

# Chicopee Register

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**COMMUNITY**

## Kinamarie Ayala crowned *Chicopee's 2024 Colleen*

*Colleen and her court reflect on the event*

**By Kristin Rivers**  
Staff Writer  
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CHICOPEE - Chicopee Comprehensive High School student Kinamarie Ayala was crowned the 2024 Colleen at this year's Colleen Coronation Ball.

The 2024 court members are Giannalee Beach, Lilian Young, Morgan Presnal and Madelyn Rice.

The ball, taking place at the Portuguese American Club on Feb. 24, was an extravagant gathering with 12 contestants narrowed down to five finalists, who were scored on accomplishments, personality, poise and appearance.

This year's judges were Sarah Calabrese-Dunphy, Dr. Harry Dumay, Keith O'Connor and Kara Herman, with Urszula Kulig serving as tabulator.

The co-hosts were Bernie St. George, past committee member and 2007 Atkinson Award recipient, Kelsey Weibel,



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOEL RODOWICZ

From the left, Giannalee Beach, Lilian Young, 2024 Colleen Kinamarie Ayala, Morgan Presnal and Madelyn Rice at the 2024 Chicopee Colleen Coronation Ball.

See **COLLEEN** page 7

**COMMUNITY**

## Area fire chiefs stress importance of smoke/CO detectors

**By Dalton Zbierski**  
Editor  
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EAST LONGMEADOW - Led by State Fire Marshal John Davine, fire personnel from across the state gathered at the East Longmeadow Fire Department on the morning of Feb. 22 to emphasize the significance of maintaining working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

"We have carefully reviewed the recent data from fatal fires and have noticed some trends," Davine said. "A total of 45 people lost their lives from fire in Massachusetts last year, and nearly 70% of those deaths took place in the home. Two-thirds of those fire victims were older adults ages 65 and up. Tragically, more than half of those homes that had fatal fires did not have working smoke alarms."

There was a time in the state's history where a single fire could take the lives of 492 people, as occurred during the Coconut Grove nightclub fire in Boston in 1942, so 45 fire fatalities statewide in 2023 represents generational progress, but more progress could be made if all residents installed working detectors.

Westfield Fire Chief Patrick Egloff noted that 30% of the state's residential fire deaths last year occurred in Western Massa-



TURLEY PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

On Feb. 22, Chicopee Fire Chief Dan Stamborski spoke on the importance of having a fire escape plan.

chusetts. Egloff is vice president of the Western Massachusetts Fire Chiefs Association, which represents more than 100 communities west of Worcester, ranging from larger urban centers to small rural towns and everything in between.

"No matter where we work, we all agree on one thing: working smoke and CO alarms are vital, lifesaving tools that belong in every home, apartment, moving house and dorm," Egloff said.

Egloff relayed that fire personnel are realistic and know fires will occur as long as people are cooking, heating their homes, smoking and using electricity. However, almost every fire death

can be prevented if residents install, test and maintain their smoke detectors and alarms.

"Smoke alarms alert you to the danger and give you time to escape safely, especially in the overnight hours while you're sleeping," Egloff said. "The sooner you know about the danger, the faster you can escape, and the sooner we're notified, the faster we can be there to help."

Davine, formerly the Northampton fire chief, said that in the case of several dozen fatal fire incidents last year, investigators found smoke alarms disabled, outdated or altogether missing.

See **POLICE CHIEFS** page 8

**COMMUNITY**



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

From the left, a family photo with Anna Bidyuk (granddaughter), Valentyna Pyrekova, Miliiana Bidyuk (great-granddaughter), Natalia Iakovleva (daughter-in-law) and Sergio Iakovlev (son) at the opening reception for the "Peace in Peril" art exhibition at the Chicopee Public Library

## Ukrainian refugee featured in library art exhibit

*The art is on display through March 30*

**By Kristin Rivers**  
Staff Writer  
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CHICOPEE - Local artist Valentyna Pyrekova, a refugee from Ukraine, is displaying an art exhibition titled "Peace in Peril" at the library.

The artwork is on display in the Bazan Community Room through March 30.

On Feb. 24, the exhibition opened with a reception, featuring remarks from Mayor John Vieau and Urszula Wolanska-Fettes, OIRS reception & placement program coordinator at Catholic Charities Agency, performances by Kostiantyn Chernytskiy and Hanna Chernytskiy and an opportunity to meet Pyrekova and view her artwork.

Vieau said Pyrekova has "beyond impressed me" with

See **ART EXHIBIT** page 8



## Dalton Zbierski says farewell and thank you for the memories

*To the residents of the city of Chicopee*

After serving as editor of the Chicopee Register for the past three years and covering the city since 2018, this will sadly be my last edition. I've made the difficult decision to move onto a television station in Connecticut, where I will be able to fulfill a lifelong dream of delivering news in my home state as a producer.

What a ride these past six years have been; I wouldn't trade them in for anything. Covering news in Chicopee has always been a privilege and a positive experience. I cherish every interaction I've been fortunate enough to have with the residents of this tremendous and unique city.

Thank you to the countless people who have made this job special. When I began covering Chicopee, I was just 23, and in many ways, I was still a kid. Over the years that have passed, I've grown, and I've been fortunate enough to watch the city grow as well.

Today, I'm familiar enough with Chicopee to know that its future is bright, and I look forward to seeing what tomorrow will bring.

Taking my place as editor is Kristin Rivers, a Chicopee resident who has served as a staff writer for the past year, covering her home city. Kristin is incred-



Dalton Zbierski

ibly passionate and will bring renewed energy to the position. I assure our readers, you are in excellent hands.

Quickly, I'd be remiss not to thank Pat and Keith Turley for giving me the opportunity,

and a huge thank you to Maryann Dunbar, our paginator who does a phenomenal job each and every week.

When it comes to covering news in Chicopee, from mayoral inaugurations to Colleen Coronation Balls to high school graduations, I've enjoyed every minute of it... And I think I spent so much time writing in the Panera on Memorial Drive that I should have probably paid rent... So, from City Hall to the public library to Szot Park and everywhere and everyone in between, Chicopee will forever have a place in my heart.

It has been quite the journey, and I am forever indebted to our great readers. Be well my friends and keep picking up The Chicopee Register, I promise you won't be disappointed.

Words can't describe how thankful I am for the way you embraced me. Take care!

**-Dalton Zbierski**

## Crossroads Fiber continues to grow in Chicopee



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

An exterior shot of Chicopee Electric Light on Front Street, which offers Crossroads Fiber to residents.

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer  
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CHICOPEE - Crossroads Fiber, a locally built broadband service in Chicopee, continues to grow as residents make the switch.

The service provider is an all-fiber network offered by Chicopee Electric Light.

Daniel Faille, general manager at CEL, helped establish Crossroads Fiber, explaining it came in response to "repeated customer demand for affordable, reliable and fast Internet access for homes and businesses."

"There are plenty of examples of municipal power providers who are now their community's go-to for broadband. You depend on CEL to keep the lights on, and as a municipal utility, we operate in your best interest and are committed to delivering high-speed Internet service via fiber optic broadband in the same way," Faille said.

The Crossroads Fiber network, Faille said, is "constructed of optical fibers which use pulses of light along a thin piece of glass instead of electricity to transmit and receive a signal."

"Using fiber optics is a unique approach to transmitting data because it can carry high-speed signals over very long distances without degradation," Faille said. "While nothing can ever be truly 'future proof,' building a fiber optic infrastructure ensures the city is prepared for future technological advancements. Our system should serve Chicopee homes and businesses for quite some time."

Since offering Crossroads Fiber in 2019, Faille said the impact on residents has been positive.

"We hear from folks who've switched to Crossroads Fiber that they love the reliability of our service, enjoy the fast symmetric upload and download speeds and appreciate the transparent and stable pricing we offer," Faille said.

Faille added CEL's goal is to "offer fast, reliable Internet service to the residents of Chicopee at an affordable and

predictable price."

"Chicopee already trusts Chicopee Electric Light to provide safe, reliable and affordable electric service, so our Internet offering was modeled to be similar," Faille said.

Faille elaborated on the process after someone applies for the service provider.

"Once we receive your application, one of our schedulers will reach you to schedule the first part of your two-part appointment. The first appointment lasts about a half hour and involves a CEL employee visiting your home to discuss how you'll be using the service and where you'd like the equipment installed. Since most homes aren't already wired for fiber optic service, we need to assess how we'll get the fiber into your home, where we'll place the equipment and what materials we'll need," Faille said. "Don't worry - the assessment and any standard installation is at no cost. Once we collect the information, one of our schedulers will again reach out to you to schedule a three-hour installation appointment with a Crossroads Fiber technician or contractor. They'll have all the materials required when they arrive."

Faille wants the community to know if anyone has any problems with the service, they can contact the Technical Support Team at 413-592-3243, adding the team is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"They will attempt to resolve your issue over the phone but can also dispatch a CEL technician to your location to help identify and correct the problem to your satisfaction," Faille said.

For anyone interested in getting Crossroads Fiber, Faille said the process is simple. He encouraged residents to also look up their address to see if it's in an area already built.

"If it is, you'll be able to apply for service. If we haven't built your area just yet, you'll be able to register your interest, so we will contact you when it becomes available," Faille said.

To learn more, visit [crossroadsfiber.net](http://crossroadsfiber.net), call a local representative at 413-377-6250 or stop by the CEL office at 725 Front St.

## 'The Greatest Show in Chicopee'

*Chicopee Chamber's 39th Shining Stars Awards Gala takes place March 1*

CHICOPEE - The Greater Chicopee Chamber of Commerce hosts its prestigious Shining Stars Awards Gala on Friday, March 1 at 6 p.m. at the Castle of Knights. Billed as "The Greatest Show in Chicopee," this Shining Stars event promises to be a memorable night for this year's honorees and guests.

