedy will compete at Stafford Motor Speedway for the NAPA Spring Sizzler (April 27-28), Open Modified Mountain Masters (July 17) and the Fall Final with the Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series on Sept. 28.

His NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour starts will take place at Monadnock Speedway (May 4 and July 20), Seekonk Speedway (June 1) and New Hampshire Motor Speedway (June 22). McKennedy will compete in the Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series at Thompson (April 7), White Mountain Motorsports Park (July 27) and Star Speedway (Sept. 15).

The 2022 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion, McKennedy is no stranger to winning races and cham-

pionships. On top of the 2022 title, McKennedy finished second in the 2020 Tour standings driving for Tommy Baldwin Racing. He also picked up his first career NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour win at Myrtle Beach Speedway in 2018, and has another victory at Claremont Motorsports Park in 2022, which helped lead to his title.

McKennedy is a former ISMA Supermodified champion, 4-time ISMA Star Classic winner, 4-time ISMA Ollie Silva Memorial winner and 4-time Modified Racing Series champion. He has multiple Star Speedway championships to his resume, a North-South Shootout with Tommy Baldwin Racing (2018) and a championship in the Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series (2014), along with many karting titles in his early years and additional race wins in multiple divisions. McKennedy was also named the 2016 North East Touring Series driver of the year.

For a full tentative schedule for Jon McKennedy’s 2024 season, see below.

2024 Schedule *Subject To Change*

April 7 - Thompson Speedway - Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series

April 13 - New Hampshire Motor Speedway - Open Modifieds

April 27-28 - Stafford Speedway - NAPA Spring Sizzler

May 4 - Monadnock Speedway - NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour

May 27 - Thompson Speedway - Outlaw Open Modified Series

June 1 - Seekonk Speedway - NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour

June 13 - Thompson Speedway - Outlaw Open Modified Series

June 22 - New Hampshire Motor Speedway - NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour

June 27 - Thompson Speedway - Outlaw Open Modified Series

July 17 - Stafford Speedway - Open Modified Mountain Masters

July 20 - Monadnock Speedway - NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour

July 25 - Thompson Speedway - Outlaw Open Modified Series

July 27 - White Mountain Motorsports Park - Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series

Aug. 7 - Thompson Speedway - Outlaw Open Modified Series

Aug. 14 - Thompson Speedway - NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour

Sept. 15 - Star Speedway - Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series

Sept. 28 - Stafford Speedway - Monaco Modified Tri-Track NAPA Fall Final

Oct. 12 - Thompson Speedway - Outlaw Open Modified Series

Disciplined game nets win for Thunderbirds

HARTFORD, CT – The Springfield Thunderbirds (21-19-3-2) went on two separate runs of three straight goals to defeat the Hartford Wolf Pack (23-13-5-0) by a final score of 6-3 on Saturday night inside the XL Center.

While the scuffling Springfield power play would not get the credit for the game’s opening goal, they were responsible for the offensive possession that led to it. Jakub

Vrana found his way to a soft space at the top of the right circle, where Hugh McGing located him for a one-time blast past Dylan Garand’s glove at 9:05.

Vrana’s seventh goal of the season made it 1-0, and the T-Birds offense was far from finished.

Just 1:54 after Vrana’s tally, a misplay of the puck in neutral ice sprung Ryan Suzuki on a clean breakaway. Suzuki perfectly picked the lower corner over Garand’s blocker, making it 2-0 at 10:59.

Then it was Vrana’s turn to join the breakaway game, as he, too, beat Garand on the stick side off a stretch pass from Mikhail Abramov, making it 3-0 at 13:59.

Brennan Othmann took it upon himself to give his team a spark, as the Wolf Pack rookie dropped the mitts with ex-Hartford blueliner Wyatt Kalynuk at 16:40 of the first. Kalynuk, unfortunately, received a game misconduct for removing his elbow pads prior to the fight. Just 24 seconds later, the scrap paid dividends for the Pack as Alex Belzile crashed the paint and cashed in with a backhand poke through Malcolm Subban to make it a 3-1 score after 20 minutes. Subban was flawless in turning aside 14 of 15 Wolf Pack shots in the first.

As the second began, it became evident that Othmann’s fight lit a spark in

the Hartford bench. Just 55 seconds into period two, Ryder Korczak found a loose puck in a four-man scrum outside the blue paint and found Brandon Scanlin for a one-time shot through Subban to make it a 3-2 game.

Then at 2:46, Korczak was in the middle of things again, driving a puck to the net, where towering Matt Rempke rammed home the rebound, getting Hartford back to even in

not even six minutes of game action. Springfield utilized its timeout and was able to stabilize defensively. With just under seven minutes left in the period, rookie Zach Dean came up

with his signature play of the season. The rookie centerman beautifully toed-dragged the puck from the left circle to walk around a defender before elevating a backhand shot over Garand’s glove at 13:47, giving Springfield the lead back at 4-3 on his first goal in 13 games.

Springfield’s well-disciplined night carried through all 60 minutes, as the T-Birds did not allow Hartford’s fourth-ranked power play any chances all evening. At 7:54 of the third period, captain Matthew Peca added to the lead again with a wrist shot that ricocheted off Garand high into the air and bounced over the goal line to make it 5-3.

The insurance goal proved to be more than enough, as the Wolf Pack could not find a way to get one through Subban and the defensive front of the T-Birds. Will Bitten added his 10th of the season into an empty net at 18:08 with McGing tallying a third assist on the game’s final goal.

The T-Birds get the All-Star break to get rest before their next contest on Saturday, Feb. 10 for Ice-O-Topes Night at the MassMutual Center against the Hershey Bears. Puck drop is set for 7:05 p.m.



Railers score win over Lions

TROIS-RIVIÈRES, QC – The Worcester Railers HC (20-18-3-2, 45pts) took down the Trois-Rivières Lions (19-22-2-2, 42pts) on Saturday night by the final score of 6-4 in front of a crowd of 1,819 at the Colisée Vidéotron. The Railers are back at the DCU Center against the Maine Mariners on Friday, February 9th at 7:05pm.

