

Chicopee Register

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COMMUNITY

Families get creative with watercolor painting

School vacation week library activity was well-attended

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
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CHICOPEE - Families came to the library's Bazan Community Room in droves on Feb. 20 for a Watercolor Resist Painting event.

The event was part of the library's February school vacation programming.

The event opened with Youth Services Associate Erin Daly demonstrating how to create watercolor resist art by using watercolor paper to draw with a white crayon and then painting over it to create a piece of art.

Afterward, families got creative with their own unique watercolor resist painting pieces.

Daly was thrilled with the huge turnout for the event, including seeing the adults participating with their children.

"I love to see kids and their grown-ups making art together. It's good for everybody to work with their hands and do something creative. An art project like this is experimental; you try dif-



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

A group photo of children from the Center for Martial Arts & Fitness with Nathaniel Morales and Stephanie Peloquin and mother-son duo Catalina Rojas and her son, Dante, show off their watercolor resist paintings during the Watercolor Resist Painting event at the Chicopee Public Library.

ferent things and see what happens," Daly said.

Daly said the process is easy and doesn't leave much of a mess.

"We chose to do watercolor resist because it is an easy technique that even young kids would be able to do," Daly said.

Catalina Rojas and her son,

Dante, were one of those many families in attendance, painting an outdoor nature scene with a tree and a cat.

Rojas, who moved to Chicopee six months earlier, shared that her family heard about the event when attending other workshops and programs.

The family members are

also avid library lovers and enjoy art.

"All our lives, we love to read, we like to paint so we try to go to workshops and to do it at home," Rojas said. "And also, be conscious about the politics and the importance of the art for our lives, not just as a hobby, but also because it's important for

development, humanity, for creativity."

Rojas previously worked in a library in Colombia for nearly 10 years, having overseen workshops for both adults and children, which is another reason

See **WATERCOLOR PAINTING** page 6

COMMUNITY

Walczak appointed to Golf Commission



TURLEY PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

Former City Councilor Stan Walczak and Mayor John Vieau, pictured in 2021, when the softball field at Szot Park was dedicated to Walczak.

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
dzbierski@turley.com

CHICOPEE - The City Council named a familiar face to a municipal board during its Feb. 20 meeting.

Former Parks and Recreation Superintendent and Ward 9 City Councilor Stan Walczak was unanimously appointed to the Golf Commission. The Golf Commission oversees activity at Chicopee Country Club, a municipal course owned and operated by the city. The commission meets

twice a month during the golf season and once per month during the winter. Numerous councilors praised the long-time contributions of Walczak on Tuesday as they discussed his appointment.

"Stan, you've done a great job with the city, and your reputation proceeds you. I know you'll be able to hit it right off the tee from the get-go. Good luck to you and congratulations," Ward 4 City Councilor George Balakier said.

See **WALCZAK** page 6

COMMUNITY



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHLOE SOTO, MAYOR'S OFFICE

Members of the police department and city officials gathered on Feb. 20 to recognize work completed investigating and handling major scams.

Members of police department recognized for handling major scam incidents

By Monica Torres
Community & Constituent Liaison,
Mayor's Office

CHICOPEE - On the morning of Feb. 20, Mayor John Vieau along with Police Chief Patrick Major both presented recognitions in appreciation.

In this world where scams and fraud are becoming increasingly prevalent, the role of law enforcement officers in protecting and serving the community is more crucial than ever. Recently, the City of Chicopee had the privilege of witnessing three of its officers demonstrate ex-

ceptional dedication and professionalism in handling two major scam incidents, ultimately leading to successful outcomes and restoring faith in the justice system.

Sgt. Matthew Costa and Sgt. Matthew Muldoon, along with Officer Elli Rodriguez, showcased remarkable commitment and competence in their respective roles during these challenging circumstances. Their exemplary service not only highlights the importance of proactive law enforcement but also underscores the significance of community engage-

ment and trust.

In one instance, Costa and Muldoon collaborated tirelessly on a complex scam investigation spanning the period of 2021 to 2023. Their unwavering determination and meticulous attention to detail led to the resolution of a scam amounting to \$60,000, culminating in a favorable outcome in the Florida courts. Their dedication went beyond mere enforcement of the law; they provided invaluable support and assistance to the af-

See **OFFICERS RECOGNIZED** page 6



The Aquino Family, consisting of mom Michelle and her sons Michael and Angel during the Bingo for Books event at the Chicopee Public Library.



Youth Services Specialist Corrina Stokes and Youth Services Cataloguer Beau Manglass get ready to call the next number during the Bingo for Books event.

Bingo for Books brings family fun to the library

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - Families came to the library on Feb. 21 for a Bingo for Books event in the Bazan Community Room.

The well-attended event was part of February school vacation programming, with other events this week including a Little Kid Dance Party, Watercolor Resist Painting and an arts workshop with the Fermata Arts Foundation that will send art to children in Uzbekistan.

Throughout the event, attendees enjoyed seven rounds of bingo with a chance to win a children's book, as Youth Services Specialist Corrina Stokes and Youth Services Cataloguer Beau Manglass served as bingo callers.

Manglass noted how attendance for events this school vacation week has been way up.

"We're just happy to see people come out and be utilizing us and having a good time," Manglass said. "Something as simple as bingo, it seems very simple and straightforward, but not a lot of places offer it for free with a book as a prize and bring everyone you'd like to."

Stokes said it's wonderful.

"We're glad to be able to provide a spot to be. We like planning these big events to give families another option of something during this week schools are closed," Stokes said. "We love seeing a whole bunch of faces. Sometimes we see people we don't get to see normally because they're normally at school, so it's always a joy to see everyone."

Stokes also loved how the attendees were multigenerational, with grandpar-



A close-up of children's books that bingo winners could pick out during the Bingo for Books event.



Jordan holds up his book, "Dog Man Unleashed" by Dav Pilkey that he won.

ents, older caregivers, siblings and more enjoying the bingo games alongside the children.

"So, to do an event that is not just for kids, but really for families to come and enjoy together, so it's not just an adult taking a kid to an event. It's everyone coming and participating, having fun, having a chance. The prize might be kid-centric, but the experience is really for the whole family," Stokes said.

Looking ahead to future events, Manglass said Saturday All Ages Playgroups from 1 - 2 p.m. have been very popular.

"So, every Saturday in March, we will be hosting a playgroup at 1 p.m. for families. Again, not limited by age. You could bring certainly a middle schooler, toddler, sibling, have them all sort of play together, experience the children's

room and we put out some extra toys," Manglass said. "Just trying to maximize those opportunities for all of the family to come together and appreciate what we have."

Stokes expressed gratitude for the library being able to offer free activities, events and programs for families all year round.

"As long as we have enough to fit you in the room, we're happy to have anyone, and as long as you can make it here, we are happy to see you and provide different things and activities for people to do," Stokes said.

Manglass added the library "tries to remain that constant" for families during busier schedules.

"If it's the first report that you're working on for the school year that you're working on, we're here for you.

If it's school vacation week and you just want to decompress, we have something for you," Manglass said.

Stokes wants the community to know the library is always trying out new things and to check their Facebook page, website and calendars at the desks for updates.

"Be always checking in. You can also always give us a call or stop by and ask questions about the different kinds of things we're offering, and we're happy to provide that information," Stokes said.

Stokes and Manglass thanked everyone for coming to events throughout school vacation week.

"It was great to see everyone!" Stokes said.

"Thank you and thanks for spending vacation with us!" Manglass said.

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Father Bill Tourigny retires



CHICOPEE – Parishioners and community members attended Fr. Bill Tourigny's retirement Mass and celebration at Ste. Rose de Lima Church on Feb. 19.

Finance Committee meets with Golf Commission about municipal golf course

Golf Pro and city auditor also in attendance

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
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CHICOPEE - The Finance Committee met with the Golf Commission, golf pro and city auditor on Feb. 15 to discuss the municipal golf course.

The conversation concerned the Chicopee Country Club golf course's expenses, revenues and the status of becoming a self-supporting entity.

Lisa Bienvenue shared she's not against the golf course but is concerned "with the way the dialogue has been going that it seems like that there can't be any discussion on the cost and revenues."

Bienvenue stressed the importance of asking questions about where money is going and how it's being spent.

"So, this isn't about being against the golf course. This is about knowing how our tax dollars are being used," Bienvenue said. "What I care about is the money coming into the city and if it's being used in the best way."

David Ross, who played in a corporate league at the golf course for years, thinks there are ways to borrow and bring in better revenue.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

David Ross shares his comments during the Feb. 15 Finance Committee meeting on the municipal golf course.

"As they all say, it's a gem of the city; it brings a lot of people into the city," Ross said. "You see the traffic flow that comes in along that corridor. I mean, it's quite a bit. I think there's things that can be done at the country club to generate better revenues. I believe with this woman here, I believe y'all need to just look at the budget to see where everything lies."