The 39th Annual Shining Stars event recognizes Daryl Grabowski as Volunteer of the Year; Ashley Kohl as Citizen of the Year; Junior Achievement of Western Massachusetts as Nonprofit of the Year; and Mercedes-Benz of Springfield as Business of the Year. The evening's emcees are Jeremy Procon and his eldest daughter Hayley Procon. At the event, special medallions are presented to the 2023 recipients McKinstry Market Garden, Holyoke Community College, Judith Corridan Danek and Mim Zayas.

"We felt 'The Greatest Show in Chicopee' was the perfect fit for this year's event theme, not only to shine a spotlight

on some incredible individuals and organizations but also to honor the talent and imagination that fuels their work," said Melissa Breor, executive director of the Chamber. "Specifically, we want to recognize our recipients for their dedication to celebrating differences and making the world a better place."

This year's event is presented by Westfield Bank. Additional support of this year's Shining Stars Awards Gala comes from Country Bank, Florence Bank, Greenfield Cooperative Bank, Liberty Bank, Mercedes-Benz of Springfield, PeoplesBank, Polish National Credit Union, Reminder Publications, The Republican, Sunshine Village, Teddy Bear Pools, Valley Opportunity Council, A. Crane Construction, Chicopee Industrial Contractors, Feel Good Shop Local, Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Western Massachusetts, Interstate Towing, N. Riley Construction, Roca, Siddall & Siddall P.C., Architect Entertainment, David Brunelle Law, James Butterworth of Coldwell Banker Realty, SR Commercial Real Estate and Superior Plus Energy.

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*Any Way You Look At It* 



# Golf course lost \$140,000 last year, will never be self-sufficient

*Councilors argue course is more of a city service than a profit maker*

By Dalton Zbierski  
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CHICOPEE – After a recent Finance Committee meeting, it was revealed that the Chicopee Country Club’s golf course failed to turn a profit last year and, in fact, lost money.

On Feb. 15, the Golf Commission, Chicopee Country Club golf pro Michael O’Neill and City Auditor Sharyn Riley sat down with the Finance Committee. Ward 3 Councilor Susan Goff relayed the meeting’s findings when City Council convened on Feb. 20.

“I’d like to thank the Finance Committee for holding this meeting and for Auditor Sharyn Riley and the Golf Commission that showed up to give us all the information. The fact is that we did lose \$140,000 last year, and they did report that we will never be self-sufficient. I thank them for all the information that they gave us,” Goff said.

The golf course at the Country Club features 18 holes and tree-lined fairways that offer a challenge to both seasoned golfers and those new to the sport. The world-class course was designed by Geoffrey Cornish, “who was one of the most prolific golf course architects of the 20th Century,” Ward 6 Councilor Samuel Shumsky said.

The course features amenities such as a driving range for full swing practice, a full-service pro shop with a complete line of quality golf equipment and apparel, a large putting and chipping green, Golf Handicap and Information Network handicap service and riding and pull cart rentals.

Each year, the course attracts golfers from across the state, Eastern New York, Northern Connecticut and Southern Vermont. Why then is it losing money? Ward 4 City Councilor and Finance Committee member George Balakier weighed in.

“One item I thought that was quite noticeable was regarding the irrigation system,” Balakier said. “That was a system that was put into place to help remedy water problems, and there’s about three years left regarding the irrigation system regarding the interest on the bond and also the principal payment that (made) a bond necessary.”

When the line item comes off the books in three years, Balkier believes the golf course will be able to nearly break even.

“We’re hopeful in three years that when this bond is retired that the numbers will look much, much better at the golf course, depending on other things as well,” he said.

Shumsky highlighted that the golf course, like other city departments and services, wasn’t designed for a profit. He



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

The municipal golf course lost \$140,000 last year.

said the fees used to play the course are meant to support the cost of upkeep and maintenance, not create revenue.

“The golf course is like a playground, swimming pool, boat ramp, etc., providing a service for our residents. We don’t do it simply for financial gain,” Shumsky said.

Shumsky also noted that the annual American Junior Golf Association tournament that is held at the Country Club has brought \$1.2 million in revenue to the city since 2018. Last year alone, the economic impact was \$346,899.

“Also last year, Chicopee’s very own Michael O’Neill was awarded the Head Golf Pro of the Year Award by the AGGA,” Shumsky said. “Additionally, the course is the hub of multiple golf fundraisers, organizations and nonprofits that are important to the Pioneer Valley, not Chicopee alone. A golf tournament and/or fundraiser is one of the most lucrative events for nonprofit organizations, and the municipal golf course is famous for hosting multiple events throughout each season.”

Shumsky pointed out that the golf course is home to the Chicopee High School and Chicopee Comprehensive High School golf teams, provides recreation for senior citizens and served as a great meeting place during the COVID-19 pandemic. Shumsky also noted that the city spends far more on other services.

“In 2022, we spent \$1.2 million on the golf course. For police, we spent \$13.1 million. For fire, we spent \$787,000. Education, \$88.7 million and public works we spent \$5.8 million, so it is not as big of an amount as what we do spend on other services,” Shumsky said.

After thanking Riley for her great work, Councilor-at-Large Tim Wagner echoed Shumsky’s sentiments. He said

anyone would be hard pressed to find a municipal golf course that can turn a serious profit.

While the city is at a loss, Wagner said it isn’t a huge loss, especially considering the benefits it brings that are difficult to put a price tag on and others that can be identified monetarily.

“(Municipal golf courses) are meant to provide, as was said before, a service to our residents. They’re meant to drive up some of the local tax raises. It’s generally houses and homes that are near parks that have higher evaluations and generate more in terms of local property

taxes for us so we can provide services to our residents,” Wagner said.

Ward 8 Councilor Gary Labrie noted that all public services cost money. He called Szot Park the “jewel of the city” but said even that space loses money each year.

“(Szot Park) doesn’t bring in anywhere near the revenue that we spend on that park, but the public can go there. They don’t have to pay anything,” Labrie said.

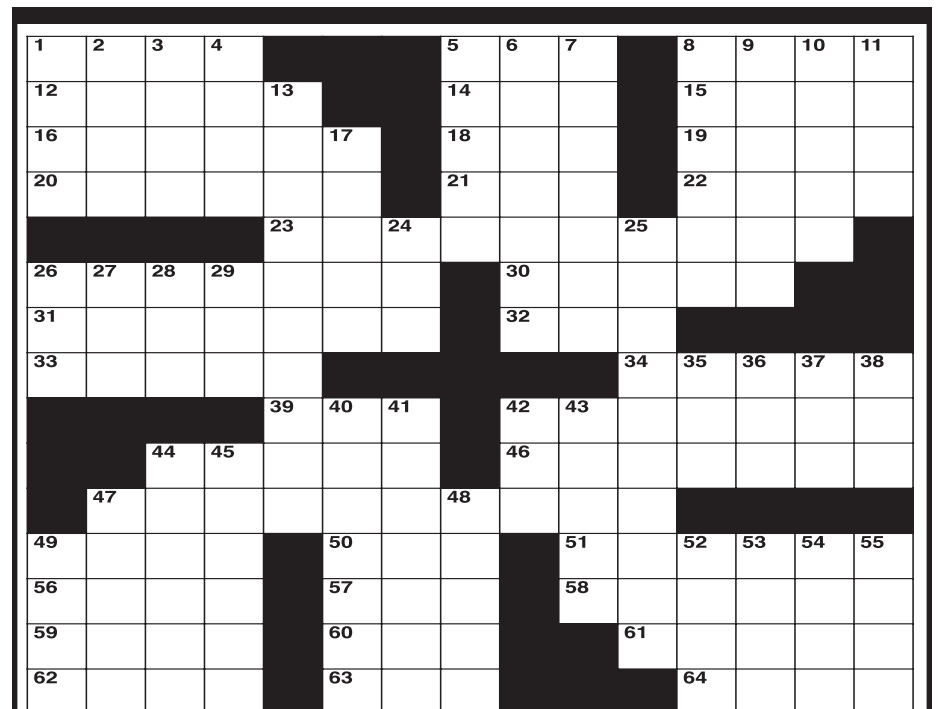
Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello did say that when former Mayor Michael Bissonnette hired the golf course maintenance crew in 2014, the goal was for the golf course to be self-supporting.

Costello thanked the newly elected Goff for stepping up and bringing the discussion to the table.

“As a brand-new councilor, she brought to the public’s attention financial situations in regard to the Chicopee golf course, which is municipally owned... that’s a great thing,” Costello said. “However, money counts, and I’m glad that Councilor Goff addressed the money issue, how much money is being raised in regard to revenue and how much expenses are because a lot of people commented in regard to the golf course. Many of them did not know it was a municipal golf course. Some of them probably thought it was a private golf course.”

Costello said that the golf course can’t be compared to the one at the GreatHorse Country Club in Hampden and the city must act appropriately.

“It is not GreatHorse; it is a municipal golf course, so we have to take it from there of what direction we’re going to go,” Costello said.