Blade Jenkins (3-2-5) struck first tonight for Worcester, as he put the Railers ahead immediately following the power play. The Railers followed up with three more in the second from Anthony Callin (1-1-2), Trevor Cosgrove (1-2-3), and Jenkins’ second of the night. Trois-Rivières were good for two in the second as Justin Ducharme (1-1-2) and Cedric Montminy (1-0-1) each scored goals to make it a 4-2 game heading into the third. There were four goals in the third, including two straight to open the period for Trois-Rivières from Nicolas Guay (1-1-2) and Alex-Olivier Voyer (1-1-2) to tie the game 4-4. Jack Quinlivan (1-0-1) scored the game-winner after coming out of the penalty box before Blade Jenkins secured the win with his third goal of the night and second straight hat trick in as many nights.

Like Friday’s game, it was another dominant first period from Worcester. The Railers outshot the Lions 16-7 through the first 20 minutes, highlighted by Blade Jenkins’ (18th) fourth goal of the weekend. Neither team scored the rest of the frame as the Railers went into the second period with a 1-0 lead.

Scoring opened wide in the second period with five goals combined between the two teams. First it was Anthony Callin

(8th) with a loose puck in front supplied by Blade Jenkins to grow Worcester’s lead to 2-0. The Lions cut back into their deficit with Justin Ducharme’s (12th) tally as he swept up a rebound from in front of Muse and tucked it along the far post. The Railers responded midway through the period with a pair of goals back-to-back. Trevor Cosgrove let one go from the blueline that Vrbetic never saw to make it 3-1 Worcester. Jenkins followed up with his second of the afternoon on a break down the left wing to give Worcester their largest advantage of the night at 4-1. The Lions got one back just before the end of the period when Cedric Montminy scored to make it 4-2 heading into the third.

The Railers killed off a Jack Quinlivan high-sticking penalty to start the third before Ryan Verrier was sent to the penalty box for a delay-of-game call. From there, Trois-Rivières kept their foot on the pedal. Nicolas Guay (2nd) scored on the power-play followed by Alex-Olivier Voyer (12th) to complete the Lions comeback and tie the game 4-4. With the game tied heading into the final five minutes of the third, Quinlivan (2nd) was sprung out of the penalty box and muscled his way around a Lions defender to beat Vrbetic and put Worcester ahead for good, 5-4. With the net empty and the Lions looking to tie the game, Blade Jenkins (18th) was given the puck in the neutral zone by Anthony Repaci, where he strode into the attacking end and scored his third goal of the game. Jenkins is the first player in Worcester Professional Hockey history to score hat tricks in back-to-back games, scoring one on Friday night, Worcester’s first of the season.



SEND US YOUR SPORTS PHOTOS

Have you taken photos at a local sports event and want to see them published in this paper?

Email your image(s) with description to:

sports@turley.com

Chicopee COA announces upcoming programming

CHICOPEE – The Council on Aging has announced the upcoming programming at the RiverMills Center, Chicopee’s senior center at 5 West Main St.

Washing Away the Winter Blues

The COA will offer the program “Washing Away the Winter Blues” on Friday, Feb. 16 at 1:30 p.m. at the RiverMills Center.

This workshop is an integration of coping and relaxation tools to help alleviate symptoms of seasonal affective mental health challenges. In a warm inviting space, you will find it safe to reflect and journey towards finding inner joy through creative, holistic self-care

strategies with guided imagery. You must register in advance at RiverMills Center or by calling 534-3698.

Black History Month at RiverMills

The COA will host Jose Gonzalez, PhD Candidate in the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies at UMass Amherst on Thursday, Feb. 22 at 1:30 p.m. at the RiverMills Center.

During this program, Jose Gonzales will talk about the Afro-Latino’s contribution to Black History, specifically about Afro-Puerto Rican Arturo Alfonso Schomburg, One of the founders of black history. You must register in advance at RiverMills Center or by calling 534-3698.

IN THE CLASSROOM

Colleges announce Dean’s Lists

Chicopee student earns Dean’s List honors at Roger Williams University

BRISTOL, R.I. – Tabitha Klaus, of Chicopee, has been named to the Fall 2023 Dean’s List at Roger Williams University, in Bristol, R.I. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a grade point average of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean’s List that semester.

Elms College announces Dean’s List for Fall 2023

CHICOPEE – The College of Our Lady of the Elms has named the following Chicopee students to the Dean’s List for the fall 2023 semester. Congratulations to all the students who are named to the list.

Chicopee Hamza Abdul-Baki, Fawz Ahmad, Owen Allard, Joshua Barron, Emily Bartolo, Mya Bennis, Aidan Berube, Kayla Blackbird, Naomi Briganti, Hannah Cameron, Kassandra Chuquilla, Timothy Congo, Kailany Cordero, Chase Davis, Zachary Delaney, Jeselica Delgado-Ruiz, Kayleen Delgado-Ruiz, Veronica Dinnell, Diana Divnich, Rachel Dort, Antoannet Estevez, Jackeline Garcia Zambrana, Yennafer Garcias, Spencer Gorczyca, Nicole Greene, Matthew Hood, Kamari Jeffers, Emmie Jones, Allison Kudrya, Gabriella Lacapruca, Hudson Laflamme, Kieran Lafond, Emmarly Larocca, Jenna Munro, Wilfred Nazario, Daniella Niemiec, Genesis Pieczarka, Jasmine Pielecha, Michael Quinlan, Linda Ramcke, Kavya Rejikumar, Sarah Riffenburg, Glorimar Rivera, Tifanie Rivera, Adam Sarlan, Kellie Serrao, Karly Setterstrom, Destiny Shumway, Hayley Sliwa, Madison Sniezak, Jayda Thomas, Kaley Walewski, Melanie Ward, Joseph Williamson, Krysta Wondolowski and Ceara Wright

Chicopee resident named to Bridgewater State University Dean’s List

BRIDGEWATER – Faith Wills, of Chicopee, was recently named to the Dean’s List for the fall 2023 semester at Bridgewater State University.

Lisette Ayala, named to Dean’s List at Dean College

FRANKLIN – Dean College is pleased to announce that Lisette Ayala, of Chicopee, has earned a place on the Dean’s List for the Fall 2023 semester. Students named to the Dean’s List have demonstrated a serious commitment to their studies while at Dean College.

Chicopee students at Lasell University named to Dean’s List

NEWTON – The Fall 2023 Dean’s List includes students who have completed at least 12 credits as a full-time student in that semester and have achieved a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

The following local students from Chicopee made the list: Kayla Comiskey, Grace DuBois, Brie Francis, Chloe Galipeau and Blaize Mack

Chicopee students earn Dean’s List honors at Nichols College

DUDLEY – More than 220 students at Nichols College in Dudley have achieved Dean’s List honors during the fall 2023 semester. Chicopee students who earned the honors include Rhea Bullens and Amani Mkambavange.