Golf Pro Mike O'Neil explained the Golf Commission hired International Golf Management to help with the golf course's needs, including getting into better condition.

"They've done a tremendous job turning that golf course around, being in spectacular condition, and I think that was the Golf Commission's foresight. I think it was 11 years ago when they first went out and brought this company on," O'Neil said.

O'Neil said revenues are increasing. "We're very happy to have them. They continue to help our revenues go up each year. It has been going up, increasing every



Ward 3 City Councilor Susan Goff shares her thoughts during public input at the Feb. 15 Finance Committee meeting on the municipal golf course.

year," O'Neil said.

On the expenses, O'Neil acknowledged "there are quite a bit," including a new irrigation system the city bought in 2013.

"That's a \$1.8 million bond. So, each year, we get hit with \$130,000 of that bond, plus the interest. Which, every year, we're basically starting off with, and this is a rough number, as little as \$165,000 in the red," O'Neil said. "Earlier on, when the bonds first came out, it was over \$200,000 in the red. So, it is tough to make that up."

O'Neil added the bond "will be there for another three years."

"But without that bond, we would have been in the black \$350,000, so yes, we have been close to \$2 million or so that in the red over the last 10 years," O'Neil said.

City Auditor Sharyn Riley said, "This is not the first time this topic has come up" in privatizing or considering self-supporting for the golf course.

On privatizing, Riley recalled one time it went out to bid, but no one placed a bid.

"Now self-supporting, that's a different thing. To make somebody a true self-supporting department, it'd have to be voted on, it has to be set up differently, it's its own fund. All of the costs associated with the department live in their budget: their bonds, their interest, their pension... their medical insurance, their unemployment, their workman's comp. All of those things would be included," Riley said.

Regarding if the golf course "is truly covering its own cost," Riley said, "more times than not it isn't" and cited the irrigation system bond mentioned earlier by O'Neil as one of the factors.

"There's a lot of indirect costs, and those exist in every department of the city, even my own. It's not unique to the golf course or any other and they're not born by the department unless it is set up as a treatment or price fund," Riley said. "And our golf course was never set up with the intent to be that way."

When Ward 8 Councilor Gary Labrie asked Riley for information on revenue versus expenses and the shortfall, she reviewed the numbers for FY23.

On actual costs, Riley explained they include salaries, operating expenses, maintenance, golf cart lease and any equipment purchases that weren't purchased with re-



City Council President/Councilor-at-large Frank Laflamme asks a question to Thomas Robak, vice chairman of the Golf Commission, Brian Mandes, member of the Golf Commission, Golf Pro Mike O'Neil and City Auditor Sharyn Riley during the Feb. 15 Finance Committee meeting discussion on the municipal golf course.

volving funds but came from the general fund.

"So, the total actual costs for FY23 were \$1,286,000 in round numbers and that's actual costs. The revenues for the same year, or actual revenues, which include games, catering rental, tournament fees, rental of carts, golf lessons, miscellaneous revenue and gift certificates total \$1,371,000," Riley said.

On indirect costs, the totals were another \$225,000.

"That's what brings it in the red. Before that, they're in the black," Riley said.

When Labrie asked O'Neil if the golf course would become self-supporting in the next two to three years, he said this.

"I don't think we'll be self-supporting. I think the way it's run right now is the best way to run it," O'Neil said.

The item was placed on file 5-0.

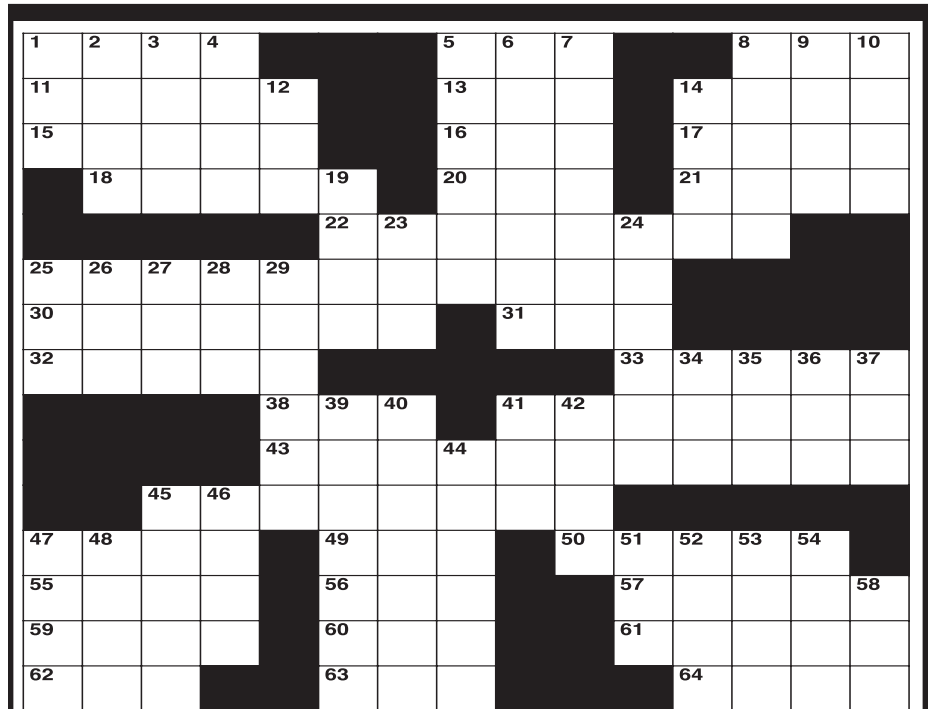
City Council Update

During the Feb. 20 City Council meeting, Ward 3 Councilor Susan Goff thanked the Golf Commission, O'Neil and Riley for presenting their information.

"The fact is that we did lose \$140,000 last year and they did report that we would never be self-sufficient. So, I thank them for all the information that they gave us," Goff said.

Ward 6 Councilor Samuel Shumsky

See **FINANCE COMMITTEE** page 8



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Golf scores
- 5. Shock therapy
- 8. Ballplayer's tool
- 11. Quench one's thirst
- 13. Female relatives of American war vets (abbr.)
- 14. Every one of two or more things
- 15. Member of Muslim people
- 16. Play
- 17. Type of cheese
- 18. Type of lounge chair
- 20. ___ King Cole, musician
- 21. Fellows
- 22. North, Central and South
- 25. In an early way
- 30. Foes
- 31. Georgia rockers
- 32. Cryptocurrency
- 33. Narrow path
- 34. When you hope to get somewhere
- 35. Tease
- 36. Actress Gretchen
- 37. Midway between northeast and east
- 39. Inoffensive
- 40. Yellowish cotton cloth
- 41. Consume
- 42. Does not tell the truth
- 44. Improved something
- 45. Spiritual leader
- 46. Abba __, Israeli politician
- 47. Fix
- 48. Evergreen tree genus
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Prejudice
- 53. Major C. European river
- 54. Long, narrow strap
- 58. Male parent
- 38. Disallow
- 41. Joyousness
- 43. Inaccessible
- 45. Evoke emotions
- 47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 49. Boston Celtic punk rockers (abbr.)
- 50. Sword
- 55. Actor Idris
- 56. Affirmative (slang)
- 57. Afflicted
- 59. One point north of northeast
- 60. Born of
- 61. Arabic name
- 62. Traumatic brain injury (abbr.)
- 63. Extremity
- 64. Post

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Pacific Standard Time
- 2. Protruding ridge on
- 3. Indian king
- 4. Type of milk
- 5. One who brings home the bacon
- 6. More comprehensible
- 7. Connected with sense of touch
- 8. Red mineral
- 9. Breezed through
- 10. Therefore
- 12. Supplement with difficulty
- 14. Early kingdom of Syria
- 19. Satisfy
- 23. They confuse doctors (abbr.)
- 24. Brass instrument
- 25. Domesticated animal
- 26. Ribonucleic acid
- 27. Snake-like fish
- 28. Woman (French)
- 29. Economically-minded aircraft

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GUEST COLUMN

Life Together

Rev. Dr. Randy Wilburn
Minister, Therapist, Consultant

James Baldwin wrote: "I imagine the reason so many people cling to their hate, is because, if they had to let it go, they would have to deal with their pain."

February is Black History Month. For some when reminded they say, "been there done that, they had their chance." Some states erase Black History lest it offend others.

Hateful rhetoric and acts of violence are born in pain, a pain ignored, buried, not allowed to be processed or healed. This pain, this trauma, is not an excuse for bad behavior; we are held accountable.

But, if we could find a way to meet "the other" whom we fear or fail to understand, we might break through the violence which creates fear and division. If we could break through the pain, we might find we have a lot in common.

When such pain dominates the thinking and feeling of a person, they will look for a scapegoat to blame and eliminate.