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Home of Iowa State University
- 5. \_\_\_-fi (slang)
- 8. Mottled green and yellow fruit
- 12. Capable of thinking and expressing oneself clearly
- 14. Sports broadcaster Eagle
- 15. Midday
- 16. Kinsmen
- 18. Cable network
- 19. Simpleton
- 20. Brunch beverage
- 21. Fed
- 22. European capital
- 23. Native inhabitants
- 26. Mechanical device
- 30. Rare geese native to Hawaii
- 31. Bedroom furnishing
- 32. The products of human creativity
- 33. Mass transit option
- 34. Made a mistake
- 39. Sacred sound symbol
- 42. Large N. American reindeer
- 44. Dull and flat
- 46. Partner to huffing
- 47. Written works
- 49. Monetary unit of Serbia
- 50. Midway between east and southeast
- 51. Peninsula of southwestern Asia
- 56. Widely used multiuser OS
- 57. Aggressive dog
- 58. Varnished
- 59. Hindu queen
- 60. Time units, abbr.
- 61. Farm animals
- 62. Capital of Latvia
- 63. Where golfers begin
- 64. Takes to civil court

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. One who graduated
- 2. An inspired holy person
- 3. Electronic countermeasures
- 4. A place to store things
- 5. Indian instrument
- 6. Spanish saloon
- 7. Whole number
- 8. Not fastened
- 9. Gives a boost
- 10. Lounges about
- 11. Interested in
- 13. Remove salt
- 17. Type of sword
- 24. Naturally occurring solid material
- 25. Gets involved without being invited
- 26. Feline
- 27. Bobby \_\_\_, NHL champ
- 28. “Kill Bill” actress Thurman
- 29. Hawaiian dish
- 35. Moroccan coastal region
- 36. Baseball statistic
- 37. Long period of time
- 38. Moved earth
- 40. Central Netherlands city
- 41. Take stock of
- 42. Central processing unit
- 43. Distinctive qualities one generates
- 44. Getting stuck
- 45. Loss of bodily movements
- 47. Veranda
- 48. Abrupt
- 49. What cats do
- 52. Expresses pleasure
- 53. Type of cheese
- 54. Professional STEM organization
- 55. Automatic data processing systems

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# Channel 191 goes high-def

All new, *ChicopeeTV* online material is in 1080p

By Dalton Zbierski  
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CHICOPEE – ChicopeeTV’s New Year’s resolution was a simple one: bring a better picture to residents who access city programming on cable television.

As of early January, Channel 191 is now broadcasting in high definition. While the high-definition service can only be viewed if one watches Charter Spectrum Channel 191 in Chicopee, it represents a much-anticipated milestone for ChicopeeTV and the city itself.

“Channel 191 is the most prominent of the ChicopeeTV channels. It is the channel where, most commonly, most things are aired through,” Chief Information Officer Andrew Vernon said. “We got to this point because all the content that ChicopeeTV produces is in HD quality, 1080. We’ve been wanting for years to be able to share that quality video content with the residents of Chicopee.”

ChicopeeTV is the city’s public access television studio. As Vernon mentioned, all new ChicopeeTV material that is posted online has long been produced in 1080p resolution, meaning the image has 1920 pixels horizontally by 1080 vertically.

Online videos can be accessed on ChicopeeTV’s Vimeo and Facebook plat-

forms or at ChicopeeTV.org. Residents at home can now view those same programs, including live government meetings and local sporting events, in high definition on Channel 191.

The process to convert Channel 191 to high definition took approximately a year. It took a significant amount of communication between Charter Spectrum and the city, and ChicopeeTV had to purchase equipment such as an encoder and new fiber line.

“Other than that, though, all of the ‘work’ was that of Charter Spectrum,” Vernon said. “We definitely appreciate it. I will say that it is a paid service, so it’s not a service that’s just provided or asked for and given. It is a service that has to be paid for.”

Fortunately, ChicopeeTV is not funded by residents’ money. The operation is paid for using PEG money, funding for Public, Educational and Government access television.

“ChicopeeTV, like any other PEG facility in the United States, is funded through the contract in place between the service provider and the city. ChicopeeTV is not funded by way of taxpayer dollars from the city or school district. It happens by way of the PEG relationship. We use the PEG monies that come to the city to pay for the HD service,” Vernon said.

Currently, ChicopeeTV Channels 192 and 193 have not been converted to high definition. Vernon said their conversion is certainly “a little further away.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHICOPEETV

ChicopeeTV’s Channel 191 is now broadcasting in high definition, bringing 1080p resolution to residents’ television screens. Pictured here, a program being filmed to promote the city’s Department of Veterans Services at ChicopeeTV headquarters on Wednesday.

Vernon said the next focus for ChicopeeTV is the renewal of the Charter Spectrum contract in November 2025.

“For lack of a better phrase, it’s the standard renewal between a municipality and the cable television service provider,” he said.

Again, the high-definition service can only be seen if one is watching Charter Spectrum Channel 191 in Chicopee. Vernon noted that high definition only

works if one has a television cable of the resolution.

He then offered one more reminder about the abundance of online programming.

“And, by chance, if someone is not physically in Chicopee and/or behind a Coax cable television, they can also watch ChicopeeTV online on ChicopeeTV.org or our variety of social media platforms,” Vernon said.

## Events and announcements

### 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 Sztela 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 Sztela 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

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.

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# Chicopee celebrates the grand reopening of Colonial Cafe'



Christina Stafinski, kitchen manager at Colonial Cafe', hugs her mother, owner Vicki Cotton, after cutting the ribbon to celebrate the grand reopening of Colonial Cafe' in Chicopee on Feb. 26.



From the left, Mayor John Vieau, Chris Gongora, communications director for State Sen. Adam Gomez's office (D-Springfield) and Kenneth and Vicki Cotton during the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the grand reopening of Colonial Cafe' in Chicopee. Gongora presented the Cottons with a certificate of recognition from the Massachusetts State Senate.

**By Kristin Rivers**  
Staff Writer  
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE - Numerous residents, community members and state and local elected officials gathered on Chicopee Street on Feb. 26 for the grand reopening of Colonial Cafe'.

A staple of Chicopee for over a decade, Colonial Cafe' closed on Oct. 24 to undergo renovations. Upon completion, the bar reopened on Feb. 3 and the kitchen followed a week later.

The hours, currently, are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. When breakfast, a new offering for the restaurant, begins, it will open at 6 a.m., with closing hours to be determined.

During the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Mayor John Vieau expressed excitement at the reopening, saying it's "a place where people come from all over Western Mass to enjoy fine food, great entertainment and, obviously, the libations you offer as well."

"This renovation is something special. It's a reopening of a place that really has a lot of history in Chicopee and now, it's turned into something amazing that not just Chicopeeans enjoy, but everybody," Vieau said.

Christina Stafinski, the daughter of owners Vicki and Kenneth Cotton and a kitchen manager at the restaurant, thanked the community for its support.

"We want to thank everybody: our regulars, our customers, our family, everybody who supports us. Thank you," Stafinski said.

Chris Gongora, communications director for State Sen. Adam Gomez's office (D-Springfield), also presented a citation from the State House to the Cottons.

After the ribbon-cutting, Vicki Cotton shared the story of the reopening.

"When we first bought the place, it was very obsolete. I'll use that word. Very old and dated and, as the years went by, we upgraded and remodeled and then, finally, we redid the kitchen. The kitchen was



Mayor John Vieau provides remarks to a crowd of attendees, including local and state elected officials, staff at Colonial Cafe', family and friends and many more during the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the grand reopening of Colonial Cafe' on Feb. 26.

small; didn't have an Ansul system. Now, we have a top-of-the-line Ansul system, friers, grill top," Cotton said.

On the renovations, Cotton said they included new floors, redoing the back room, sanding and staining the floors and painting.

The kitchen, she added, was the biggest makeover.

"We just have a ton of stuff in the kitchen where we can now make a plethora of things," Cotton said.

Cotton said the restaurant plans to open for breakfast on Saturdays and Sundays soon.

"We've only been open Monday through Friday. As of this past weekend, we opened up on Saturday and Sunday for soups, salads, sandwiches and we have great burgers," Cotton said.

Cotton was emotional reflecting on the reopening.

"It's really breathtaking to be acknowledged for what we do. We do a lot of fundraiser things here. We've won three years in a row to fill the boot for the fire department," Cotton said. "It's just a big community thing that you help everybody that needs help. The support is...I don't even have the words for it. It's

just amazing."

Cotton looks forward to "keeping on going" in running the restaurant and welcoming customers.

"It's really great to be known. We have great customers, (and) the staff is great," Cotton said. "We're here because of the customers."

Cotton wants the community to know about their seafood, which the restaurant is well known for and uses a recipe she's used for over 30 years.

"My husband and I were in Rhode Island, we were introduced to a couple, and they knew of us from our seafood and had been here from Rhode Island," Cotton said. "So, that was pretty cool to find that out."

Cotton encourages residents to stop by.

"Come on in and join us! Try the place out. Stop in and check it out," Cotton said.

To learn more, call 413-536-1935 or check out their Facebook page.



A chalkboard sign celebrating the grand reopening



An interior shot of patrons gathered at the bar inside the Colonial Cafe' during its grand reopening on Feb. 26.

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## GUEST COLUMN



### Get a head start the old-fashioned way

Just about a week ago I was presenting a Seed Starting Workshop for members at Old Sturbridge Village, and someone asked a question about how seedlings would have been pre-started in the mid-1800s.

It was a logical question considering we have heat cables, supplemental light and greenhouses at our disposal these days. We can grow any number of plants pretty much any time of the year.

How then, did innovative gardeners of old get a head start? Cold frames and hot beds, of course! These season extenders continue to be useful today.

Read on to learn how these are constructed and used successfully.

The easiest way to describe a cold frame is this: a rectangular box fitted with a window sash. It can be as simple as an old storm window on top of hay bales.

Better yet would be to construct your cold frame to capture as much passive solar energy as possible. We achieve this by angling the window sash 35 to 45 degrees to catch the sun.

The window sash you obtain will determine the size of the frame. Keep in mind that you have to be able to reach inside to work; therefore, it is recommended that you make the box no deeper than three feet.

Construct the frame using rot resistant woods like cedar or redwood. Pine is an inexpensive and readily available option, but should be painted with exterior paint prior to assembly to ensure years of use.

White paint will not only make an attractive cold frame, but one that will reflect light to the plants growing in it. The walls should be at least an inch thick, preferably two inches, to further insulate the plants growing inside.

Locate your cold frame in full sun, facing south or southeast. The soil under the cold frame is a "mini plot" that should be enriched as I would any other part of the garden by incorporating an inch or two of compost and a sprinkling of lime and balanced organic fertilizer into the soil prior to use.

The window sash will likely stay shut on overcast days. On sunny days, however, be sure to prop open the window to ventilate the space – it can get quite hot inside and young seedlings could easily be harmed.

The sash can be opened completely (or removed altogether) on very warm days. Don't forget to provide water within the frame – if it is covered it is exempt from the rain.

The cold frame is a great place to start spring greens. There are other uses as well.