Jack’s story

Wilbraham baby’s miraculous journey inspires community

By Dalton Zbierski

Editor
dzbierski@turley.com

WILBRAHAM – Against all odds, Jack Godin of Wilbraham celebrated his first birthday on Jan. 28, as his parents Cody, originally from Chicopee, and Liz and older brother Owen were joined by approximately 130 people reveling at his miraculous journey.

The Jan. 28 birthday celebration and fundraiser at the Country Club on Stony Hill Road benefited Baystate Children’s Hospital and the Baystate Health Foundation in honor of the medical professionals who saved Jack’s life one year ago.

When Jack was eight days old, he was diagnosed with Viral Meningoencephalitis, caused by a rare virus called Parechovirus. He was hospitalized and admitted to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at Baystate after seizure activity repeatedly stopped his breathing.

Liz, Jack’s mother, remembers the sequence of events like it was yesterday. Jack was born early on Jan. 28, 2023, at 36 weeks, but appeared happy and healthy. It wasn’t until Day 7 that Liz and Cody, Jack’s father, noticed his breathing was abnormal and discovered he had a 101.3 fever.



Jack’s journey was an intense one, as he was hospitalized dealing with multiple ailments in early 2023.

“I work in the medical field... I counted respirations, and those were kind of high too,” Liz said. “So, I texted his pediatrician, who is also my boss, and said, ‘Jack has a fever; he’s breathing kind of fast, what do you think?’ He said to go to the ER immediately.”

Upon arriving at the ER, Jack no longer had a fever, but the medical professionals did their due diligence. They did bloodwork, gave him IVs, checked his urine, did a spinal tap and kept Jack overnight to monitor him.

“Then, at about midnight that night, the doctor came in and woke us up. We were sleeping. He said some of his tests came back, and Jack tested positive for a virus called Parechovirus,” Liz said.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE GODIN FAMILY

Jack Godin celebrated his first birthday on Jan. 28 at the Country Club of Wilbraham.

Before learning of its severity, Liz was hopeful the virus wasn’t a big deal, assuming it might be similar to the flu. However, Jack began experiencing breathing episodes, and his oxygen level dipped into the 50s, causing major concern.

The episodes continued to occur once per hour, and the following morning Jack’s doctors elected to send him to the PICU at Baystate for a rapid response after seizure activity was confirmed. Every time Jack had a seizure, he would stop breathing, and his oxygen level dipped.

At the PICU, doctors confirmed that Jack was having seizures. Doctors from the cardiology, neurology and infectious disease departments all attended to Jack due to the rarity of Parechovirus.

“So, the virus first causes meningitis, which is in the spinal fluid. It’s inflammation of the spinal fluid,” Liz said. “What it turned into, why he had the seizures, was because he ended up having encephalitis. So, that’s swelling of the brain. So, he had meningoencephalitis, so we ended up going for an MRI, which diagnosed that.”

The infectious disease doctors elected to treat Jack with IVIG, a blood transfusion that provided him with adult antibodies. Liz explained that while Parechovirus can be deadly to babies under a month old, most adults are exposed to it and have built up antibodies, and the adult antibodies helped Jack fight the virus.

“Thankfully, he did do very well with it and he kind of turned a corner. We were there for 10 days,” Liz said. “They did intubate him because of his breathing because he kept stopping breathing with the seizures. He was intubated for like four days, and as the virus cleared out of his system, he was getting better from that. They did extubate him; took him off the intubation, and then he started improving, and we went down to the children’s floor. It was a crazy time.”

Working in the medical field, and previously working in the Baystate ER, Liz joked that she thought she’d seen everything, but when her baby was fighting for his life, it was easy to second guess every decision.

Fortunately, the medical professionals that treated Jack performed outstanding. Liz praised the Baystate employees, all the way down to the janitorial staff,

See JACK page 15

This paper publishes birth, engagement, wedding and significant anniversary announcements free of charge.

Simply log on to our web site, choose the paper you want the announcement to appear in, then use our SUBMISSION link to email your information.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD24P0260EA
Estate of:
Shawn P Burnham
Date of Death: 12/19/2023
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 Shannon Woishnis
of Chicopee, MA request-
ing that the Court enter a for-
mal Decree and Order and for
such other relief as requested
in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests
that: Shannon Woishnis of
Chicopee, MA be appointed
as Personal Representative(s)
of said estate to serve
Without Surety on the bond
in unsupervised administra-
tion.

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 proceed-
ing. 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
03/05/2024.

This is NOT a hear-
ing date, but a deadline by
which you must file a writ-
ten appearance and objec-
tion if you object to this pro-
ceeding. 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 Represent-
ative appointed under the
MUPC in an unsuper-
vised 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 admin-
istration directly from the
Personal Representative and
may petition the Court in
any matter relating to the
estate, including the distri-
bution of assets and expens-
es of administration.

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

Date: February 06, 2024

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
02/09/2024

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee
of the Chicopee City Council
will hold a public hearing
Wednesday, February 28,
2024 at 6:30 PM* in the
Chambers, 4th floor, City
Hall Annex, 274 Front Street.,
Chicopee, MA 01013 to dis-
cuss the following:

Special Permit applica-
tion under Chapter 275-59 (C) 6
for the purpose of obtaining
a beer and wine license for
Aesthetic Beauty Revolution
located at 20 Center Street.
Roxanne Roman, 76
Elmwood Avenue, Holyoke,

MA 01040.

