

# Chicopee Register

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TURLEY PHOTO BY BRENDAN ROONEY

The 2026 Colleens and Courts for Holyoke, Chicopee, Agawam, Springfield, West Springfield and Westfield assembled for a group photo.

## A look at the CPL Writers Group

By Christina Gioscia  
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – On March 5, the library held their monthly Writers Group meeting.

The group meets on the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the conference room located on the bottom floor of the library.

The group began in March 2023 and has been growing ever since. The group members shared that the group is a way for them to keep their passion alive and refine their skills in a supportive environment.

The meeting started with everyone sharing what they're currently working on, then one member, Andrew Goebel, had signed up to receive feedback on the piece he's currently working on.

Stacie Klinowski shared how the group got started and what it means to her to not simply be the group's leader, but to create a shared space where everyone's voices are heard.

"I had been living in Chicopee since 2019 and had been attending a lot of library programming, namely their longstanding and amazing book club. One day while I was there, I asked one of the librarians, Carol Lynne Bagley, about why there weren't very many

writing-related programs and events on their schedule at the time. Carol Lynne knew that I was teaching writing at UMass Amherst at the time, and she let me know that people ask after a writing group or class often but that they didn't have someone to facilitate it," Klinowski said. "She asked if I would like to, and I said yes. Our first meeting was a group listening and norming session, and it became clear people wanted the opportunity to share their writing with others and receive feedback, which is the primary format of the space."

Klinowski explained how writing within a group can be beneficial.

"We're always writing for audiences, to make a mark on the world, or something similar. We learn best when in conversation with others," Klinowski said. "Having the accountability of showing up for our meetings can also be very motivating for people who struggle to fit writing into their daily lives. Part of the reason why the space works is because we genuinely care for one another. We want each other to succeed."

The group members often support each other's writing journeys outside the meetings, Klinowski added.

See **WRITERS GROUP** page 5

## Holyoke hosts 2026 Colleen Gathering

By Brendan Rooney  
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – The city hosted this year's Colleen Gathering at the Wyckoff Country Club on Sunday, March 8.

The gathering featured the 2026 Colleens and their courts from Holyoke, Chicopee, Agawam, West Springfield, Springfield and Westfield, along with the 2026 award recipients from the surrounding communities. Festivities included a luncheon, raffles, and performances from the Black Rose Acad-

emy of Irish Dance, along with the Colleens and their courts, who also got to show off their Irish step dance moves.

Before the presentation kicked off, remarks were provided by Dave Haslam, a member of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Committee and chairman for this year's Colleen Gathering, along with 2026 Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee President Jim Wildman, who offered a bit of insight into the behind-the-scenes process of the event and revealed that every year, the parade president of the St. Patrick's Commit-

tee of Holyoke selects a city to host the Colleen Gathering in early March.

"Normally, we try to set this up throughout the regionals every year and have it be different," Wildman said. "And it's always a great day. It brings all the Colleens and all the committees together, and it gets them all in one place, and lets them just have a day of fun and relaxation, before the next two weeks, which get really busy and hectic leading up to the parade weekend. I'm also looking forward to enjoying the Parade, and just getting ready for the lead

up to things, it's great to see the weather getting better, and can't wait for the parade weekend."

### Assemble the Colleens

Every Colleen and their courts introduced themselves to the attendees, and first to kick off was the Holyoke contingent, which was led by the 2026 Grand Colleen Jadyn Lois Christie, who touched upon the importance of the gathering, while celebrating her Irish heritage, and previewed what she was looking

See **COLLEENS** page 5

## James Street zone change request denied by City Council

The property discussed used to be Bernie's Dining Depot

By Dalton Zbierski  
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – Despite favorable recommendations from the Planning Board and the Zoning Committee, the City Council denied a proposed zone change on James Street during its March 3 meeting.

The property in question is located at 749 James St. It's the old home of Bernie's Dining Depot, a popular restaurant that was open for decades and featured an iconic train car.