Some plants prefer to germinate at cool temperatures and simply won't grow well inside the house, even off the heat cables. Try growing flats of cole crops like kale, broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower right in the cold frame – they'll be the sturdiest plants you ever grew!

Likewise, start small pots of sweet peas, pansies, forget-me-nots and bachelor's buttons inside of it; they germinate better in cool soil. Many native perennials need to chill for a month before they are able to germinate – "stratify" these seeds in the cold frame and then move them to the border once they are off and growing.

You can also harden off plants that were started indoors inside the cold frame.

What about getting a head start with heat-loving vegetables, such as tomatoes or peppers? Or even herbs like basil or flowers such as celosia, marigold or amaranths? Here

See **GARDEN** page 12

## GUEST COLUMN



### Americans seem to be more interested in foreign policy than usual

Four in 10 U.S. adults named it as an important issue to address in 2024, according to a recent poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs. That's twice as many as a year earlier.

That sounds right to me. From what I can tell, Americans are paying closer attention to foreign policy than they have for some time.

Part of it, no doubt, is driven by media coverage of the wars in the Middle East and Ukraine. When the media pay attention to a topic, the public pays attention; and when the public pays attention, the media pay attention.

It works both ways.

Of course, what really captures the public eye is the prospect of U.S. casualties, as we saw in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, which killed thousands of Americans. There's been nothing like that yet in the current conflicts, although about 30 U.S. citizens were killed in Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israel and an estimated 300 Americans were stranded in Gaza by the fighting.

In the AP-NORC poll, 20% of respondents said they were concerned about U.S. involvement overseas, up from 5% a year earlier. That's a significant increase, and it's reflected by debates in Congress over helping fund the wars.

But whether foreign policy has much of an impact on the 2024 elections is an open question.

Even if Americans follow foreign policy, I don't have the sense that they vote on those issues. Problems at home are more meaningful to most voters, by far.

They're worried about inflation, affordable health care, gas prices and the cost of housing and food. They are concerned about crime and public safety. They pay attention to interest rates, jobs and other economic indicators.

Many Americans are deeply concerned

about immigration, especially at the southern border. Immigration is a domestic matter, but it's entwined with foreign policy.

Immigrants and refugees often are fleeing dire conditions in their home countries. We need to work with those regions to address the issue.

I learned early in my time in Congress that foreign policy wasn't something most constituents were eager to discuss. I rarely spoke about foreign policy on visits to the district, where people were more likely to want to know about a local dam project or government actions that directly affected them.

Interestingly, I was most likely to get questions about foreign policy when I spoke at high schools. High school students were well prepared for my visits, and they would zero in on foreign policy issues.

With current issues, most Americans were outraged by Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and inspired by Ukraine's brave resistance. But, as the war dragged on, it receded from the headlines, and interest in the U.S. has flagged.

Recently, center stage has gone to Hamas' attack on Israel, which killed 1,200 people, and Israel's response, which has reportedly killed 25,000 people in Gaza. The Middle East is almost in a category by itself for public attention.

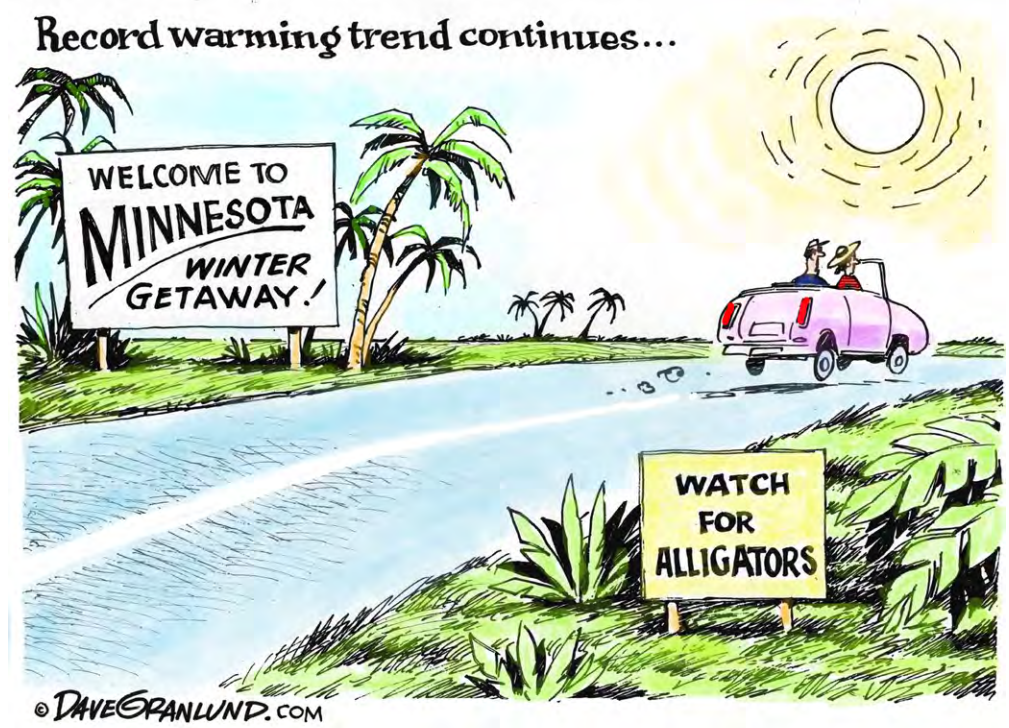
Many Americans feel strongly about Israel's importance in U.S. foreign policy. Conflicts in the Middle East, and relations between Israel and its neighbors, get more coverage in U.S. news media than news from Asia, Africa or even from Europe.

Wars and conflicts draw news coverage, but other foreign policy issues also matter a lot. Our relationship with China is the most important bilateral relationship in the world, and problems there can have a global impact.

Climate change is an existential issue that transcends national borders. Trade, terrorism, cybersecurity and global migration require multinational cooperation.

Foreign policy issues may not rise to the top of the public's concerns, but voters – and politicians – should pay attention to them in this election year.

*Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.*



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From the left, Sarah Calabrese-Dunphy, Urszula Kulig, Dr. Harry Dumay, Keith O'Connor and Kara Herman at the judges table during the 2024 Chicopee Colleen Coronation Ball. Kulig served as tabulator while Calabrese-Dunphy, Dumay, O'Connor and Herman were this year's judges.



From the left, Adam Brunelle, Aidan Coulombe and Calvin Kagan were this year's escorts for the contestants during the 2024 Chicopee Colleen Coronation Ball at the Portuguese American Club in Chicopee.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOEL RODOWICZ  
Victoria Narvaez performs the National Anthem during the 2024 Chicopee Colleen Coronation Ball on Feb. 24.

## Chicopee's 2024 Colleen Crowned

**COLLEEN** from page 1

entrepreneur and founder of Dynamic Performance Challenge, and Alivia Mendes, committee member and 2022 court member.

This year's scholarship recipients were Melia Young, Kate Gauthier, Morgan Presnal and Jordyn Lemelin.

Before the winner was selected, the finalists answered one question: "The Chicopee Colleen represents and serves her community. If you could organize an event to benefit your community, what would it be and how would it be beneficial?"

Young said she would host a book drive for all different ages and genres.

"I have seen firsthand how books can help elders in nursing homes stimulate their mind and bring them back to their childhood memories, which make them ultimately happier," Young said. "And then I've also learned from my younger sister that it's very important to find your book and what you like to read. I believe that there is a book for every person and a different genre for every person."

Beach would organize a food drive.

"World hunger is a big thing that happens all around the world and sometimes even our community, and I would like to spread awareness and help end world hunger," Beach said. "It would be beneficial by giving back to food charities right here in Chicopee by helping stock their shelves, spread awareness and, also, encourage others to help."

Ayala would do a charity bake sale.

"I would organize a charity bake sale where I would invite all enthusiasts and bakers to contribute goodies, and all the proceeds would go to local homeless shelters to provide for those in need," Ayala said. "Because I believe that lower-income communities should also have the help that they need."

Rice would do an event around children and sports.

"I would organize an event that would display all of the children and their sports because I think that we need to unplug from phones for a little while and I believe that would be the perfect way in doing so," Rice said.

Presnal, who volunteered for Thanksgiving meals with the Knights of Columbus the past few years, would hold similar meals for other holidays.

"This is such a heartwarming event to be a part of, and I would love to carry this throughout the other major holidays like



Mayor John Vieau greets 2024 Colleen Kinamarie Ayala after she was crowned this year's Grand Colleen at the Chicopee Colleen Coronation Ball.



The Colleen tiara and sash at the 2024 Chicopee Colleen Coronation Ball on Feb. 24.

Christmas and Easter, where people might not have time to spend with family or they just need a little extra help," Presnal said. "This is also a great opportunity for the community to come together to give back while making these people feel at home and providing them with a nourishing meal."

Ayala said so many things were going through her mind after she was crowned, sharing she participated in the contest to do something for herself and stand up for women of color.

She looks forward to representing Chicopee.

"I'm just so overwhelmed right now and I'm just so thankful to everyone that showed up tonight," Ayala said.

Beach, Young and Presnal each shared their inspirations for participating in the contest.

"It's always been my dream as a little girl watching the Colleen and her court at the parade and I always wanted to do that," Beach said.

"This has always been my dream and my family got me into it, so I'm just thankful for them," Young said.

"I did this to come out of my comfort zone because this is something I would not have done, so I did it to push myself," Presnal said.

Rice, who shared similar inspirations as her court members, said the community support was appreciated by everyone who participated.

"It was crazy to see how much support we had in our community without knowing who the court was," Rice said. "It just felt like all of us were already on



2024 Colleen Kinamarie Ayala cries tears of joy after being crowned this year's Grand Colleen at the Chicopee Colleen Coronation Ball.



From the left, Ward 6 City Councilor Samuel Shumsky, 2024 Parade Marshal Fr. William Tourigny and City Council Vice President/Councilor-at-Large Robert Zygarowski at the 2024 Chicopee Colleen Coronation Ball.

the court and having these girls by my side the rest of the year, I'm so excited and I can't wait to see what comes for us."