People of color, Jews, people of various sexual orientation, mentally ill people, and many developmentally delayed youth, are victims of this abuse born in pain.

What pain have you had which may have moved you to fear, judgment of others, and hate? How are you dealing with your pain?

Some self-medicate and live with addiction, which fosters anger and abuse. Some refuse to acknowledge their pain so are unavailable for a relationship. Some just say it is what it is and do not control their anger.

Many damaged individuals will find others with whom they can bond in their common pain and hate; remember the neo-Nazis in Charlottesville, Virginia, "Jews will not replace us".

Many young male school shooters are identified as disturbed, traumatized, and clearly dangerous, after-the-fact of the massacre. Again, he needs to be held accountable, and or his parents who aided him in preparation for such a violent act.

Yet, what if we could get to him before he acted out? One young man pleaded with his parents to get him a doctor and asked for help, and they laughed him off and said, "deal with it".

What pain are the parents failing to deal with that they would reject help for their son?

We cannot erase our common history; black or white, or whatever ethnic context. The beginning of change, renewal, and transformation, begins with me, with you, dealing with our pain, so we do not project it on others and hate or hurt them.

Black History Month is an opportunity to face history and ourselves.

I too imagine the reason many cling to our, their, hate, is because, if they let it go, they would have to deal with our, their, pain.

Life Together is written by Rev. Dr. Randall K. Wilburn. With over 54 years as a parish minister, Wilburn is also an experienced marriage and family counselor. Life Together will deal with topics such as stress, grief, anxiety, healing and hope.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

Send letters to: **The Chicopee Register**,
24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
or email chicopeeregister@turley.com.
The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

GUEST COLUMN



American Goldfinch winter plumage



I received an email from a Brimfield resident who counted 36 plus American goldfinch in his yard during a snow storm. The next day he saw about a dozen.

I also had about 20 plus goldfinch eating on the ground under my feeder. I had seen two or three mixed in with juncos and sparrows from time to time, but not this many. In winter, they are found in flocks that wander in search of food.

The American goldfinch is five inches long. The male during breeding season has a bright yellow body and black cap, wings and tail. The wings also have white bars. The female is yellowish, green overall with black wings and tail.

In winter, the male looks more like the female with a yellowish brown, yellowish wash on the face and chin and black wings with white wing bars. The female in winter is grayish brown with a little yellow and dark brown wings with white wing bars.

Goldfinch feed on the ground, on weed stalks, thistles and foliage. At feeders, they prefer hulled sunflowers and thistle (Niger) seeds.

The female lays three to seven light, blue eggs in a nest of strands from weeds and vines, downy elements from wind-dispersed seeds such as thistles bound with caterpillar webbing placed in a shrub or tree.

Bluebirds

A flock of about eight male and female bluebirds continue to come to my raisin suet cake and the feeder with mealworms. I fill it once or twice during the day as I enjoy watch-

ing them as I work at my desk. During the snow on Tuesday, they visited the mealworm feeder and suet feeder frequently. The blue against the white snow was almost as striking as the red of the cardinal against fresh snow.

Bald eagles

I received a photo of a pair of bald eagles taken by a Palmer resident at Forest Lake in Palmer. They were in the top of a pine tree by the lake.

Brimfield birds

A Brimfield resident sends emails of the birds in his yard on a regular basis. He said, "One day last week a Carolina wren showed up for a day. The warm brown coloration of the bird caught my eye when I glanced out at the feeders. It was feeding on the suet cakes and the 'log' made of suet, berries and mealworms."

He counted 36 plus goldfinch in the yard during a snow storm. The next day there were over a dozen still about. Usually it is three or four goldfinch that show up.

He shared an email from a friend in Belchertown, "We had a female redwing at the seed trays today. It's unusual to get one here this early. We also had four bluebirds show up and munch on the suet. They seem to make a visit when the weather is crappy."

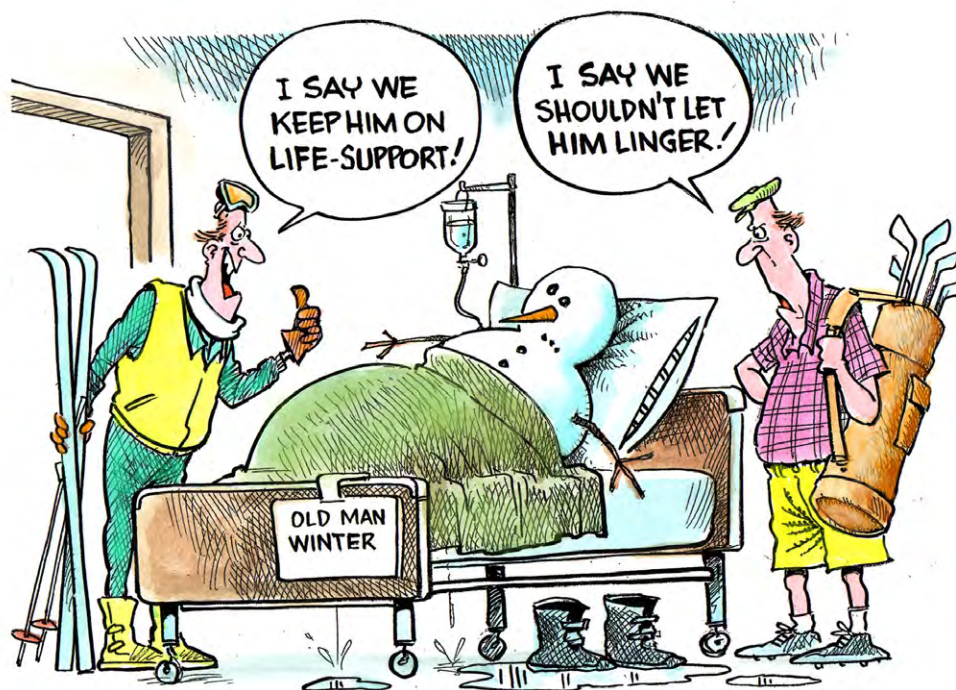
The Belchertown resident also said, "We're inundated with goldfinch. The thistle seed bag is covered with them. I had to fill the hearts feeder three times today due to the numbers of goldfinch around."

The Brimfield resident reported a large number of juncos, four white-throated sparrows and come house finch. He said, "A pileated woodpecker did a fly by the other day. That is how we most often see then although a few years ago a male was coming to our suet feeders. The female came close to the feeders but never feed that I saw." His wife drove past Wheeler Pond in town and was surprised to see the pond was not completely frozen and that there were two pair of hooded mergansers on the pond.

Birds on Feb. 13

The Brimfield resident observed ten species of birds in his yard during the snow on Tuesday, Feb. 13. He counted five mourning doves, one downy woodpecker, one hairy woodpecker, two black-capped chickadees, three tufted titmice, two house finches, one American goldfish and 80 dark-eyed juncos.

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 edowne@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.



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City receives Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant

New bullet proof vests approved for police department

By Dalton Zbierski
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CHICOPEE – Mayor John Vieau announced on Tuesday evening that the City of Chicopee has received the Municipal Cybersecurity Access Grant from the commonwealth’s Executive Office of Technology Services & Security.

The grant was unanimously approved by the City Council and will provide valuable training for city staff regarding cybersecurity awareness and give them the experience of real-world phishing simulations.

“EOTSS is offering the City of Chicopee access to a cyber security vendor’s software. It’s called KnowBe4. We’re very excited,” Vieau said. “This is going

to make sure all the employees in the City of Chicopee are trained to know what to look for when it comes to cybersecurity, phishing, email spam and all those things that we’re concerned about protecting our network.”

KnowBe4’s security awareness training platform provides an effective way to fix cybersecurity problems and provides its customers with great return on investment.

The state’s annual grant program is administered by the Office of Municipal and School Technology to improve cybersecurity posture through end-user training, evaluation and threat simulation.

Each fall, local municipalities apply to participate in the grant program through a competitive application process. EOTSS covers program costs, and OMST monitors participation, provides ongoing support through weekly office hours and offers progress reports and various resources.

Vieau said there is no actual monetary number attached to the grant.

“I will say that the licensing costs have been procured by the commonwealth through this program, and it’s going to run from January through December of 2024. We’re already receiving it. This is just officially endorsing that we’ve received the grant,” Vieau said.

Newly elected Councilor-at-Large Tim Wagner shared that he interviewed for the office presenting the grant. Although he didn’t get the position, he was impressed by the program.

“This is a great program that lots of municipalities have done, and it’s really helped bolster the cybersecurity and awareness efforts in municipalities that really need it. Thanks for putting this forward and going out for this grant,” Wagner said.

Ward 1 Councilor Abigail Arriaga also has a track record with the program.

“I’ve actually been through this train-

ing with this company, and it’s really good,” she said.