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

The February 28, 2024
Zoning Committee hearing
shall be available to the pub-
lic via zoom and in person.
Zoom credentials are avail-
able 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 avail-
able on the City Council
website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>. You may also
call (413) 594-1435 or email
aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.
02/09, 02/16/2024

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of the Power of
Sale contained in a certain
Mortgage Deed, Security
Agreement and Assignment
of Leases and Rents, given
by Alycar Investments, LLC,
to Marchionte Capital, LLC,
dated April 15, 2022, and
recorded at the Hampden
County Registry of Deeds in
Book 24503 Page 547, for
breach of the conditions of
said Mortgage Deed, Security
Agreement and Assignment
of Leases and Rents and
for the purpose of foreclos-
ing, the same will be sold at
Public Auction at 11:00 a.m.
on March 1, 2024, on the
mortgaged premises located
at 20 – 22 Alvard Avenue,
Chicopee, MA 01020, a por-
tion of the premises described
in said Mortgage Deed,
Security Agreement and
Assignment of Leases and
Rents,

TO WIT: 20-22 Alvard Ave, Chicopee, MA 01020

The property locat-
ed at 20-22 Alvard Avenue,
Chicopee, Hampden County,
Massachusetts, and as more
particularly bounded and
described as follows:

A parcel of land situated
in said Chicopee Falls, bound-
ed and described as follows:

Beginning on the
NORTHERLY side of Alvard
Avenue, formerly called
Brown Avenue, at a point dis-
tant EASTERLY two hundred
ten and 74/100 (210.74) feet
from the EASTERLY line of
Broadway,

thence running
NORTHERLY one hun-
dred nine and 60/100
(109.60) feet to an iron pin
on the SOUTHERLY line
of land now or formerly of
one Charles Hasenjager
and distant sixty-two and
41/100 (62.41) feet from the
WESTERLY side of Alvard
Avenue,

thence EASTERLY along
the SOUTHERLY line of
land now or formerly of said
Hasenjager, sixty-two and
41/100 (62.41) feet to the
WESTERLY line of Alvard
Avenue,

thence SOUTHERLY on
said Alvard Avenue, nine-
ty-two and 52/100 (92.52)
feet to an iron pin in the
ground at the beginning of a
curve in said Alvard Avenue,
thence SOUTHERLY and
WESTERLY on said curve of
fifteen (15) feet radius twen-
ty-two and 82/100 (22.82)
feet to an iron pin in the
ground on the NORTHERLY
line of said Alvard Avenue,

thence WESTERLY on
the NORTHERLY line of
said Alvard Avenue, forty and
24/100 (40.24) feet to an iron
pin at the point of beginning.

Subject to restrictions of
record dated July 20, 1911 as
recorded in Hampden County
Registry of Deeds in Book
806, Page 570.

Being the same premises
conveyed to the Mortgagor
herein by deed of BD Asset
Co. 5, LLC dated, April 15,
2022 and recorded in the
Hampden County Registry
of Deeds immediately prior
hereto.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of Ten
Thousand (\$10,000.00)
Dollars by certified or bank
check will be required to be
paid by the purchaser at the
time and place of sale. The
balance is to be paid by
certified or bank check at
Saulino & Silvia, P.C., 550
Locust Street, Fall River,
Massachusetts 02720, or by
mail to 550 Locust Street, Fall
River, Massachusetts 02720,
within thirty (30) days from
the date of sale. Deed will
be provided to purchaser for
recording upon receipt in full
of the purchase price. The
description of the premises
contained in said Mortgage
Deed, Security Agreement
and Assignment of Leases
and Rents, shall control in the
event of an error in this pub-
lication.

Other terms, if any, to be
announced at the sale.

MARCHIONTE CAPITAL,
LLC,
Present holder of said
Mortgage Deed,
Security Agreement and
Assignment of Leases and
Rents,

By its Attorneys,
PETER A. SAULINO,
ESQUIRE
Saulino & Silvia, P.C.
550 Locust Street
Fall River, MA 02720
PH: (508) 675 - 7770
02/09, 02/16, 02/23/2024

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee
of the Chicopee City Council
will hold a public hearing
Wednesday, February 28,
2024 at 6:30 PM* in the
Chambers, 4th floor, City
Hall Annex, 274 Front Street.,
Chicopee, MA 01013 to dis-
cuss the following:

Special Permit applica-
tion under Chapter 275-50
(c)(2)(b) and 275-50 (c)(2)
(a) for the purpose of acti-
vating a digital sign located
at 191 Montcalm St. Waiver
requested – relief of setback
requirements from 25 feet to
+/- 6.3 feet; section 275-50(c)
(1). Applicant – Peter Milloy,
74 Pine Grove Dr., South
Hadley, MA 01075.

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

The February 28, 2024
Zoning Committee hearing
shall be available to the pub-
lic via zoom and in person.
Zoom credentials are avail-
able 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 avail-
able on the City Council
website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>

Applications. You may also
call (413) 594-1435 or email
aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.
02/09, 02/16/2024

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee
of the Chicopee City Council
will hold a public hearing
Wednesday, February 28,
2024 at 6:30 PM* in the
Chambers, 4th floor, City
Hall Annex, 274 Front Street.,
Chicopee, MA 01013 to dis-
cuss the following:

Special Permit applica-
tion under Chapter 275-50(c)(1)
& 58 (E)(1) for the purpose of
Golden Nozzle is request-
ing to alter and utilize two pre-
existing non-conforming signs
to display its operation at its
new Memorial Drive loca-
tion. Golden Nozzle is leas-
ing the site and these signs
will always remain, Golden
Nozzle is simply requesting
to brand them with its logo
for customers. These signs
were most recently used to
designate the Denny's loca-
tion formerly at this site locat-
ed at 467 Memorial Drive.
Waivers requested (1) two
ground signs instead of one
that is allowed (2) both signs
height exceed the allowed –
Sign A – from 30 ft to 55 ft.
and Sign B – from 20 ft to 25
ft (3) size of Sign A's faces
exceeds a total area of 80
sq. ft. (4) setback for Sign B
would be from 25 ft to +/- 2.8
ft. Applicant Nouria
Energy Retail, Inc., (Golden
Nozzle), Richard Smith, 326
Clark Street, Worcester, MA
01606.

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

The February 28, 2024
Zoning Committee hearing
shall be available to the pub-
lic via zoom and in person.
Zoom credentials are avail-
able 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 avail-
able on the City Council
website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>. You may also
call (413) 594-1435 or email
aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov
02/09, 02/16/2024

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The oning Committee of
the Chicopee City Council
will hold a public hearing
Wednesday, February 28,
2024 at 6:30 PM* in the
Chambers, 4th floor, City
Hall Annex, 274 Front Street.,
Chicopee, MA 01013 to dis-
cuss the following:

Special Permit applica-
tion under Chapter 275-9 (k)
(3) and 275-58 (c)(4) for the
purpose of granting a liquor
license transfer at the busi-
ness known as TD's Sports
Pub located at 699 Grattan
St. (a/k/a 697-699 Grattan St.
Applicant – TDs Sports Bar,
LLC, Michael Murdock, 204
Denver St., Springfield, MA
01109.