The girls had these messages for the residents of Chicopee.

"I'd like the city of Chicopee to know that I will try my very hardest to represent it and stand for it any way I can," Ayala said.

"I would like my community to know that I'm so proud of them and I'm fortunate to get to all be part of a community that's so supportive and loving," Beach said.

"I'd like my community to know I am so grateful for all their support and everything they've done to push me to this moment," Young said.

"I would like Chicopee to know that I'm so proud to live here and I just want to have a good time with them, representing them," Presnal said.

"I'm proud to be living in Chicopee and I can't wait to do this," Rice said.

Everyone encouraged anyone interested in participating next year to go for it, with Ayala summing it up best.

"If you're ready for a full commitment and a new leap in your passion, I suggest that you go for it," Ayala said.

Ayala, Beach, Young, Presnal and Rice will next be seen on the Colleen's float representing Chicopee in the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 17.



From the left, Madelyn Rice, Kinamarie Ayala, Blakeley Fields, Jadalyn Flores, Giannalee Beach, Lilian Young, Kate Gauthier, Tyina Morales and Melia Young await the scholarship recipient announcement and finalist results during the 2024 Chicopee Colleen Coronation Ball. The other contestants this year, not pictured in this photo, were Morgan Presnal, Natalie Dulong and Jordyn Lemelin.





Chicopee Fire Chief Dan Stamborski was joined by fire chiefs from across the region on Feb. 22.

## FIRE CHIEFS from page 1

Springfield Fire Commissioner B.J. Calvi spoke of a tragedy that occurred in the city on March 30, 2023, during a structure fire. Multiple people were trapped in the residence and couldn't escape.

"When (firefighters) made entry and knocked down the fire, they found two elderly adults who never made it out of their bed. The subsequent investigation showed that there were no smoke detectors present in the house," Calvi said.

Calvi noted that there were five fire fatalities in Springfield last year, of which four had no smoke detectors present.

"These are tragedies that could have been averted and need to stop," Calvi said, noting that all the fatal fires in Springfield last year occurred between midnight and 8 a.m.

"Please don't spend a single night in your home without a working smoke detector," he said.

Easthampton Fire Chief Christopher Norris encourages residents to check their detectors and alarms when they change their clocks, as the devices don't last forever. If you don't remember when you installed your smoke detector, the manufacturing date is printed on the back.

"Smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years. If your alarm was made before February of 2014, or if there's no date at all, it's time to replace it," Norris said. "We recommend alarms made by well-known, national brands. You should be able to find most of these at your local hardware stores."

Chicopee Fire Chief Dan Stamborski said smoke detectors and alarms are the first line of defense against a fire in your home and that everyone should know what to do when the alarm goes off.

"That's where your home escape plan comes in," Stamborski said. "First and foremost, take a look around your house on a daily basis, be sure to keep furniture and clutter away from your doors, windows and stairways because you don't want anything blocking your way out during an emergency. And, when we respond to your home, you certainly don't want to impede our ac-

cess to get to you."

Stamborski encourages families to practice their escape routes and choose two or more ways to leave the building, which can include windows if you are on a lower floor. Pick a meeting place outside; it should be a safe distance away where everyone can gather.

"Once you're at the meeting place, never go back inside, not for anything. Call 911 and let the firefighters enter with their protective equipment," Stamborski said.

Once you create your escape route, practice it often, both during the day and at night until it becomes muscle memory. Also, sleeping with your bedroom door closed is the simplest way to keep fire, smoke and carbon monoxide out.

"You'd be amazed how much protection a simple closed door offers," Stamborski said.

Wilbraham Fire Chief Michael Andrews spoke about CO, a poisonous gas created by burning fuels that is often produced by home heating equipment. CO is harmful and potentially fatal, especially for young children or older adults.

"What makes CO so dangerous is that you can't see it, smell it or taste it. Carbon monoxide is a silent, invisible killer," Andrews said. "Carbon monoxide poisoning is one of the leading causes of accidental poisoning deaths in the country. Here in Massachusetts, more than 350 people end up in the emergency room each year because of CO poisoning."

Last year, in Massachusetts, there were more than 5,000 calls reporting carbon monoxide, and the vast majority ended safely because people had working alarms.

Andrews said be sure to have CO alarms in every level of your home, test them every month and replace the batteries twice a year. The alarms themselves need to be replaced every five, seven to 10 years; one can check the manufacturer's instructions or look up the make and model online to find out.

"Finally, if you hear it going off, get outside and dial 911. Don't disable them or write it off as a malfunction. Let us check to see if it's safe," Andrews said.



From the left, Natalie Tkhork-Arbuzov, Anna Bidyuk, Natalia Iakovleva, Kostiantyn Chernytskyi and Hanna Chernytskyi perform a song together during the opening reception for the "Peace in Peril" art exhibition at Chicopee Public Library on Feb. 24.

## ART EXHIBIT from page 1

her talent and was honored to meet her, crediting Wolanska-Fettes for bringing Pyrekova's artwork to Chicopee.

"I was in awe when I walked into the room, and one thing I'm really passionate about is trying to take a few minutes every day – at least a minute – and admire something beautiful. I could spend a lot of minutes right here in this room," Vieau said.



Mayor John Vieau provides remarks during the opening reception for the "Peace in Peril" art exhibition at the Chicopee Public Library on Feb. 24.



Urszala Wolanska-Fettes, OIRS reception & placement program coordinator at Catholic Charities Agency, reflects during the opening reception for the "Peace in Peril" art exhibition.

Wolanska-Fettes explained she had a dream a year and a half ago of holding an art exhibition featuring the many refugees served by Catholic Charities.

That dream, however, hit curves until a year ago when Wolanska-Fettes met Pyrekova and saw one of her art pieces, getting it back on track.

"So, here we are, a year later, not by coincidence on the second anniversary of what we know is the war in Ukraine, admiring the beauty of her artwork," Wolanska-Fettes said. "One thing that we can all agree on is, while the world is in peril right

now, we can never have enough of a few things and some of them are beauty and peace."

Pyrekova's granddaughter, Anna Bidyuk, shared the art exhibition's name came from her grandmother sharing a message of joy and peace.

"Even in circumstances of life, life is not fair. We have theft, we have war, we have all of that happen around us, like diseases and stuff, but we should be focusing our mind on something beautiful," Bidyuk said. "When you look at the flowers, you get peace. When she's working on her art she's feeling peace in her heart. Even in the perils of the world, there's some peace and that's her whole message."

Pyrekova, currently 85 years old, started painting when she was 57 and is a self-taught artist, taking it up in retirement and doing more after giving a painting to a friend as a gift.

Reflecting on the second anniversary of the War in Ukraine, Pyrekova said her art and heart keep her hopeful.

"When I'm in the process of making a painting, I feel so calm, so satisfied. I forget all about the dark moments of my life," Pyrekova said. "It's a way to heal people's hearts from trauma."

The Chernytskyis, having moved to the United States from Ukraine in 2020, were honored to perform at the reception, singing Ukrainian folk songs and playing classical piano music throughout the afternoon.

"It's like a bright spot where people can stop and look at this beauty, to get some peace in their hearts, I think," Kostiantyn Chernytskyi said.

"This is unbelievable, really. I love this," Hanna Chernytskyi said.

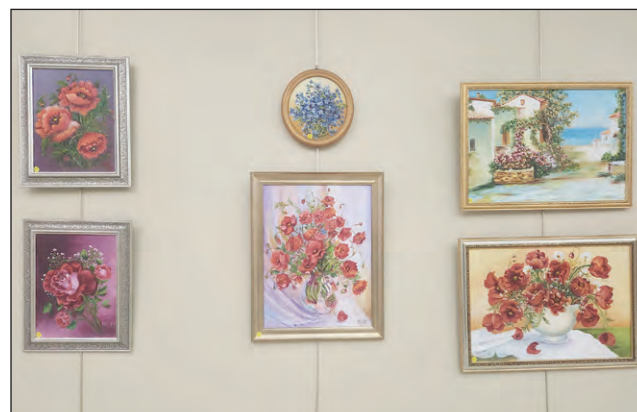
The couple encourages the community to check out the art exhibit.

"Just enjoy, enjoy, enjoy because this is so beautiful and this is kindness," Hanna Chernytskyi said.

"It brings kindness in your life to see something beautiful," Kostiantyn Chernytskyi said.

Pyrekova hopes residents take away joy and peace from her paintings and expressed gratitude for the community's support.

"Flowers can find a place everywhere. In their bedroom, in their living room, in their kitchen and in their heart as well," Pyrekova said.



A close-up of one of Valentyna Pyrekova's many paintings on display in the Bazan Community Room at the Chicopee Public Library.



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# Sports

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## Comp falls in WMass semifinals

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Comprehensive High School girls basketball defeated Longmeadow in the Western Mass. quarterfinals, but their run came to an end at Central last Thursday, falling 73-32 in the semifinals. The Colts got 13 points from Taryn Carriveau in the defeat. Comp would go on into the state tournament earlier this week, scheduled to face local rival Minnechaug in the opening round.



Eliza Burger crosses midcourt.



Alyssa Caney shoots from the free-throw line.



Taryn Carriveau attempts a shot.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM  
Ava DeBettencourt reaches out to get a shot off.



Katie Gilhooly takes the open layup.



Marley Makowski takes a shot during quarterfinals of the tournament.

## Colts fall in playoff opener

CHICOPEE – Despite a very strong regular season, Chicopee Comprehensive found itself on the losing end in the quarterfinals of the Western Mass. Class A Tournament.

In a high-scoring affair,

Holyoke defeated Comp 88-78. The Knights got 31 points from Shawn Rivera, 14 points each from Jordan King-Perilli and Jamil Rodriguez, and 13 points from Aden Cabrera. Tineus McCluster had a huge

night with 34 points while Xavier Kleps contributed 13 points.

Both teams were scheduled to participate in the State Division 2 Tournament which started this week.



Tineus McCluster pushes a pass to his left.