On Feb. 20, the City Council also unanimously approved an appropriation of \$7,800 to the Police Special Account for Bullet Proof Vests from available stabilization funds. A bulletproof vest is typically effective for between five and 10 years.

“We have six recruits that are set to graduate very soon. This is reimbursable,” Vieau said. “We expect to receive half of it back from the Department of Justice grant and hopefully the other half from the commonwealth’s Executive Office of Public Safety Bulletproof Vests Partnership Program. Though the state’s portion is not guaranteed, we’re hopeful.”

Police Chief Patrick Major also weighed in.

“We ask for the appropriation in advance and then submit reimbursement through federal and state grants,” Major said.

Brett Willson sworn in to Chicopee Police Department



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHLOE SOTO, MAYOR'S OFFICE

CHICOPEE – Brett Willson was sworn in as the newest officer for the Chicopee Police Department on Feb. 15. Chief Patrick Major, Clerk Keith Rattell, Treasurer Marie Laflamme, Vice President/At-Large Councilor Robert Zygarowski, At-Large Councilor Jerry Roy, Ward 1 Councilor Abigail Arriaga and State Rep. Shirley Arriaga’s Office were in attendance with Mayor John Vieau for the swearing-in ceremony.

AROUND THE REGION

Women in Community presents ‘The Joy in Jesus’ on Feb. 24

SPRINGFIELD – Women, high school age and above, are invited to attend Women in Community’s “The Joy in Jesus” on Saturday, Feb. 24 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., hosted by the Evangelical Covenant Church at 915 Plumtree Road, Springfield.

You must pre-register for this event. The registration deadline is Feb. 14. Childcare is available on the premises free of charge.

The cost to register is \$25 and includes a welcome coffee and muffin, discussion groups, breakouts, and a luncheon. Doors open at 8:30 a.m.

There will be an offering to support Christina’s House, in Springfield. Brochures: www.eccspringfield.org/adults, “Women Ministries”.

For questions, please email Nan Lingenfelter, nlingenfelter@charter.net.

Polish Plate Dinner to be held March 9 at Immaculate Conception Church

INDIAN ORCHARD – A Polish Plate Dinner (Four Pierogi, one Golambki, Kielbasa, Kapusta, Rye Bread) will be held on Saturday, March 9, from 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church Hall 25 Parker St., Indian

Orchard. Eat In or Take Out. \$20. per plate. For Tickets please call: Maria Kowalski at 413-222-6229, Irena Wurszt at 413-427-5846 and Maryla Bukowski at 413-427-9464.

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IN THE CITY



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

A fun group photo with, from the left, Porter, Heather Hall, Harper, Peter Hall, Darleen Saczawa and Ayha during the Watercolor Resist Painting event at the Chicopee Public Library.

WATERCOLOR PAINTING from page 1

she's an avid supporter of the library.

"We like to share ideas about books. I think it helps us strengthen our bonds also," Rojas said. "We like to be part of the community. That's the most important part; like to know people and to meet people."

Rojas added she appreciates how the library offers events like this, especially during school vacation week, for an opportunity to meet other families and get acquainted with the community.

"So, I think there's places that are

nice for that," Rojas said.

Like Rojas, Daly said it's important to offer activities to families during school vacation week.

"Families are always looking for free fun things to do during school vacation weeks. Art projects seem to really draw a crowd. We have been working on coming up with ideas that we can do easily with a really large group," Daly said.

Rojas encourages the community to support their local library and tell people you know about the programs they have to offer.

"I met some friends in the neighborhood, and I told them that there are these

types of events that they didn't know, so I told them to come," Rojas said. "I encourage that and that people should come."

Daly thanked everyone for attending and was glad the families enjoyed themselves.

"Everyone was calm and focused and seemed to be having a great time. I had many replies of 'Yes!' as I walked around and asked kids if they were having fun," Daly said. "As ever, we will be having more fun events for families."

Rojas' message to the staff was this.

"I would like to have more of this type of workshop where you can share it with your family," Rojas said.



Carlos Enriquez works on his own watercolor painting at the Watercolor Resist Painting event.



From the left, Greyson, Eleanor and Lilly pose with their paintings during the Watercolor Resist Painting event at the Chicopee Public Library.



A close-up shot of a watercolor resist painting at the Watercolor Resist Painting event at the Chicopee Public Library.

To learn more about upcoming events, visit chicopeelibrary.org.

WALCZAK from page 1

Current Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello followed in Walczak's footsteps when he retired from the council several years ago. Saying that she's known Walczak a long time, Costello described him as a neighbor and wished him the best.

"This is a great opportunity for him to share his knowledge of the golf course, and there've been questions in regard to the finances of the golf course, so I appreciate the fact that Mr. Walczak is taking the time to volunteer," Costello said.

Costello continued, noting that Walczak is great at running meetings and feels he is the right man to join the Golf Commission.

"I've attended a few meetings at the senior center, where he is the chairperson of the Friends of the Seniors, so I appreciate his volunteerism and the fact that at this time, with the golf course having some questions financially, that he's ready to serve," Costello said.

Ward 8 City Councilor Gary Labrie also has known Walczak a long time and vouched for him, pointing out that the new appointee is well-known throughout the city. Labrie said he wanted to see Walczak appointed as soon as possible and shared an old memory.

"(Walczak) gave me my first umpiring job when I was about 15, 16 years old and he's been involved in Chicopee all my life and has volunteered for numerous (positions). His resume would fill pages. I think he'd be a great addition to the commission," Labrie said.

Newly elected Ward 6 City Councilor Samuel Shumsky said he met Walczak about four years ago while serving on another board. Shumsky also had a favorite memory to share.

"I remember the first thing he said to me was, 'Anyone who shows up on a summer day in a suit and tie should be on a commission,' so I'm looking forward to working with him," Shumsky said.

Mayor John Vieau thanked Walczak for stepping up. He said the new appointee is a "huge part of what Chicopee is all about."

Vieau appreciates the fact that Walczak will help oversee what is happening at the country club. Vieau recalled that a softball field at Szot Park is named after Walczak before sharing a



TURLEY PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

Former City Councilor Stan Walczak, pictured speaking in 2021 when the softball field at Szot Park was named in his honor.

quick joke.

"Szot 1 is dedicated in honor of you Stan. That was an amazing ceremony and certainly something that you earned over the years," Vieau said. "I just remember that one call you missed in that big basketball game when you were refereeing."

Many years ago, after receiving his master's degree from Springfield College, Walczak was inspired by his professors to pursue a career in recreation. He served in the Parks and Recreation Department as a recreation supervisor and assistant superintendent before being named superintendent, a position he held for two decades. He spent approximately 35 years in the department.

In 2005, the commonwealth's Recreation and Park Association named Walczak as "Park Professional of the Year," as he oversaw 32 parks at the time.

In 2021, Walczak led the department to its acquisition of a \$1.2 million Gateway Grant for Szot Park to improve the sports complex, install new lighting, bleachers, an automatic irrigation system, new scoreboards, team dugouts, turf and drainage upgrades and handicap accessibility.

After retiring from his superintendent role in 2013, Walczak served six years as a city councilor, after first being elected in November 2015.

OFFICERS RECOGNIZED from page 1

affected residents, demonstrating genuine compassion and empathy during their time of need.

Similarly, Officer Elli Rodriguez, serving in the C3 Unit on Center Street,



Mayor John Vieau and Police Chief Patrick Major.

exhibited exemplary investigative skills and diligence in resolving another scam incident involving \$21,000 in January. Through his diligent efforts, Rodriguez was able to secure the full amount of assets that the resident thought he had lost. Ofc. Rodriguez was able to provide much-needed reassurance and support to the victim.

The actions of these officers reflect the true spirit of public service and exemplify the values upheld by the Chicopee Police Department. Their dedication to protecting the community and ensuring the safety and well-being of its residents serves as an inspiration to us all. They have not only fulfilled their duty but have gone above and beyond, leaving a lasting positive impact on the community they serve.

On behalf of the City of Chicopee, we extend our deepest gratitude to Sergeant Matthew Costa, Sergeant Matthew Muldoon, and Officer Elli Rodriguez for their exceptional contributions, outstanding leadership, and unwavering dedication. Their exemplary conduct serves as a beacon of hope and reinforces our trust in law enforcement.

Let us all take inspiration from their commitment to service and continue to support and collaborate with our local police force in building a safer and more resilient community.



Mayor John Vieau congratulates Officer Elli Rodriguez as Chief Patrick Major looks on.

Sports

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Colts beat rival Pacers

CHICOPEE – Last Thursday night, rivals Chicopee High and Chicopee Comprehensive renewed acquaintances with the Colts getting the close win 55-51. Comp, which lost in the opening round of the Western Mass. tournament this week, scored 17 points while Brody Fay had 12 points.