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

The February 28, 2024
Zoning Committee hearing

shall be available to the pub-
lic via zoom and in person.
Zoom credentials are avail-
able 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 avail-
able on the City Council
website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>. You may also
call (413) 594-1435 or email
aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.
02/09, 02/16/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD23D1306DR Yaznery Z Negron Diaz vs. Emanuel Ramos Morales DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING

To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a
Complaint for Divorce
requesting that the Court
grant a divorce for Irretriev-
able Breakdown.

The Complaint is on file
at the Court.

An Automatic Restraining
Order has been entered
in this matter preventing
you from taking any action
which would negatively
impact the current financial
status of either party. SEE
Supplemental Probate
Court Rule 411.

You are hereby sum-
moned and required to serve
upon:

Yaznery Z Negron Diaz
73 Barrett Street, Apt. 1005
Northampton, MA 01060

your answer, if any, on
or before 04/15/2024. If you
fail to do so, the court will
proceed to the hearing and
adjudication of this action.
You are also required to file
a copy of your answer, if any,
in the office of the Register
of this Court

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

Date: January 18, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
02/09/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD24P0231EA Estate of:

Robert Carroll
Also known as:
Robert Jackson Carroll
Date of Death: 12/12/2023
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 Tammie Carroll of
Waynesville, NC request-
ing that the Court enter a for-
mal Decree and Order and for
such other relief as requested
in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests
that: Tammie Carroll
of Waynesville, NC be
appointed as Personal
Representative(s) of said
estate to serve Without
Surety on the bond in unsu-
pervised 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 proceed-
ing. 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
02/27/2024.

This is NOT a hear-
ing date, but a deadline by
which you must file a writ-
ten appearance and objec-
tion if you object to this pro-
ceeding. 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 Represent-
ative appointed under the
MUPC in an unsuper-
vised 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 admin-
istration directly from the
Personal Representative and
may petition the Court in
any matter relating to the
estate, including the distri-
bution of assets and expens-
es of administration.

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

Date: February 01, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
02/09/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD24C0017CA

In the matter of:
Laura Ann Irwin
CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change
Name of Adult has been
filed by Laura Ann Irwin
of Chicopee, MA request-
ing that the court enter a Decree
changing their name to:

Laura Mary Irwin
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for
purposes of objecting to the
petition by filing an appear-
ance at: Hampden Probate
and Family Court before
10:00 a.m. on the return day
of 02/29/2024.

This is NOT a hearing
date, but a deadline by which
you must file a written appear-
ance if you object to this pro-
ceeding.

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

Date: February 01, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
02/09/2024

See more legals on page 13



PUBLIC NOTICES

INVITATION FOR BID CHICOPEE ELECTRIC LIGHT 725 FRONT STREET, CHICOPEE, MA 01020 BID NO. CEL. 24-0510

ISSUE DATE:
February 5, 2024

Sealed proposals are being accepted for: **NEW/UNUSED FORD TRANSIT 350**

BID OPENING DATE, TIME AND LOCATION: **Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 10:00 A.M.** at Chicopee Electric Light, 725 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01020-1778.

BIDS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED IN DUPLICATE. PLEASE READ AND COMPLY WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS ENTITLED 1.0 PREPARATION OF BIDS.

Bid documents are available at the business office located at 725 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01020-1778.

The Vendor/Contractor shall comply with the provisions of Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order No. 11375, entitled "Equal Employment Opportunity" and of Chapter 164 Sec. 56D as amended, of the Massachusetts General Laws, both of which are herein incorporated by reference and made a part of this contract.

The Department reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or to accept any proposal that in the opinion of the Municipal Light Board, is in the best interest of the Municipal Lighting Plant.

Is your firm a: **MBE/WBE** (please circle) MBE/WBE firms must be currently certified by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Please submit Bids in **duplicate** clearly marked with the Bid Number and Title:

BID NUMBER: CEL 24-0510

TITLE: NEW/UNUSED FORD TRANSIT 350

Natalie Colberg,
Purchasing

02/09/2024

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD23P2072PM
In the matter of:
Dianolis Hernandez
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 Victor M Cruz-Sanchez of Chicopee, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Dianolis Hernandez** is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that **Victor M Cruz-Sanchez** 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 **02/29/2024**. 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: February 01, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
02/09/2024

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 February 19, 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.