Xavier Kleps drives toward the hoop.



Elijah Kleps goes for the layup.



Modesto Galindrez heads for the corner.

## Pioneers 2024 schedule released

LUDLOW – Earlier this week, the Western Mass. Pioneers have released their 2024 schedule. It includes potential participation in the U.S. Open Cup, which begins on March 19. The Pioneers have won an Open Cup match in the past. Later, the Pioneers have their “friendly” exhibition game scheduled for May 10. They will face 3<sup>rd</sup> Eye FC prior to the start of their USL-2 League schedule. Their opener for the regular season is against the Boston Bolts on the road May 14. Their home opener is scheduled for May 18 against Pathfinder FC of New York. The schedule continues through July 13 and includes a total of 14 games.

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# T-Birds suffer loss at Bridgeport

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. – The Springfield Thunderbirds (24-22-3-2) fell to the Bridgeport Islanders (16-28-6-1) on Sunday afternoon at Total Mortgage Arena by a final score of 5-3.



backhand shot over Colten Ellis to cut the lead to 2-1 heading into the first intermission.

Things appeared to be starting well for the T-Birds on this day, as Sam Bitten cashed in for his first career AHL goal at the 8:19 mark of the first period when he arrived at the top of the crease and jammed a Drew Callin centering pass through Henrik Tikkanen's legs to make it 1-0 for the visitors.

The second period began eventually, but Suzuki changed matters when he powered down the right wing, protecting the puck before elevating a forehand chip shot over Tikkanen to make it a 3-1 game at 6:34 of the period.

Springfield increased the lead to 2-0 at 12:54 when Ryan Suzuki sent an alley-oop through the neutral zone that landed inside the Islander blue line. Jakub Vrana accelerated to beat the Bridgeport defender to the puck and then slid a backhand shot through Tikkanen to extend the lead on his ninth goal of the season.

Ellis remained busy but strong as the period entered its final three minutes en route to a career-high 49 saves. Unfortunately for the T-Birds, Bridgeport All-Star Ruslan Iskhakov snapped a goal drought dating back to Jan. 15 to singlehandedly pull the Isles even.

55 seconds after the Vrana tally, though, the Islanders made their way to the scoresheet as Tyce Thompson got a step behind the defense and lifted a perfect

on a second chance after the T-Bird goalie made a strong reactionary save on the first attempt. That tally cut the score to 3-2 at 17:08.

Not even two minutes later, now with under a minute to go in the period, Iskhakov delivered the equalizer with a one-time rocket off a circle-to-circle pass from Matt Maggio, and Bridgeport headed into the dressing room with new life in the 3-3 game.

The Islanders were relentless in the final 20 minutes, managing 22 shots on the T-Birds net. Ellis and the Springfield defense held the fort as long as they could before a Sam Bolduc point wriester glanced off traffic and skipped past Ellis to give Bridgeport the lead for good at 11:34 of the third. Hudson Fasching rounded out the scoring with a power-play marker into an empty net in the closing seconds.

The T-Birds' busy stretch continues next Friday in Providence as they tangle with the Bruins at Amica Mutual Pavilion. Springfield returns home on Saturday when they host the Laval Rocket at 7:05 p.m. at the MassMutual Center.

# Worcester wraps up road trip with loss to Florida

ESTERO, FL – The Worcester Railers HC (22-22-4-2, 50pts) lost to the Florida Everblades (27-15-7-2, 63pts) on Saturday night by the final score of 5-3 in front of a crowd of 7,650 at Hertz Arena. The Railers have wrapped up their six-game southern road trip and return to the DCU Center against the Trois-Rivieres Lions on Saturday, March 2nd at 7:05pm.

Florida controlled the pace of play across the first fourteen minutes in the first, culminating in the game's first goal. Sean Josling (14th) received a backdoor pass from Oliver Chau who received the puck from Pendenza below the goal line to bury it past Cole Ceci



in net for Worcester to put the Everblades ahead 1-0. With Florida on the power play 2:43 later in the period, Joe Pendenza turned on a one-timer and sent it past Ceci as Florida led 2-0 late in the period. Jack Quinlivan (4th) responded for Worcester just 27 seconds later. He took the puck off the stick of Zsombor Garat and wrapped it with his backhand inside the near post from beneath the net to get Worcester to within one heading

into the second.

Worcester picked up the only goals in the second. Zsombor Garat (1st) hammered a heavy one-timer on the power-play from Trevor Cosgrove for his first professional North American goal. His marker tied the game at the 7:29 mark of the second. Later in the period with 4:51 left in the second, Andrei Bakanov (7th) ripped a wriester past the blocker of Cam Johnson following a perfect drop pass from Anthony Callin to give Worcester the 3-2 lead entering the third.

The Everblades would be the only team to score in the third period. First it was Will Reilly (6th) on a wriester from the point that beat Ceci blocker side to tie the game 3-3 just 7:49 into the frame. From there, Mark Senden (9th) found the puck barreling down the left wing and buried it through the legs of Ceci to make it 4-3 Florida. Brett Davis (3rd) sealed the deal for Florida with an empty netter with just 1:31 remaining in the game to give Florida the win and the final score of 5-3.

# Chicopee Public Library hosts programs for kids and families

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

"Little Movers" will be held in the children's program room on Fridays, March 1 and 15 at 11 a.m. Babies crawling to 24 months and their caregivers are invited to join us for free play followed by circle time exploring songs, fingerplays and movement!

"LEGO Zone" will be held in the community room on Thursday March 7 at 4 p.m. It is an hour of open building time with a big pile of LEGO bricks for ages 6 and up.

The library's "All Ages Playgroup" will be held in the children's room each week on Saturday from 1-2 p.m. While the children's room playspace is always available to kids and families visiting the library, during playgroup there are extra toys to explore. It is a great time for families to meet up and play. Due to the popularity of this program, the library is going to host it every week in March instead of just once a month.

The library will try a new program for babies this month, "Sensory Play Saturday" will be held at 9:30 a.m. on March 9. Come let your babies socialize and explore sensory play! We will have our play area set up with some sensory activities and other play opportunities! For babies 0-24 months and their caregivers.

"Storytime" will be held in the children's program room on Wednesday, March 13 and 27 at 10:30 a.m. and again at 4 p.m. We will be offering the same Storytime for both morning and afternoon sessions that day. "Storytime" is based loosely around the early childhood literacy skills: sing, talk, read, write and play. It is a great way for preschool aged kids to practice skills they will need for school. It is also fun for younger elementary aged students. Library staff lead a circle time where they read picture books and lead the children in song and movement, afterwards they do a craft or activity. March story time themes will be fairies and bugs, reflecting the coming springtime.

Kids ages 6-9 are invited to come to the "Maker Zone" for projects, crafts, and experiments focused on Science Technology Engineering and Math. "Maker Zone" will be held on Thursday, March 21 at 4 p.m. in the children's program room.

There will be a "Craft program" in the Children's Room on Tuesday March 26 at 4 p.m. Kids of all ages are invited to stop by for a fun craft!

Professor Bugman will be at the library on Saturday, March 30 at 2:30 p.m. with his "Arthropod Petting Zoo." Kids learn all about arthropods, the most diverse group of animal life on the planet, during this exciting show-and-tell-and-touch program! Learn, see, hear, touch, and even smell the incredible adaptations these creatures have that help them survive in the wild world. Geared towards ages 5-11. Sign up is required! Contact the kids room to sign up.

Teen manga readers are invited to participate in the library's first ever "Manga March Madness!" Each week in March, Teens can stop by the library or vote online to decide which titles make it to the finals, and who will be crowned the first ever champion of "Manga March Madness!" Vote once a week! Win prizes! One random winner and the best prediction bracket (available only the week of March 4) will each receive a Barnes & Noble gift card and a bag of anime promo swag from our Anime Club!

The library will be hosting two "CPR Training" sessions presented by the Red Cross that will teach everyone the basics of hands-only CPR on Wednesday March 6 at 3:30 and 4:30 p.m. Limited space is available, please contact or stop by the Reference Desk on the lower level to register for either session. Teens and adults are welcome to sign up.

This month's "Anime Club" for middle and high school students is celebrating the Cherry Blossom Festival on Thursday, March 14, 3-4:30 p.m. Learn a little bit about Japan's iconic cherry trees and enjoy a themed craft.

The Reference Department will host an "Arts & Crafts Night" for teens 14+ and adults on Thursday, March 28 from 6 - 7 p.m. Free style mixed media artwork with supplies provided!! We'll supply paper, watercolors, pastels, colored pencils, markers and brushes. You supply your creativity!

For more information about the Chicopee Public Library, go to [www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org](http://www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org).

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# Elms College hosts 7th Annual Black Experience Summit

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer  
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE - Students gathered in the Veritas Auditorium at Elms College on Feb. 23 for the 7th Annual Black Experience Summit.

The summit's theme was "Forging Democracy: Black Womanhood and the Long March for Civil Rights" and co-sponsored by the college and the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Springfield.

This year's summit included a showing of the documentary "Stamped From The Beginning," performances by Patience Naylor and Lyrical Faith, M.S., and remarks from Dr. Harry Dumay, president of Elms College, Sr. Betsy Sullivan, president of the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Springfield, and Jennifer Shoaf, Ph.D., chief diversity officer at Elms College.

There were also two panel discussions, with the first featuring Shoaf as a moderator in conversation with Dr. Britney Cooper, Ph.D., professor of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies and Africana Studies at Rutgers University, and Dr. Kelli Carter Jackson, Ph.D., the Michael and Denise '68 associate professor in the Department of Africana Studies and chair of Africana Studies at Wellesley College.