The Pacers were led by Christian Owens-Cote with 15 points and Jovan Gollman had 14 points.

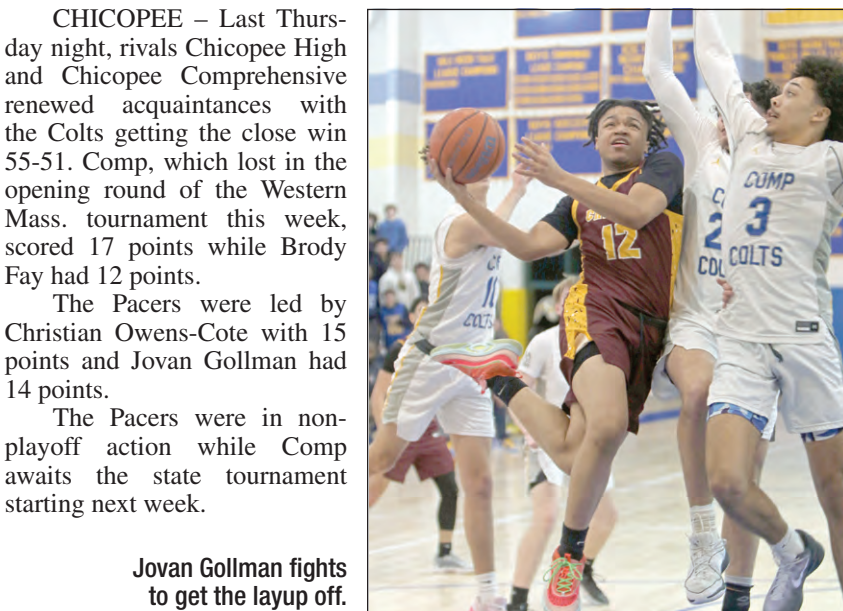
The Pacers were in non-playoff action while Comp awaits the state tournament starting next week.



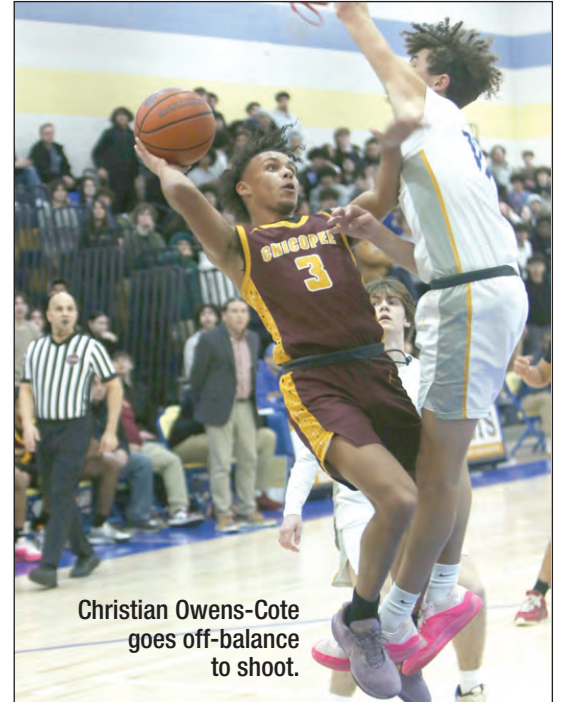
TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Tineus McCluster gets a bank shot off.



Garrett Gauthier jumps for the layup.



Jovan Gollman fights to get the layup off.



Christian Owens-Cote goes off-balance to shoot.



Dominic Garcia shoots with a block coming from the side



Brody Fay goes for a floater shot.



Nadir Johnson gets a quick shot off.



Xavier Kleps sends a pass away ahead of pressure.

Comp girls win two straight

CHICOPEE – Last week, Chicopee Comprehensive girls basketball team finished off the regular season last week with two straight wins. The Colts defeated Belchertown followed by a win against Monson last Wednesday evening 57-34. In the win, Taryn Carriveau was hot all game with 20 points and some precision shooting. Kaitlyn Gilhooly had 14 points. The Colts finished the regular season 12-6 and defeated Longmeadow in the quarterfinals of the Western Mass. tournament on Monday.



Alyssa Caney shoots at the free throw line.



Taryn Carriveau dribbles down the sideline.



Mariah Rodriguez goes for the layup.



Ava DeBettoncourt bounces a pass inside the arc.



Natalie Fournier is laser-focused as she takes a three-point shot.

Pacers lose to league rival Falcons

WILBRAHAM – Last Thursday night, Chicopee girls basketball suffered a loss at Minnechaug Regional 78-30. It has been a struggle this season for the Pacers, especially on offense.

The Pacers got 12 points from Lauren Cross, the only player to get into double digits. The Pacers fell to a tough 1-17 for the regular season and were assigned non-playoff games for the final week of the season.

The Pacers will not qualify for the state tournament.

Checkers get best of T-Birds

CHARLOTTE, N.C. -- The Springfield Thunderbirds (23-20-3-2) were unable to complete a third-period comeback attempt, as they fell by a final score of 5-3 against the Charlotte Checkers (24-20-5-0) on Sunday inside Bojangles' Coliseum.

The Checkers carried much of the offensive play in the opening 10 minutes, making Malcolm Subban work a lot in the first period. Moments after a Springfield delay-of-game penalty ended, Charlotte maintained offensive pressure and got on the board as Gerry Mayhew found open ice in the low slot and one-touched a pass from Casey Fitzgerald through Subban at 9:22. The Checkers hit two other posts in the period on their way to outshooting Springfield 17-7 in the first frame.

Springfield had its own chance clip iron in the early stages, as Jakub Vrana narrowly missed giving the T-Birds a 1-0 edge when he one-timed a Ryan Suzuki saucer pass off the pipe behind Spencer Knight. Despite the disparity in shot attempts, the T-Birds still found a way to get the game evened up when Zach Dean deflected a Leo Loof shot from the

left circle all the way to the crease and through Knight's legs with just 1:09 left in the first, tying the game, 1-1.

The tying marker, however, proved to do little to quell Charlotte's offensive mojo in the second period. Another lengthy defensive zone sequence for the T-Birds ended in a Ryan McAllister one-time goal at 2:13 of the middle frame. Springfield's penalty kill then got dented for the first time in the season series at 10:49 when Zac Dalpe found a loose puck deep in the blue paint before Subban and the defense could clear it away. The Checker captain's 12th goal of the season upped the lead to 3-1, which would stand through the end of the second. Charlotte outshot Springfield 33-12 through 40 minutes.

Springfield threatened another third period comeback just 41 seconds into the third as Joey Duszak wristed a shot over Knight's blocker to make it a 3-2 game off assists from Matthew Peca and Adam Gaudette. Despite a heavy presence in the Charlotte zone in the opening half of the final frame,

the score stayed 3-2 until Justin Sourdif guided a Mayhew centering pass through Subban to restore the two-goal cushion for the Checkers at 12:04.

Still undeterred, Peca and the T-Birds responded in kind just 48 seconds later, as the captain circled the offensive zone before elevating a wrist shot through traffic and over Knight's glove to cut it down to a 4-3 score.

With 2:51 remaining, the Springfield power play was given a grand opportunity following a tripping penalty on Sourdif, but the Charlotte penalty killers answered the call, and another Springfield minor penalty nullified the power play and spoiled any chances of a tying goal. Mayhew finished his three-point night, finding the empty net with just over 30 seconds to play.

It marked Charlotte's first win in four tries this season against the Thunderbirds. Springfield returns home to begin a three-game weekend on Friday as the 1-91 rival Hartford Wolf Pack comes to town. Puck drop is set for 7:05 p.m. at the MassMutual Center this Friday night.



Railers fall in shutout to Bears

ORLANDO, FL -- The Worcester Railers HC (21-20-4-2, 48pts) got shutout by the Orlando Solar Bears (24-16-6-2, 56pts), on Thursday night by the final score of 4-0 in front of 5,684 fans at the Kia Center.

Orlando struck first with two quick goals late in the first period from Mitchell Hoelscher (1-1-2) and Alex Frye (1-0-1). Tanner Schachle (1-0-1) added one more in the second to push Orlando ahead 3-0 going into the third. Jimmy Mazza (1-0-1) ripped a shot down-ice off of the draw in the third period into an empty net to give Orlando the final goal of the game and a 4-0 victory over Worcester.

The Railers started off the first period strong. During the first ten minutes, the Railers utilized a two-man forecheck which led to some great chances down low and keeping both the puck in their offensive zone and the tired Solar Bear players on the ice. Despite their efforts early, the Solar Bears would light the lamp first.