2000 Dodge Stratus
VIN: 1B3EJ46X8YN265733
Nathashi Bobadilla
79 Summit St. 1
Central Falls, RI 02863

2001 Honda Civic
VIN: IHGEM21971L108734
Carlos Wood Cruz
196 Oak St., Apt. 2R
Holyoke, MA 01040

2003 Ford Explorer
VIN: 1FMZU77E43UA25627
Marc Allen Lheureux
43 Orient St., Apt. 3
Worcester, MA 01604

2004 Dodge Caravan
VIN: 1D4GP45R04B510550
Morgan Wood
141 Glendale Rd.
Southampton, MA 01073

2004 Honda Civic
VIN: 2HGES16584H542670
Doreen DeCosta
481 Rounseville Rd.
Rochester, MA 02770

2005 Chevrolet Tahoe K1500
VIN: 1GNEK13T95J174072
Mark Donahue/Marks Towing
9 Clamshell Rd.
Clinton, MA 01510

2005 Honda Accord
VIN: IHGCM56455A115608
Christopher Vazquez Matos
586 N Main St.
Brockton, MA 02301

2006 Ford Taurus
VIN: 1FAFP53U96A100687
Kenneth King
75 Ashley Lane
Marlborough, MA 01752

2006 Lexus Rx330
VIN: 2T2HA31U26C106401
Sean Menard
PO Box 225
Haydenville, MA 01039

2007 Hyundai Elantra
VIN: KMHDU46DX7U145911
Luis Cruz-Devilla
75 Manitoba St.
Springfield, MA 01108

2008 Audi A6
VIN: WAUDH74F98N166420
Basille Neglawi
21 Starling Way
Leominster, MA 01453

2008 Ford Edge Sel
VIN: 2FMDK48C38BA38846
Loren White
7 Will St.
Nashua, NH 03060

2009 Ford Econoline E250
VIN: 1FTNS24L69DA19013
Jose Cruz Pena
285E 171 St., B221
Bronx, NY 10457

2009 Hyundai Sonata
VIN: 5NPET46CX9H447523
Wafaa Makhoul
617 Limestone St.
Catasauqua, PA 18032

2010 Ford Focus
VIN: 1FAHP3FN7AW284878
Angela Caristinos
99 Willow St.
Chelsea, MA 02150

2010 Mazda Mazda3i
VIN: JM1BL1SG8A1301594
Deja Chantel Wallace
9 Bay Meadow Rd.
Springfield, MA 01109

2012 Acura TSX
VIN: JH4CU2F49CC004735
Luis Daniel Delarosa
350 Harrison Ave., Apt. 532
Boston, MA 02118

2013 Chevrolet Malibu
VIN: 1G11B5SAXDF132079
Zyaire Cottle
144 Yale St.
Springfield, MA 01109

2014 Honda Pilot
VIN: 5FNYP4H78EB047716
Amanda Mccollaum/Jason Byrne
1151B Elm St., Apt. 3
West Springfield, MA 01089

2015 Nissan Altima
VIN: 1N4AL3AP8FC476017
Bryan DeJesus
53 Beston St., Apt. 3
Chicopee, MA 01020

2015 Volkswagen Tiguan
VIN: WVGBV7AX5FW538063
David Leftwich
25 Beechmont St., Apt. B
Worcester, MA 01609

2015 Volvo Xc60 T6
VIN: YV4902RK4F2743911
Robert Anderson
1 Kingston St.
South Portland, ME 04106

2016 Nissan Altima
VIN: 1N4AL3APXGC226120
Christopher Wilson
289 Windsor Ave.
Windsor, CT 06095

2017 Freightliner Cascadia
113
VIN: 1FUBGADV7HLHV9492

Christopher Cordova
363 Dale St., Apt. B
Chicopee, MA 01020

2018 Hyundai Elantra
VIN: 5NPD74LF1JH279676
Ashley Burke Henderson
35 E 40th St., Apt. 5E
Paterson, NJ 07514

2020 Honda Accord Sport
VIN: IHGCV2F3XLA029677
Remache Arevalo Daniel
476 Quinipiac Ave.
New Haven, CT 06513
01/26, 02/02, 02/09/2024

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 **February 23, 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

2004 Audi A4
VIN: WAULC68E84A084380
Najce Hillman
158 Elm St.
Westfield, MA 01085

2004 Chevrolet Trailblazer
VIN: 1GNDDT13S242432831
Kenneth Hart
64 Crestwood Dr.
Southbridge, MA 01550

2012 Chevrolet Impala
VIN: 2G1WB5E31C1137308
Michael Leeming
54 Marshview Dr.
Marshfield, MA 02050

2018 Toyota Rav4
VIN: 2T3BFREV9JW836385
Lashawn Keitt
128 Main St. Apt A
Westfield, MA 01085

2015 Honda Accord
VIN: IHGCR2F5XFA029253
Arpit Mathur
1550 Soldiers Field Rd.
Unit 502
Boston, MA 02135

2005 Nissan Altima
VIN: 1N4AL11E85C228299
Grace Centeno
91 Federal St. Apt 2B
Springfield, MA 01105

2022 Chevrolet Trax
VIN: KL7CJPSM8NB506705
Valerie Gerhardt
183 1st St. Apt 4
Pittsfield, MA 01201

02/09, 02/16, 02/23/2024

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103**

(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD24P0210EA
Estate of:
Natalie E Lampert
Date of Death: 09/27/2023
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 **Paula M. Cortis 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: **Paula M. Cortis 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 02/27/2024.

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 30, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
02/09/2024

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street**

Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD24P0256EA
Estate of:
Donald E. Remillard
Also known as:
Donald Edward Remillard
Date of Death: 12/31/2023
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 **Hubert Remillard 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: **Hubert Remillard 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 03/01/2024.

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: February 06, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
02/09/2024

See more legals on page 15

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MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY. EXTRAORDINARY performance. Central Boiler certified Classic Edge Titanium HDX OUTDOOR WOOD FURNACE. Call today **413-296-4320**.

3X SNOWBLOWER for 42" Cub Cadet Tractor includes chains, rear weights, and usage books. Used two times. Paid \$1680. **413-238-5966**.

4 YEAR OLD MYERS PLOW, 3 sets of tires with rims 15", '94 Jeep Wrangler for parts only. **Call 413-967-7118 or 413-658-8513**.

FOR SALE

ANTIQUE ALBANY CUTTER SLEIGH made Binghamton, New York 1882. Excellent original condition for competition, \$3500. Also, 1956 Cub Cadet 154 tractor, 5' mower, great condition, \$3500. **413-289-1039, 413-758-3072..**

ESTATE SALE

HEAVY QUILTED MOVING blankets. **413-238-5966**.

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD

MORE HEAT LESS WOOD. Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. 26% Tax Credit. Call **(508)882-0178**

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A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL
Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.
We load it & take it.
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CHAIR SEAT WEAVING & refinishing - cane, fiber rush & splint - Classroom instructor, 20+ years experience. Call Wait at **(413)289-6670** for estimate.

CHIMNEY SWEEP AND INSPECTION, chimney liners and repairs. Wood stoves, fireplaces, oil furnace and boiler flues and cleanouts. CALL, TEXT OR EMAIL!!!!
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WESTERNMASSHOME REPAIR@GMAIL.COM

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HOME REPAIR & REMODELING for all your interior & exterior needs Carpentry, woodworking, porches, patios, windows, doors, painting, drywall siding, landscaping, clean-outs. Competitive pricing. References. Please call Brendan **(413)687-5552**

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD24P0198EA
Estate of:
Jane M. Stanek
Date of Death: 09/08/2023
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 Christine Morando 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: Christine Morando 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

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

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 02/26/2024.

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 29, 2024

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
02/09/2024

INVITATION FOR BID CHICOPEE ELECTRIC LIGHT

725 FRONT STREET,
CHICOPEE, MA 01020
BID NO. CEL #38
ISSUE DATE:
FEBRUARY 5, 2024

= Sealed proposals are being accepted for: "SURPLUS POLEMOUNT DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS FOR SALE"

Inquiry forms may be picked up at the business office located at 725 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01020, between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday. It is the intent of Chicopee Electric Light to award by Lump Sum.

BID OPENING DATE, TIME AND LOCATION: **Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 3:00 P.M.** at Chicopee Electric Light, 725 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01020-1778.