The second featured Cooper and Jackson joined by Elms College Alum LaTonia Monroe Naylor, M.S., at-large elected member of the Springfield School Committee and founder of Monroe Consulting and co-founder of Parent Villages Inc. and VITAL Center



From the left, Dr. Stephanie Logan, Ed.D, associate professor of elementary and multicultural education at Springfield College, Dr. Britney Cooper, Ph.D., professor of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies and Africana Studies at Rutgers University, Dr. Kelli Carter Jackson, Ph.D., the Michael and Denise '68 associate professor in the Department of Africana Studies and chair of Africana Studies at Wellesley College, LaTonia Monroe Naylor, M.S., at-large elected member of the Springfield School Committee, founder of Monroe Consulting and co-founder of Parent Villages Inc. and VITAL Center Inc. and Elms College alum and Tyra Good, Ed.D., inaugural executive director of the Cynthia A. Lyons Center for Equity in Urban Education and associate professor of education at Elms College on stage during their moderated discussion at 7th Annual Black Experience Summit in the Veritas Auditorium at Elms College.

Inc., and Dr. Stephanie Logan, Ed.D, associate professor of elementary and multicultural education at Springfield College. Tyra Good, Ed.D., inaugural executive director of the Cynthia A. Lyons Center for Equity in Urban Education and associate professor of education at Elms College, served as moderator.

Dumay explained the summit brings "a forum for scholarly dialogue on the experience of African-Americans and Africans from the diaspora as a rich contribution to the American history and American culture."

He hopes students take away the importance of continuing to learn and asking questions.

"Any time that they learn something new and something different, it reinforces that continuous learning, keeping an open mind of continuously so that we can question all assumptions and take the new facts and new information so that it informs both knowledge, but also how we act towards one another," Dumay said.

Sullivan said it's the sisters' honor to co-sponsor and it's "essential that the college does something like this"

to foster important, thought-provoking conversations.

"I think (it's) learning about the history of black women in our country and relating it in some ways to ourselves," Sullivan said. "This might be very difficult, but how does that make me feel when I hear things like this and what can I do to carry their message and what can I do to try to create a better world for everybody?"

Jackson said the summit is about providing inspiration and information to attendees, stressing the importance of faith communities having "such a powerful role" in helping people understand the world.

"I think that the church has a powerful message; a good and old message, really," Jackson said. "And that if we stick to those principles of love for one another, love for God and love for one another, we can't go wrong."

Dumay wants the community to know the summit is part of the college's mission of impacting and contributing to the city and region.

"So, this is our continued contribution to elevate and educate within the city of Chicopee," Dumay said.

Jackson expressed gratitude to everyone attending the summit, recommending residents check out the documentary on Netflix.

"I'm just so grateful that people care about Black history, that they show up for Black history and I hope that this continues every single year; that this will not just be a one-off," Sullivan said. "But whether we are in good political times or hard political times, people will always see Black history as necessary, as relevant and as pertinent."



Lyrical Faith, M.S., delivers a spoken word performance during the 7th Annual Black Experience Summit in the Veritas Auditorium at Elms College on Feb. 23.



Patience Naylor performs "Stand Up" from the 2019 biographical film "Harriet" during the 7th Annual Black Experience Summit in the Veritas Auditorium at Elms College.



Sister Betsy Sullivan of the Sisters of Saint Joseph provides remarks during the 7th Annual Black Experience Summit in the Veritas Auditorium at Elms College on Feb. 23. The Sisters of Saint Joseph co-sponsored the event alongside the college.

## CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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## GARDEN from page 8

is where the hot bed comes in.

If you have access to free, fresh manure, you are all set. The general idea is to build a mound about two feet tall of manure and bedding materials not older than six weeks and top it with soil you will be growing your seedling in, then top that with one of the frame set-ups described above.

The heat generated from the manure will warm the soil and the surrounding air. Seeds should germinate easily and readily.

It's important not to set up your hot bed too early – mid April to early May is perfect because you will still need to be past the frost free date before planting the seedlings you've grown into the garden. Hot beds take a little trial and error, but are worth the experiment.

When we used them at OSV, the seedlings grown within were always greener and sturdier than those I provided from our

fancy greenhouse!

It was fun to think about getting a head start. Soon enough, soon enough!

Over the last decade, tremendous gains have been made in rose breeding, resulting in 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.



## 'Let's Get Growing: Spring Gardening Workshops' on March 23

Eight classes designed to educate, empower home gardeners

By Dalton Zbierski  
Editor  
dzbierski@turley.com

WESTFIELD – The Western Massachusetts Master Gardener Association is excited to present the "Let's Get Growing: Spring Gardening Workshops" on March 23 from 8 a.m. to Noon.

The event will occur at Westfield Middle School and feature eight classes designed to teach and energize gardeners of all skill levels. Rosey Bonner, a member of the WMMGA Symposium Planning Team, offered a glimpse of what can be expected on the fourth Saturday of March.

"Believe it or not, this is our 25th year," Bonner said. "We will work with all gardeners from beginning to experienced and will continue our mission, which is not only sustainability and the idea of 'do no harm' but also rejuvenation and regeneration. We need to help the ecology get back to where it should be. Hopefully, our workshops offer a variety of things that can do that."

The event is structured so that there are four programs beginning at 8:30 a.m. and another four starting at 10:30 a.m. Attendees will be able to attend two.

One 8:30 a.m. program is "Planting for the Birds in Your Backyard" and will include information on turning your yard into a year-round sanctuary for birds with proper plant selection and placement. The session will be led by Dan Ziomek, the manager at Sugarloaf Gardens in Sutherland.

"He's known at least in the master gardeners' circle for being a great pruner, but one other thing in Dan's background is he's a birder," Bonner said. "He even runs a talk show on birding once a week, so he's going to put together his mastery of plants and birds and present on planting for birds in your backyard. He'll be talking about plants that are pretty, plants that are useful and how to bring them together."

Another 8:30 a.m. program is "Start Your Own Seeds – A Hands-on Workshop", which will educate gardeners on when and how to start seeds, care for seeds and plant them. Each participant will prepare a peat pot and plant tomato seeds to take home in this session led by Master Gardener George Kingston.

"They'll learn the nitty gritty for everything from how do you choose seeds; do you get them from a catalog, or do you get them from Costco? What planting medium do you do? When do you transfer? All those kinds of ideas," Bonner said.

A third 8:30 a.m. program is "Pruning for Better Blooms" and will demystify the "when, why and how" of pruning shrubs to create the best flower show. Led by Horticulturist Jen Werner, a retired professor of Landscape Design Management at STCC, the session will review tools, techniques and specific pruning tips for popular flowering landscape shrubs such as hydrangeas, lilacs and rhododendrons.

"(Werner) is going to be talking about what plants to prune and what not to prune," Bonner said. "She'll talk about a variety of bushes and shrubs and how you can prune them."

The last 8:30 a.m. program, "The Joy of Container Gardening", is led by Master Gardener Priscilla Touhey. The session will demonstrate how to create your own

ornamental container garden for spring, what plants are appropriate and how to maintain it.

"You can grow everything from vegetables to flowers in containers and make them beautiful," Bonner said.

One 10:30 a.m. program is "Garden for Life: Using Native Plants in the Landscape" and will be led by Blue Stem Natives Nursery Owner Kristen Nicholson. The session will address the immense value of native plants and discuss why planting natives in your yard is so important.

"You may know a lot about native plants, but you may not. Here are some good ones to start that are good combinations for butterflies or bees," Bonner said.

A second 10:30 a.m. program is "Essentials for the Upcoming Growing Season 101" and is led by Master Gardener and Green Thumb Guru Ed Sourdiffe. The workshop will help attendees learn what to expect in the spring, how to prioritize and what to do to ensure a successful gardening season.

"(Last year), several people wanted to know, 'Okay it's spring, it's March, what do I do?' That's why we put that workshop in," Bonner said. "How do you open a garden? Do you till or do you not till? If you ever watch Mass Appeal, Sourdiffe is their resident gardener."

A third 10:30 a.m. program is "Setting Up Your Vegetable Garden for Success", led by Beth Carmichael, Margery Gerard and JoAnne Palmer, master gardeners and co-leaders of the Full Circle Food Pantry Garden in South Hadley. The workshop will empower attendees to start their own vegetable gardens or enhance their current gardens, helping to improve production and yields.

"A major issue out there is food security and also the cost of food," Bonner said, noting the garden produces 2,000 pounds of food every year for the South Hadley food pantry. "Even if you're able to feed your family, the cost has gone up, so we're really focusing this workshop along those lines of being able to set up your own vegetable garden for success."

Lastly, at 10:30 a.m., is "Friend or Foe: Helpful and Harmful Garden Insects and Worms", led by Entomologist Dr. Olga Kostromytska, an assistant professor at the UMass Stockbridge School of Agriculture. The program will discuss both beneficial and pest insects in New England and how to spot invasive species such as invasive worms.

"Rounding out our workshops, (Kostromytska) will be talking about insects that are good, so don't get rid of them all," Bonner said. "She'll talk about which ones are beneficial and which are harmful. She'll also talk about the hot topic out there, which is the Asiatic Jumping Worms that are destroying our soil and becoming more prevalent."

In between sessions, the Marketplace Fair will occur. The fair will include information tables on urbs, monarch butterflies, composting, bees and "Ask a Master Gardener".

"We've expanded that break in response to people giving us suggestions for topics, knowing we can't cover every topic, but how do we share more information. We're trying to take advantage of that middle piece more; not only get your coffee and look at vendors but get your questions answered," Bonner said.

One can register for the event online at WMMGA.org. If one registers on or before March 22, the cost to attend is \$30. On the day of the workshop, tickets will be sold for \$40, cash only.

## 23rd Annual 94.7 WMAS Radiothon for Baystate Children's Hospital

March 5-6 at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame

SPRINGFIELD - The public is invited to stop in and join in all the fun at this year's 23rd annual 94.7 WMAS Radiothon for Baystate Children's Hospital at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame on March 5-6.

Hundreds of inspiring stories come out of Baystate Children's Hospital every year, some of which will be told during this year's event.

Among the many stories shared will be that of Ryan Caney, who at three years old developed Guillain-Barre syndrome, a rare nervous system disorder that causes muscle weakness and sometimes paralysis. Quick diagnosis and treatment at the Sadowsky Family Pediatric Emergency Department at Baystate Medical Center helped Ryan make a full recovery. Listeners will also hear about Evie Dedrick, who was born prematurely and spent time in the Davis NICU at Baystate Medical Center and then relied on care for respiratory challenges at Baystate Children's Hospital.