A shot from the point by defenseman Zachary Massicotte was initially blocked out in front but found its way to an open Mitchell Hoelscher (22nd) who was sitting on the doorstep. The Solar Bears piled on the goal scoring just two minutes later with a 2-on-1 rush. Hoelscher would drag Railers Defenseman Ryan Dickinson to the far side boards to allow Forward Alex Frye (10th) to capitalize on the doorstep with a backhand shot to beat the outstretched John Muse. The Solar Bears outshot the Railers, 12-6.

The second period was a quiet one for the Railers. They would lead the period with shots on goal but none would result in a goal. The Railers had some great opportunities on their first power play of the game late in the period and built some strong momentum for them to carry into the third. However, the Solar Bears would continue to deal damage to the Railers with another late-period goal. Solar Bear forward Tyler Bird would enter the Railers defensive

zone from the far side and send a quick pass to the high slot. The puck bounced to forward Tanner Schachle (2nd) who picked up the loose puck and backhanded a shot through Muse. The Railers led the period and game with shots on goal 14-5 and 20-17.

The third period provided a mix of chances and physicality from both sides. John Muse did a great job shutting down an odd-man rush and breakaway opportunity just a few minutes into the period. Shortly after, the Railers would get their chances on net during their powerplay chance. Tension throughout the game built up to the point where Railers Forward Jack Quinlivan dropped the gloves against Solar Bear Defenseman Jérémie Biakabutuka. The game was capped off with an empty net goal scored by Solar Bear Defenseman Jimmy Mazza with a final score of 4-0 in favor of Orlando.

The Railers outshot the Solar Bears in the third and in the game, 16-8 and 36-25.

Miracle League to receive Doyle Award

SPRINGFIELD -- The Miracle League of Western Massachusetts, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing inclusive baseball opportunities for individuals with disabilities, have been selected as the recipient of the Ryan Doyle Courage Award by the Western Mass Baseball Hall of Fame.

The Ryan Doyle Courage Award, named in honor of the late Ryan Doyle, a courageous young athlete who battled cancer, recognizes individuals or organizations that demonstrate exceptional courage, resilience, and dedication to the sport of baseball in Western Massachusetts. The Miracle League of Western Massachusetts was chosen for their unwavering commitment to creating an inclusive environment where all individuals, regardless of ability, can experience the joy of playing baseball.

Founded in 2015, the Miracle League of Western Massachusetts has been providing accessible baseball programs for children and adults with disabilities. Through their adaptive facilities and volunteer support, they ensure that every player has the opportunity to participate in America's favorite pastime. The organization has positively impacted the lives of countless individuals, fostering camaraderie, self-confidence, and a sense of belonging within the community.

The Miracle League of Western Massachusetts will be formally presented with the Ryan Doyle Courage Award at the Western Mass Baseball Hall of Fame induction ceremony on March 7th 6pm at Twin Hills Country Club in Longmeadow. This event brings together Western Mass baseball legends, enthusiasts, community leaders, and former MLB players to celebrate the accomplishments of the inductees.

For more information about the Miracle League of Western Massachusetts, their inclusive baseball programs and to volunteer, please visit <https://miracleleaguewestma.com/> or contact Brian Feeley at brian@miracleleaguewestma.com.

To learn more about Ryan's story: Please visit the Ryan Doyle Foundation at <https://rd26.org/>. For tickets to attend the induction dinner on March 7th please go to www.valleybluesox.com or email WMassHOF@valleybluesox.com

Team Mass. holding tryouts for AAU season

STURBRIDGE -- Why play for Team Mass? Affordable/competitive AAU Basketball program. Teams could potentially travel to tournaments in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Maine or New York (coach dependent). Program is run on principle to teach the kids to be respectful on and off the court, and to learn the game of basketball with skills needed to be competitive while still having fun. Any questions, contact Chris Siniscalchi 413-539-1548 Email: teammassbasketball@gmail.com

Boys tryouts: Saturday, March 2 (Tantasqua Junior High School)

Grades 4/5/6: 8 to 9:25 a.m. and grades 7/8: 9:25-10:50 a.m.

Grades 9/10/11: 10:50 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. *Grades 9/10 and 11 if in districts, just sign up

Girls tryouts: Saturday, March 2 (Tantasqua Junior High School)

Grades 4/5/6: 12:15 to 1:40 p.m. Grades 7/8: 1:40 to 3 p.m. Grades 9/10/11: 1:40 to 3 p.m. Grades 9/10 and 11, if in districts just sign up

Players only need to make one tryout, but try to make both as it gives coaches a better look.

Tantasqua Junior High School is located at 320 Brookfield Rd., Fiskdale.

There is a \$20 tryout fee (covers all tryout dates). Please arrive 15 minutes early for registration. Please bring copy of birth certificate (needed for age/grade verification). Must be accompanied by parent/guardian to fill out and sign registration form.

FINANCE COMMITTEE from page 3

clarified his comments from a previous meeting, explaining while he voted for a meeting to be held to address the concerns presented, he wanted to highlight "that the golf course like all city departments in service wasn't established for a profit," with fees paid to play the course supporting course upkeep and maintenance.

Multiple fundraisers, including the AGGA Tournament, are also held at the golf course.

"I support the golf course and all that it has to offer. I look forward to working with Mike O'Neil, the golf commission and the staff at the course during these next two years," Shumsky said.

The report was received and placed on file with a vote of 11 yes and one abstention.

The benefits of local newspapers

Local newspapers play vital roles in communities across the globe. The Information Age has changed the way many people get their news, but local newspapers continue to serve as valuable resources for readers interested in learning more about and becoming more involved in their communities.

While local publishers continue to adapt to the changes brought about by technology, the following are a handful of benefits unique to local newspapers.

- **Local newspapers keep readers up-to-date on their own communities.** Globalization may be here to stay, but that does not mean local communities are no longer home to newsworthy events. National and international newspapers and 24-hour cable news channels can keep men and women up-to-date on national and world news, but in many instances, local newspapers are the only means people have to learn about what's going on in their own communities. Local politics impact residents' lives every day, and

local newspapers cover local politics extensively.

- **Local newspapers benefit nearby businesses.** Small business owners often connect with community members via local newspapers. A strong, locally based small business community can improve economies in myriad ways, creating jobs in the community and contributing tax dollars that can be used to strengthen local schools and infrastructure. And local newspapers do their part by providing affordable and effective advertising space to local business owners looking to connect with their communities.

- **Local newspapers can strengthen communities.** Local newspapers are great resources for residents who want to become more active in their communities and learn more about community events. Local newspapers often showcase community events like carnivals, local theater productions and projects like park cleanups. These are great ways for readers to become

more active in their communities and build stronger communities as a result.

- **Local newspapers can benefit children.** National newspapers may have little age-appropriate content to offer young children, but local newspapers tend to include more soft news items than national periodicals, and such stories typically are appropriate for young readers. According to Newspapers in Education, students who participated in an NIE group in Florida performed significantly better in spelling and vocabulary than nonreaders.



Additional studies have indicated that students who use newspapers in the classroom perform better on standardized reading tests than those who do not use newspapers in class.

Many local newspapers have played vital roles in their communities for decades, providing a go-to resource for local readers and business owners.

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Events and announcements

Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee announces 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.

Holyoke Chicopee Family and Community Program presents 'Dads and Kids'

CHICOPEE – Drop in for a free family program "Dads and Kids" on March 9 at Szetela Early Childhood Center at 66 Macek Drive, as dads, grandfathers, uncles and male caregivers and children ages two to five spend time together playing and learning with Learn in Motion.

Learn in Motion gets kids active, socializing and practicing important life skills such as listening, following directions, sharing, taking turns, teamwork and overcoming challenges.

Learn in Motion gets kids moving, learning and having a ball!

The program will occur on Saturdays March 9, 23 and 30 and April 6 and 20 from 1 – 2 p.m. at the Szetela Early Childhood Center.

Join for one or more Saturdays. For more information, contact Christine at 413-536-0363 x 4536 or email zaskeyc@headstart.org. All are welcome! Children may attend with any adult.

The program is sponsored by the Holyoke Chicopee Coordinated Family & Community Engagement grant from the state's Department of Early Education and Care.

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 through 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@headstart.org or 413-536-0363 x 4536.

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.

VOC kicks off 2024 Tax Assistance Program

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.

Colleges announce Fall 2023 Dean's Lists

Chicopee students make UMass Amherst Fall 2023 Dean's List

AMHERST - Below is a list of Chicopee students who were named to the Dean's List at the University of Massachusetts Amherst for the Fall 2023 semester.