BIDS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED IN DUPLICATE, SEALED IN AN ENVELOPE, CLEARLY MARKED WITH THE INQUIRY NUMBER AND TITLE. Proposals must be returned on or before the time specified. Postmarks will not be accepted. Bids will be received at the business office or by mail at Chicopee Electric Light, 725 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01020.

The Department reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or to accept any proposal that in the opinion of the Municipal Light Board, is in the best interest of Chicopee Electric Light.

Is your firm a: MBE/WBE (please circle) MBE/WBE firms must be currently certified by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

INQUIRY NUMBER: CEL #38

TITLE: "SURPLUS POLEMOUNT DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS FOR SALE"

Natalie Colberg
Purchasing
02/09/2024

INVITATION FOR BID CHICOPEE

ELECTRIC LIGHT 725 FRONT STREET, CHICOPEE, MA 01020 BID NO. CEL #37

ISSUE DATE: **FEBRUARY 5, 2024**
Sealed proposals are being accepted for: "SURPLUS RECLOSURES FOR SALE"

Inquiry forms may be picked up at the business office located at 725 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01020, between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday. It is the intent of Chicopee Electric Light to award by Lump Sum.

BID OPENING DATE, TIME AND LOCATION: **Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 3:00 PM.** at Chicopee Electric Light, 725 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01020-1778.

BIDS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED IN DUPLICATE, SEALED IN AN ENVELOPE, CLEARLY MARKED WITH THE INQUIRY NUMBER AND TITLE. Proposals must be returned on or before the time specified. Postmarks will not be accepted. Bids will be received at the business office or by mail at Chicopee Electric Light, 725 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01020.

The Department reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or to accept any proposal that in the opinion of the Municipal Light Board, is in the best interest of Chicopee Electric Light.

The Department reserves

the right to reject any or all proposals, or to accept any proposal that in the opinion of the Municipal Light Board, is in the best interest of Chicopee Electric Light.

Is your firm a: MBE/WBE (please circle) MBE/WBE firms must be currently certified by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

INQUIRY NUMBER: CEL #37

TITLE: "SURPLUS RECLOSURES FOR SALE"

Natalie Colberg
Purchasing
02/09/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD24P0205EA
Estate of:

Deborah Ann Romanski
Also known as:
Deborah A Romanski
Date of Death: 12/18/2023
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 Elaine Peterson 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: Elaine Peterson 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 02/27/2024.

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 30, 2024

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
02/09/2024

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JACK from page 11

which always made sure she and Cody had everything they needed during the 10-day stay.

Above all, their professionalism helped Liz and Cody power through.

"Looking back on it, the stuff that happened to Jack is super scary... There was one point when we were in the hospital where we looked at each other and we honestly thought he might die. It's hard to say that and think that, but it was our reality at the time," Liz said. "He could have not survived it, but when they came in whenever his oxygen dropped or whatever, they were never panicked, which I think really set us at ease too. They were like, 'Just another day. Everything's going to be fine.'"

Cody described the PICU medical staff as "the best," noting that they were always right there when anything happened.

"(Jack) was hooked up to a whole bunch of different (machines) so any little thing would set off an alarm and boom, there they were, running in and making sure we were okay and making sure we had everything we needed along with Jack," Cody said.

Liz described Jack as a fighter, but the fight isn't over yet. She said that, based on her research, children who suffer from the virus could experience autism, learning disabilities, vision problems, long-term seizures or cerebral palsy.

Luckily, Jack has yet to experience any symptoms.

"You're always wondering when the shoe's going to drop, like when he's going to start showing signs and symptoms of something, but so far nothing, which is incredible," Liz said. "He's definitely a miracle."

Cody said Jack is improving every day. He said the family feels very fortunate

that everything played out the way it did on account of the unknowns that are associated with the virus.

"There wasn't very much information on it so it's very scary not knowing what the outcome would be and still after the fact not knowing what long-term effects could happen," Cody said. "He's definitely a fighter and definitely continues to make us proud with his improvements every day, showing how strong he really was against all odds."

Liz and Cody look forward to one day telling Jack about his experience in the PICU and how the medical professionals came to his aid. Their gratitude inspired them to hold the Jan. 28 fundraiser for Baystate at the Country Club.

Cody described Jack's first birthday party as amazing and voiced appreciation for everyone who participated.

"Given everything that he's been through at such an early age, now being able to celebrate his first birthday is just definitely surreal. It was definitely a great turnout; better than what we expected."

Now, Liz and Cody count their blessings daily, as they're thankful for every moment with their baby Jack. Both parents hope Jack's story can inspire whoever is fortunate enough to hear it.

"This has brought us all together and made us realize life is so precious and just to take a minute to slow down and just realize that and enjoy each other's company. It's been quite the experience for all of us. A positive one; it's been wonderful," Liz said.

Liz and Cody will continue to collect donations for Jack until March 5, when they participate in the Radiothon for Baystate Children's Hospital through 94.7 WMAS.

To contribute to the fundraiser, one can search <https://givebutter.com/h7RnBT>.

Keep fire safety in mind when cooking and using candles this Valentine's Day

Keep fire safety in mind this Valentine's Day to safely maintain the spark of a romantic evening. According to the National Fire Protection Association, that means keeping a close eye on what's cooking on the stove or in the oven and practicing caution when using candles.

"For anyone planning to celebrate Valentine's Day at home this year, there's a good chance those plans will include a special meal and glowing candles," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA. "Our goal is to make sure

these romantic gestures are done with fire safety in mind."

Cooking is by far the leading cause of U.S. home fires with nearly half (49%) of all home fires involving cooking equipment. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of cooking fires and half of all cooking fire deaths.

"Keeping a close eye on what's cooking can be a challenge, particularly on special occasions like Valentine's Day when you're trying to get everything just right," Carli said. "But when you consider that un-

attended cooking is the leading cause of cooking fires, it's clear that carefully monitoring what's on the stove and in the oven is critical to ensuring a fire-safe evening."

Candles, which also represent a leading cause of home fires, need to be used with caution. NFPA data shows that half of all candle fires started when a flammable object - such as furniture, bedding, curtains, home decorations or clothing - was too close to a lit candle. In 21% of home candle fires, the candle was either left unattend-

ed, discarded or otherwise misused. Over one-third of candle fires (36%) started in the bedroom.