While attending this year's Radiothon at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, home to the 94.7 WMAS studios, the public can have their photo taken on the red carpet, make a donation and get a sneak peek of 94.7 WMAS's Kellogg Krew broadcasting live.

"We really look forward to this event each year and the difference it makes for these kids in our communi-

ty," said 94.7 WMAS' Chris Kellogg. "Being able to share these inspirational stories is a reminder of how important it is to support our local children's hospital."

Radiothon hours are from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Donating is easy by phone or text as well as online. Listeners can call to donate via the Lia Auto Group Phone Bank at 413-794-1111 on March 5 and 6 from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. or visit [WMASKIDS.com](http://WMASKIDS.com).

"Our generous donors help fuel the work being done each day at Baystate Children's Hospital, the only accredited, full-service children's hospital in western Massachusetts," said Scott Berg, vice president of philanthropy, Baystate Health, and executive director, Baystate Health Foundation. "There are many ways to support the next generation, but helping to keep them healthy is critical. These stories highlight the importance of donations remaining local to support children right here in our community."

Baystate Children's Hospital is one of 170 fundraising Children's Miracle Network Hospitals across the country. Children's Miracle Network Hospitals are unique in that 100% of all money raised locally goes directly to Baystate Children's Hospital in Springfield in support of children's health programs and services.

Major sponsors for the Radiothon include Hyundai Hope on Wheels, Lia Auto Group, Pioneer Valley Credit Union, Eversource, M&T Bank, City Tire, and PeoplesBank.

## IN THE CLASSROOM

### AIC Names Chicopee Students to Athletic Director's 3.0 Club

SPRINGFIELD - American International College congratulates its student-athletes who have been inducted into the Athletic Director's 3.0 Club for the Fall 2023 semester.

AIC Athletics Director Jessica Chapin recognized more than three hundred student-athletes who have achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better after one or more years enrolled at AIC. The primary objective for these students is to stand as academic role models, inspir-

ing fellow student-athletes with their achievements and dedication!

Darius Diaz, majoring in Exercise Science.

Andrew Boyer, majoring in Marketing.

Hunter Terlik, majoring in Health Science.

Giovanni Barbosa, majoring in Nursing.

Samara Robles, majoring in Psychology.

### Spring session III classes at HCC to start

HOLYOKE – Prospective students still have one more opportunity to sign up for spring 2024 classes at Holyoke Community College.

Spring session III classes at HCC begin Monday, March 18, and run for seven weeks, concluding by Thursday, May 2.

Students who enroll for spring session III have the opportunity to take a variety of classes in a wide array of academic areas and can earn as many as four credits per course for a lab science, such as biology or forensic science.

These accelerated spring courses are being offered in person and online in accounting, anthropology, biology,

business, communications, culinary arts, economics, English, environmental science, forensic science, general studies, geography, history, human services, law, management, marketing, math, medical assisting, nutrition and sociology.

To get started, please go to: [hcc.edu/flexible-spring-starts](http://hcc.edu/flexible-spring-starts)

The HCC Admissions and Advising offices are located on the first floor of the HCC Campus Center and are open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. (4:30 p.m. on Fridays).

For more information, please contact HCC Admissions at 413-552-2321 / [admissions@hcc.edu](mailto:admissions@hcc.edu) or visit us online at [hcc.edu](http://hcc.edu).

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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. HD24P0331EA  
Estate of:  
Audrey J Bovard  
Date of Death: 12/25/2023  
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 Carol Ann Karol 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: Carol Ann Karol 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 03/19/2024.

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 20, 2024  
Rosemary A. Saccomani  
Register of Probate  
03/01/24

**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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
T-Mobile USA is proposing to modify an existing 125-foot monopole telecommunications tower at 450 Memorial Drive, Chicopee, Hampden County, Massachusetts 01020 (42 10 13.4 N / 72 34 43.4 W). The modifications will include the collocation of antennas at a centerline height of 105 feet above ground level on the existing monopole. The

tower is anticipated to have no lights. Interested persons may review the application for this project at www.fcc.gov/asr/applications and entering Antenna Structure Registration (ASR) Form 854 File Number "A1276232" and may raise environmental concerns about the project by filing a Request for Environmental Review with the Federal Communications Commission. Requests for Environmental Review must be filed within 30 days of the date that notice of the project is published on the FCC's website. The FCC strongly encourages interested parties to file Requests for Environmental Review online at www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest. Parties wishing to submit the request by mail may do so by addressing the request to: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 45 L Street NE, Washington, DC 20554.  
03/01/24

**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 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.

**2003 Honda Accord**  
VIN: 1HGCM82683A030042  
Stuarts Automotive  
97 Tanner St  
Lowell, MA 01852

**2006 BMW X5**  
VIN: SUXFA13516LY30240  
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

**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 15, 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 BMW X3**  
VIN: WBXPA73414WB21261  
Hector Ruiz  
18 Rockland Rd Ct  
Auburn, MA 01501

**2021 Kia Soul**  
VIN: KNDJ23AU2M7751776  
Jose Calixto Rodriguez III  
489 Main St, Apt 45  
Fiskdale, MA 01518

**2011 Chevrolet Traverse**  
VIN: 1GNKRJED0BJ260273  
Ricardo Herrera Gutierrez  
2420 Emory Rd 20  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

**2007 Jeep Compass Limited**  
VIN: 1J8FF57W87D189041  
Jakira Rios  
28 Healey St  
Indian Orchard, MA 01151

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

**2015 Nissan Rogue**  
VIN: 5N1AT2MV8FC760869  
Kendra Edwards  
81 Crescent Dr.  
Chicopee, MA 01020  
03/01, 03/08, 03/15/24

**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 March 31, 2024, at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

**2003 Nissan Altima**  
VIN: 1N4AL1DX3C189381  
Richard Guertin  
19 Ogden St.  
Indian Orchard, MA 01151

**1999 Toyota Corolla**  
VIN: 2T1BR18E4XC231505  
Elizabeth Santiago-Bonilla

110 Hampshire St.  
Holyoke, MA 01040  
**1994 Mercury Sable**  
VIN: 1MELM50U2RA649841  
Ronald Banister  
66 S Prospect St  
Turners Falls, MA 01349  
**2013 Nissan Sentra**  
VIN: 3N1AB7AP5DL772587  
Devondrick Ines  
473 Stafford St.  
Cherry Valley, MA 01611  
**2010 Ford F250 Super Duty**  
VIN: 1FTSW2BRXAEA27001  
Alexander Resnikoff  
124 Joel Dr.  
Hebron, CT 06248  
**2013 Ford Fusion**  
VIN: 3FA6P0H76DR239913  
Lucas Santos Da Silva  
206 Pilgrim Ave. Apt 1  
Worcester, MA 01604  
**2013 Nissan Sentra**  
VIN: 3N1AB7AP1DL562987  
Madison Boothe  
27 N Main St Apt 3  
Webster, MA 01570  
**2005 Honda Accord**  
VIN: 1HGCM56845A177486  
Luis Cabera  
1907 Persimmon St  
Chesapeake, VA 23324  
03/01, 03/08, 03/15/24

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758**  
Docket No. HD24C0049CA

**In the matter of: Sabrina Ann Greaves CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**  
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Sabrina Ann Greaves of Chicopee, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Ace Molina**  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/25/2024.

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 27, 2024  
Rosemary A. Saccomani  
Register of Probate  
03/01/2024

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## Chicopee Parade Committee announces scholarship recipients



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHICOPEE PARADE COMMITTEE

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Parade Committee has awarded college scholarships to four young ladies who participated in the recent Chicopee Colleen Contest. The awards were based on academic achievement, community involvement, extracurricular activities and other significant accomplishments. They were presented by Scholarship Chair George Balakier at the Colleen Coronation Ball, which was held at the Portuguese American Club on Feb. 24.

Receiving awards of \$500 each were: Melia Young, a senior at Smith Vocational & Agricultural School. The award was donated by Ste. Rose de Lima Bingo Foundation, in honor

of 2024 Parade Marshal Rev. William Tourigny.

Kate Gauthier, a senior at Chicopee Comprehensive High School, who received the Maura Culloo-Burns Memorial Scholarship. This award was donated by Maura's family, in memory of Chicopee's 1996 Colleen.

Morgan Presnal, a student at Springfield College. This award was donated by Attorney Laura McCarthy, in memory of the late Superintendent of Chicopee Schools Barbara Cove.

Jordyn Lemelin, a senior at Chicopee High School. This award, the Marcel & Joyce (Devine) Gaudet Scholarship, was donated by Peggy Gaudet-Chartier.



## CFD and CPD Honor Guard participate in Colleen Coronation



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHICOPEE FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Fire Department and Chicopee Police Department Honor Guard participated in the opening ceremonies of the 2024 Colleen Coronation on Feb. 24. We are grateful to our members who volunteered their time.

**JOIN DAY BROOK VILLAGE FOR A Senior Moving Seminar**

**Thursday, March 14th • 9:30 – 11:30 AM**

There's never been a better time to sell your house and consider a move. Not sure where to start? Join us for a senior moving seminar and have all of your questions answered. Refreshments will be served.

**THE UPSIDE OF DOWNSIZING**  
Presented by Barbara Perman, PhD., Founder and President, Moving Mentor

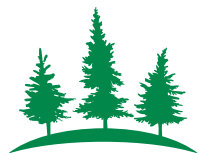
**SELLING YOUR HOME IN TODAY'S MARKET**  
Presented by Donna Coleman, S.R.E.S. National Association of Realtors®, Taylor Real Estate

Tours will be offered following the event. Please use the Sheldon Entrance.

An RSVP is required. Please visit [RSVPDayBrookVillage.org](https://RSVPDayBrookVillage.org), scan the QR code, or call 413-420-5145.



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