Mohammed Rihab Al Zubaidi, Alexis Lynn Blaine, Nicholas Blinn, Alexis Nichole Brewer, Sorrel Ren Brooks, Elizabeth Christine Marie Butler, Zachary Edward Canavan, Jordan Kayleigh Evora, Marina Rose Fedora, Austin James Fydenkevez, Emma Cecilia Geitz, Grace Connors Xiaochen Gill, Ange Edoxie Gnobo, Kassandra M Guerrero, Joseph Daniel Hanna, Mitchell Peter Jezouit, Hubert Tomasz Kula, Szymon Kula, Kristina Nicole Lavoie, Michelle Anna Letowska, Jonathan Edward Lewis, Brielle Elizabeth Los, Gabriel Mijal, Michael Molina-Duque, Sophia Lillian Nawrocki, Linda Nguyen, Y Ngoc Nguyen, Joshua William O'Brien, Pratham Raju Patel, Kyle Picard, Izabella Poplawska, Chase Joseph Presz, Chelsea Nicole Ramos, Nathan Stephen Roberts, Anabella Grace Rose, Hamdy Mohamad Sayrafi, Olivia Diana Schonagel, Nicole Marie St Hilaire, Christian John Stallman, Lilly DuBois Tabb, Giovanni Julianna Thomson, Vinamra Tyagi, Marco Maximiliano Ulloa-Hiltz, Alison Victoria Wegrzyn, Skylar S Worthen, Kevin Yuen, and Benjamin Anton Zamachaj.

To qualify, an undergraduate student must receive a 3.5 grade-point average or better on a four-point scale.

Indiana Kingsley named to WPI's Dean's List

WORCESTER – Worcester Polytechnic Institute has announced that Chicopee resident Indiana Kingsley, a member of the Class of 2027 majoring in Aerospace Engineering, was named to the university's Dean's List for academic excellence for the fall 2023 semester.

Chicopee resident named to Clark University's Dean's List

WORCESTER – Haley R. Resnick, of Chicopee, was named to second honors on the Clark University Dean's List. This selection marks outstanding academic achievement during the Fall 2023 semester.

Students must have a GPA of 3.8 or above for first honors or a GPA between 3.50 and 3.79 for second honors.

HCC Dean's List for fall 2023 semester

HOLYOKE - Each semester Holyoke Community College recognizes superior scholarship through the Dean's List. A student is placed on the Dean's List if their G.P.A. is 3.2 or higher. The students listed below are from Chicopee and have earned Dean's List honors for the Fall 2023 semester.

Chicopee: Amwag Al Jebur, Sara Al-Jebur, Jada Marie Andino, Jasmine Antoine, Dina Artin, Alicia Rose Beaton, Arleen Marie Berrios, Sydney Linda Blanchette, Sophia Ann Bolston, Yalexia Bonilla, Sarah Jamie Buckley, Leah Valerie Cheney, Cher L. Condino, Alana Jane Cooley, Deborah Rose Cruz, Alexander Noel Delgado, Zachary Taylor Dubreuil, Dylan M. English, Hannah Flowers, Kseniia Allisa Fox, Zoe Marie Fydenkevez I, Joni Michel George, Theodore Joseph Gordon, Gregner Julissa Gotay Quinones, Jenna Nicole Hajdamowicz, Gianna Harris, Kyren Harris, Alexander Ryan Hines, Mariah Holloway, McKenna Rose Houldtson, Rebecca A. Jolly, Natalia Lanice Nashi Jones, Iryna Kravchenko, Nicole Y. Kynard, Joshua C. Laxton, Elisabeth Loiselle, Andres Lopez Pozo, Jason Lee Lozando, McKenna Aurore Malanowski, McKallum Shaw Malanowski, Angel Manuel Martinez Lopez, Evan Daniel Montero, Liangelis Kayliana Morales, Kendra Ann Paquette, Emma Claire Pasterczyk, Hanna May Patrick, David Christopher Perez, Renee Pierre, Steven Michael Placzek, Brian Pride, Hailey Shea Prive, Wilmary E. Ramos, Lance Louis Rice, Jenna Marie Adeline Rinvil, Jazmin J. Rivera, Diana Teresa Rivera, Daeshavana Robinson, Dominik Anthony Rodrigo, Alondra Rodriguez-Rios, DeAndra Roy, Amya Justice Ruiz, Breana Rynn, Mohamad Zuhir Sawan, Shalyn Sullivan, Matthew Tyler Terkelsen, Ashley Ivelisse Terron, Nataliia Usach, Glorymar Valledanes, Carlos David Vasquez, Kyler Joel Viafara, Mykayla and Rae Wabnig.

Chicopee students named to University of Rhode Island Dean's List

KINGSTON, R.I. – The University of Rhode Island is pleased to announce the Fall 2023 Dean's List. The following Dean's List students are from Chicopee: Romeo Brooks, Nathan Conde, Madi Hartling, Ameena King, Taryn Langlois and Ava Lapa.

P	A	R	S			E	C	T		B	A	T			
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PUBLIC NOTICES

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 foreclosing, 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 portion 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 located 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, bounded and described as follows:

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

thence running NORTHERLY one hundred 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, ninety-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 twenty-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 publication.

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

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 The Trial Court
 Hampden Probate and Family Court
 50 State Street
 Springfield, MA 01103
 (413)748-7758
 Docket No. HD23P0810EA
 Estate of:
 David P Dutilly
 Date of Death: 12/08/2022
CITATION ON PETITION FOR SALE OF REAL ESTATE BY A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
 To all interested persons:**

A Petition for Sale of Real Estate has been filed by: **Gary Dutilly of Springfield, MA** requesting that the court authorize the Personal Representative to sell the decedent's real estate at a private sale.

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 date of 03/15/2024.

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.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: February 08, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani
 Register of Probate
 02/23/24

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: 1GN0T13S242432831
 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: 1HGCR2F5XFA029253
 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

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 **March 1, 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.

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 VIN: 1HGCM82683A030042
 Stuarts Automotive
 97 Tanner St
 Lowell, MA 01852

2006 BMW X5
 VIN: 5UXFA13516LY30240
 Michelle Sevigne
 44 Taylor St.
 Holyoke, MA 01040

2008 Nissan Altima
 VIN: 1N4AL21E28C273989
 Ramon Guerra Jr
 72 Temple St Apt 1
 Springfield, MA 01108

2009 BMW 328i
 VIN: WBAWB33549P137599
 Gina Porcello
 86 Spring St
 Enfield, CT 06082

2009 Honda Odyssey
 VIN: 1JJV532W7YL462728
 Jeffrey Hall
 49 La Civita Ct Apt 3
 Stoughton, MA 02072

2014 Chevrolet Silverado
 VIN: 3GCUKSEC3EG286357
 Lesaida Diaz
 254 Hillside Ave
 Hartford, CT 06106

2018 Toyota Rav4
 VIN: JTMRFREV9JJ237239
 Adianez Torres
 23 N East St FL 2
 Holyoke, MA 01040
 02/16, 02/23, 03/01/2024

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT HAMPDEN, Div. Probate & Family Court Dept. HD24E0008PP

To: **Sean P Olbrych of Chicopee, in the County of Hampden, and to all other persons interested.**

A petition has been presented to said Court by Kara Finken of Simsbury, CT, representing that they hold as joint tenants in an undivided part or share of land

lying in Chicopee, in the County of Hampden, setting forth that they desire that all of said land may be sold at private sale or public auction for not less than Three Hundred Thirty Thousand (\$330,000.00) Dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof after full adjudication of the equitable claims contained in said petition and supplemental memorandum filed with the Court.

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney, should file a written appearance in said Court at **Springfield** before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the **first day of April 2024**, the return day of this citation.

Witness, **BARBARA M. HYLAND, Esquire, First Justice of said Court**, this first day of February 2024.

Rosemary A. Saccomani
 Register
 02/16, 02/23, 03/01/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 The Trial Court
 Hampden Probate and Family Court
 50 State Street
 Springfield, MA 01103
 (413)748-7758
 Docket No.
 HD24C0045CA
 HD24C0046CA
 In the matter of:
 Khalid Salim & Sadan Naser
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**

A petition to **Change Name of Minor** has been filed by:

Khalid Salim & Sadan Naser of Chicopee, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: **Khalid Yousif Nassir and Sadan Yousif Nassir**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
 Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court** before **10:00a.m.** on the return day of **03/11/2024**. This is **NOT** a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: February 08, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani
 Register of Probate
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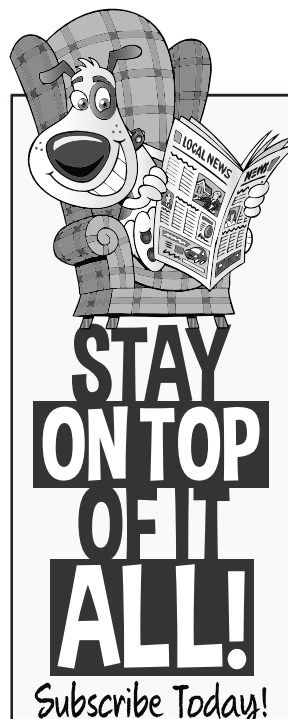


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SPRINGFIELD – Consider adding becoming an organ donor to your list of New Year's resolutions.