Carli recommends using flameless or battery-operated candles, which provide a similar look and feel to open-flame candles while eliminating the risk of associated fires. If you do plan to use real candles, the following are tips from NFPA to do so safely:

Avoid using candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.

Place candles on sturdy,

uncluttered surfaces where they will not be knocked over.

Use caution when lighting candles. Keep hair and any loose clothing away from the flame.

Do not allow candles to burn down too close to the base of the holder or container.

Never leave a child alone in the presence of a burning candle.

Keep matches and lighters out of children's reach.

NFPA encourages the public to make sure they have working smoke alarms and to develop and practice a home escape plan.

New Year's resolutions for mental wellness

From Miravista Behavioral Health Center

HOLYOKE – As we approach the dawn of a new year, Miravista Behavioral Health Center is championing the spirit of mental wellness by encouraging individuals to set realistic and attainable New Year's resolutions. Recognizing the importance of fostering positive mental health habits, Miravista is dedicated to empowering individuals on their journey towards overall well-being. In a world where the pursuit of perfection can sometimes overshadow the significance of self-compassion, Miravista Behavioral Health Center emphasizes the need for resolutions that

prioritize mental health and which are both realistic and achievable. This approach aims to reduce the pressure often associated with traditional New Year's resolutions and promotes a more holistic perspective on personal growth.

So how best to set resolutions which focus on one's mental health and well-being? Miravista offers these helpful key themes:

Prioritize self-care rituals

Resolve to incorporate daily self-care rituals into your routine. This could include activities like meditation, reading, taking a warm bath, or going for a nature walk.

Establish healthy boundaries

Set clear boundaries in your personal and professional life. Learn to say 'no' when necessary

and prioritize activities that contribute positively to your well-being.

Cultivate mindfulness and presence

Make a commitment to being more present in the moment. Practice mindfulness through activities like meditation, deep breathing exercises, or simply taking a moment to appreciate the present.

Nurture positive relationships

Focus on building and strengthening positive relationships. Invest time in meaningful connections with friends and family, fostering a support system that contributes to your emotional well-being.

Limit screen time

Reduce the time spent on

electronic devices and social media. Allocate time for activities to promote mental health, such as reading, engaging in hobbies, or spending quality time with loved ones.

Practice gratitude

Start a gratitude journal and make it a habit to reflect on the positive aspects of your life. Regularly expressing gratitude can shift your focus towards positivity.

Engage in regular physical activity

Choose physical activities that you enjoy and make them a regular part of your routine. Exercise has proven benefits for mental health, releasing endorphins that can boost mood and reduce stress.

Seek professional support

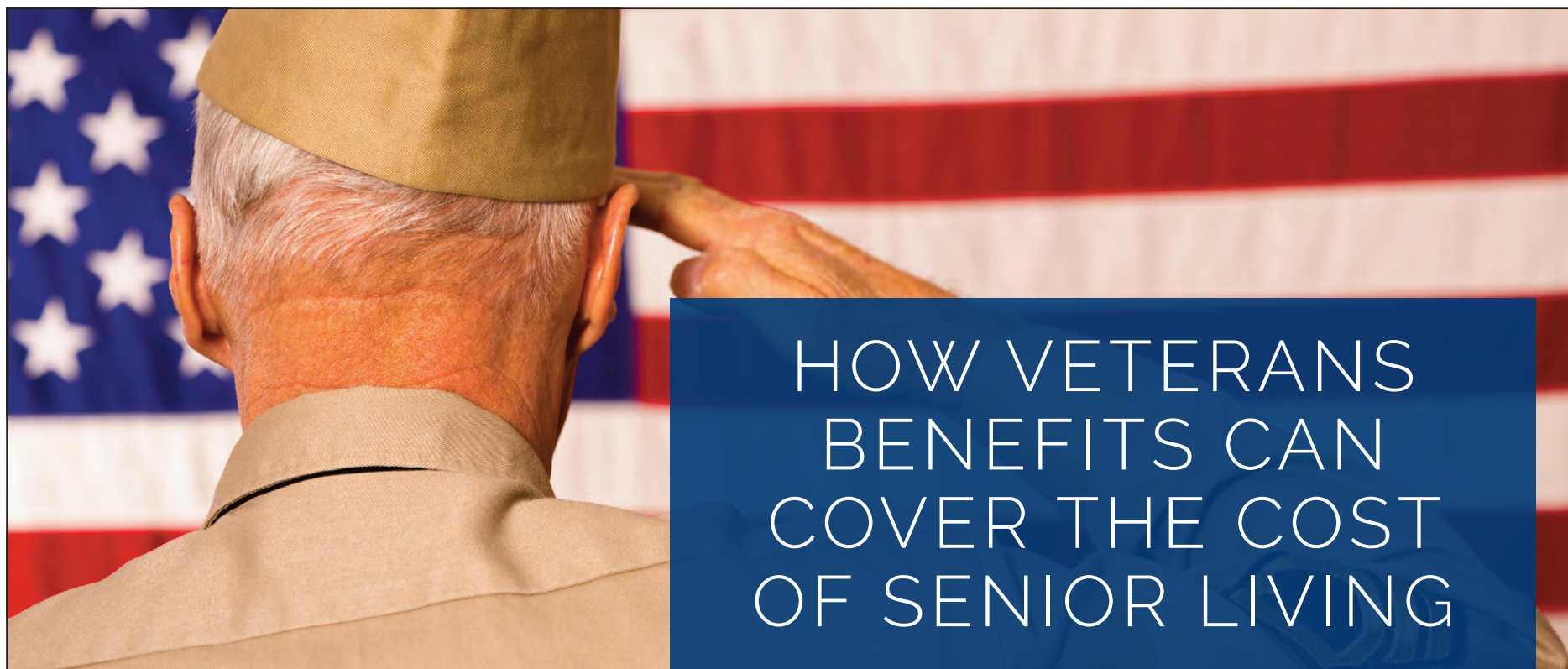
Break down the stigma surrounding mental health by committing to seeking professional support when needed. Therapy or counseling can provide valuable tools for managing stress, anxiety, or other mental health challenges.

Embrace a healthy sleep routine

Prioritize sleep by establishing a consistent sleep routine. Ensure that you are getting enough restorative sleep each night, as it plays a crucial role in mental and emotional well-being.

Learn a new skill or hobby

Engage your mind in positive and creative activities by learning a new skill or picking up a hobby. This can provide a sense of accomplishment and contribute to your overall sense of well-being.



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