"Every nine minutes a new person is added to the national transplant wait list, which is already overcrowded with more than 100,000 men, women and children waiting for a lifesaving organ. Over 40,000 transplants were performed in 2022, a record year for transplants in the United States, but many more people could benefit from a lifesaving organ transplant," said Dr. Kenneth McPartland, medical director, Transplant Division, Baystate Health.

Making your wishes known is easy. If you would like to become a donor, your wishes can be indicated on your driver's license, or you can register online at www.donatelife.net/register.

While doing so, let your family know about your decision to become an organ donor so that they along with friends know and understand your wishes in advance.

There are many common misconceptions about donation that persist today.

Donate Life America offers the following facts to help you better understand organ, eye and tissue donation:

Fact: Anyone can be a potential donor regardless of age, race, or medical history.

Fact: All major religions in the United States support organ, eye and tissue donation and see it as the final act of love and generosity toward others.

Fact: If you are sick or injured and admitted to the hospital, the number one priority is to save your life. Organ, eye and tissue donation can only be considered after you are deceased.

Fact: When you are on the waiting list for an organ, what really counts is the severity of your illness, time spent waiting, blood type, and other important medical information, not your financial status or social status.

Fact: An open casket funeral is possible for organ, eye and tissue donors. Through the entire donation process the body is treated with care, respect and dignity.

Fact: There is no cost to the donor or their family for organ or tissue donation.

Fact: Information about an organ donor is only released to the recipient if the family of the donor requests or agrees to it.

"Deceased donors leave a legacy by giving the gift of life after they pass, but

did you know that this gift can be given during your lifetime? As a living kidney donor, an individual can live a long and healthy life with one kidney while giving someone else a second chance at life," said Nancy Dias, BSN, RN, Living Donor Coordinator, Baystate Medical Center.

Baystate Medical Center offers many options in living kidney donation. The transplant program works closely with the National Kidney Registry as a Donor Care Center of Excellence to facilitate national exchanges or kidney swaps, as well as voucher donations. Compatible and incompatible pairs can donate and receive kidneys with one of the many options available. Visit the NKR website for more information <https://www.kidneyregistry.org/>.

Baystate Transplant Program offers the only Transplant Services in Western Massachusetts for adult patients requiring kidney transplantation. In 2023, Baystate has performed close to 70 kidney transplants, the most ever performed in a single year since the program started over 30 years ago. The program has over 150 patients on the national transplant waiting list and is continuing to find ways to increase access to kidney transplantation.

Today, more and more people are making a difference in someone's life by becoming a living kidney donor to a patient on the Baystate Health waiting list, an alternative to waiting for a kidney from a deceased donor. More information about the process of living donation is available on the Baystate Health Transplant Program website at baystatehealth.org/transplant.

Transplant surgeons use the latest techniques, including minimally invasive surgery, so that patients experience a faster recovery and spend less time in the hospital. In addition to experienced surgeons, the Baystate Transplant Team includes nephrologists, nurse transplant coordinators, dietitians, pharmacists, social workers, financial counselors, as well as administrative and clinical assistants to help guide patients through the process. Living or deceased donor renal transplant is offered as treatment of end-stage renal disease.

Life is meant to be shared. It takes only five minutes to sign up as an organ donor at www.organdonor.gov/sign-up.

To learn more about becoming a living kidney donor, call Baystate Medical Center's Transplant Program at 413-794-2321 Option 2 and speak with the living donor coordinator or sign on to the Baystate Transplant website at baystatehealth.org/transplant for a confidential screening process.

Random Acts of Kindness

By Barb Turcotte

It's not often I get to share stories about communities outside of the towns I write for, but I know this story encompasses other areas too because its congregation comprises of members from them, including the Lyons from Wilbraham who I'd recently featured. They referred me to Sue Peloquin of Chicopee, the one who spear-headed this idea from originally having a tag sale to benefit her church. With the downstairs space of the Trinity Lutheran Church located at 400 Wilbraham Rd. in Springfield, they have created a clean and beautifully organized Thrift Store with a wide variety of items at very reasonable prices.

Here you might find that beloved Beanie Baby you've been looking for that sells for \$2 each or three for \$5. Or perhaps you're looking for that special Easter decoration, some starting at 50 cents. Baby clothing starts at 50 cents and jeans start at \$2 or maybe you'll find a sweater for \$5 or less. Perhaps you're in the market for boots or sneakers, toys, books, CD's, lamps, jewelry or glassware. They've got a great selection of all these as well as many other items. The inventory constantly changes, which is why they have regular shoppers who don't want to miss a good deal and come each week to check out the new merchandise.

The idea for the Thrift Store was originally hatched with 11 women who had taken part in the tag sale benefiting the church, but as the commitment became a reality that number dwindled to three. Sue, along with another Chicopee resident, Mary Vaughn and East Longmeadow resident Wanda Prahm keep this amazing shop running and orderly which involves about seven hours from each per week. Each volunteer staff member comes with their own uniqueness and expertise, but they all agree Sue is the mastermind of the operation. Mary retired after many years of nursing at Baystate Medical Center prior to the merge of becoming such, whereas Wanda retired after eighteen years as the church's secretary and Sue owned her own catering business. Wanda has only been a resident of East Longmeadow for about two years, having moved from North Brookfield after losing her husband but previously had traveled to this church each week regardless of the distance. They do have others who occasionally volunteer but too numerous to mention them all by name. Though Sue admits she couldn't do this without everyone's help, she's the one who often picks up the donations, organizes the space with a vision

of how items should be displayed, does the pricing and makes the final decisions regarding sales. *(The volunteers squealed on her saying that sometimes a much-wanted item gets slipped into the shopper's bag as a special surprise for them when they get home)*

They are excitedly beginning their third season of this undertaking and are very proud of being able to help their congregation by doing this. These ladies are known as the "Golden Girls" of the Trinity Lutheran Church! Each shared with me their own Random Acts of Kindness, as both recipients as well as the doers. These truly are some light-hearted, humorous, amazingly dedicated women!

Each December in the Narthex of the church, they have a Christmas tree that is decorated with donated scarves and mittens they then donate to a local library where they are distributed to those in need. This creates a pooled effort for the entire congregation to partake in to help others. During the cold weather you're apt to see winter jackets hung on the church's fence for anyone who needs one to keep warm. They're also anxiously waiting to start collaborating more with the Red Cross who currently give vouchers for their Thrift Store to help people during their crisis. They do have a few collection sites in various areas that help with donations as well.

These volunteers meet on Wednesdays to organize the new donations, decide what should go into the front hall as sale items and then Sue gathers the new clothing and takes it home to launder before putting them in the store. They are open from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., Fridays only and depending on weather conditions.

Their answer to the question of what to do with items left over from your tag sale, estate sale or spring cleaning, call them? I know I have donations I'll be making arrangements for as my own Random Act of Kindness and will certainly be contributing again when the process of spring cleaning begins. I'm so happy that I was introduced to these ladies and am able to support their cause which is helping others.

If you'd like to donate, call Sue Peloquin at 413-250-2499 and make arrangements for your Random Act of Kindness items. You'll be helping many!

If you'd like to tell me a story about a Random Act of Kindness please contact me at bdt514@aol.com or 413-788-7514. Who knows, you might see your story in this column, 'Just 'Cause' you witnessed, did or received something nice being done. See you next month with another Random Act of Kindness!

BUSINESS

Freedom Credit Union holding 'Month of Giving' campaign to benefit local animal shelters

Donations to benefit the Foundation for TJO Animals and Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter

SPRINGFIELD – Through Feb. 29, Freedom Credit Union is inviting its members, employees and community to "Paws for a Cause" and make cash donations to benefit the Foundation for TJO Animals in Springfield and Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter in Greenfield.

"These amazing institutions provide food, water, shelter and a variety of critical services for thousands of animals in our region every year," said Freedom Credit Union President Glenn Welch. "They rely on donations to help fund everything from veterinary care to toys and bedding for the animals' comfort and enrichment as they wait to find their forever homes."

The Thomas J. O'Connor Adoption Center provides animal shelter and adoption services for the cities of Springfield, Chicopee and Holyoke. The Foundation for TJO Animals was formed to allow the group to better serve the shelter animals in their care through medical treatments and rehabilitation. This veterinary care allows pets to be brought to the adoption floor to hopefully find their forever homes.

The Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter is a volunteer-led group serving the communities of Franklin County. Its mission is to protect and improve the lives of stray, lost and unwanted dogs by offering a welcoming facility, providing care and finding good homes for each animal.

"We encourage you to donate directly to these organizations or at any of our branches through Thursday, Feb. 29," Welch said. "Let's make those tails wag!"

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR MONEY

SHOP, EAT & SPEND IN TOWN

Chicopee Register

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