An applicant from Hudson, N.H., who bought the parcel for \$700,000, applied to have it rezoned from Res-

idential A to Business A for the purpose of reestablishing a restaurant.

Many people from the surrounding area vocally opposed the zone change request, citing concerns about their quality of life. Several of these individuals took the podium during the public input session of the meeting and delivered compelling arguments against the request.

Ward 4 Councilor George Balakier explained to the council that the parcel in discussion is currently split zoned.

While the property is 35,163 total square feet, 25,283 square feet is zoned Business A, while the remaining 9,780 square feet is zoned Residential A. If the council had voted in favor of the applicant, the entire parcel would have become Business A.

Ultimately, 10 votes in favor of the applicant's request were needed to pass the zone change, but only eight council members voted "yes."

While nearly the entire board offered opinions on the issue, there were two dominant voices in the conversation: Councilor-at-Large Joel McAuliffe and Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello.

McAuliffe pointed out that the building operated as a restaurant for more than 40 years and that favorable action would ensure the entire property is governed by consistent zoning regulations.

"That promotes clarity, consistency and enforceability of the zoning map," McAuliffe said.

See **ZONE CHANGE** page 6



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOEL RODOWICZ

Chicopee St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee Member Kathy Balakier shows the governor how to wear the tartan scarf. Balakier was also the Parade Marshal for Chicopee in 2017.

## Gov. Healey receives tartan from Chicopee Parade Committee

Also, meets with constituents

By Brendan Rooney  
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – In an exclusive story, Gov. Maura Healey made a surprise visit to Western Mass on March 7, making a pit stop to the city of Chicopee at Goodworks Coffee House with a meet and greet event with Mayor John Vieau.

She, also, received the official Chicopee tartan from the Chicopee St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee.

Also in attendance were State Rep. Michael Finn (D-6th Hampden), Ward 1 City Councilor Abigail Ar-

riaga, Ward 4 City Councilor George Balakier, City Councilor-at Large Jessica Avery, Melissa Breor, executive director of the Greater Chicopee Chamber of Commerce, and more.

Vieau kicked off his greeting with thanks expressed to Healey.

"Chicopee continues to grow, and I'm just grateful and thankful because you have helped us in so many ways, so many different projects, and for that we are very fortunate for your continued support," Vieau said.

He also thanked Goodworks Coffee for hosting the event.

"I want to thank Goodworks for hosting today, and I want to share that it's ex-

citing because they (Goodworks) have been through what people call 'downtown stagnant,' and it really isn't; it's actually thriving again, things are happening," Vieau said. "We are in the process of moving our admin offices from the school district to around the corner, meaning there are going to be 100 people who will need goods and services shopping here. And we recently just renovated our former central library, which has been vacant for the last 20 years. So that space is going to be activated again, and that's really going to be a hub for people, and that's why we called it 'The Hub,' and so we're excited to

See **HEALEY** page 6



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHICOPEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The train car from the former Bernie's Dining Depot as it left Chicopee in December 2025. The City Council denied a proposed zone change for the former property on James Street on March 3.

# IN THE CITY

## Nonna's Village officially opens in Chicopee

By **Brendan Rooney**  
Correspondent

CHICOPEE — Nonna's Village, Chicopee's first ever multi-recreation center, celebrated its grand opening on March 6 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Nonna's Village is located at 82-86 Main Street, right near Master Lee's Taekwondo & After School.

The business is a treasure trove of unlimited opportunities and never-ending creativity, from allowing customers to partake in a variety of activities, such as art classes, classic arcade games, and countless other consoles as part of the Game Room, and that's only the tip of the iceberg, as owner Angela Breault-Klusman explained the, "motto and slogan is 'It takes a village to raise a child.'"

Breault-Klusman explained what inspired her to open this recreation center.

"This idea originated out of 'Dance Dynamics', and then my mom passed away last March, and I had to shut down the dance studio for a little bit, and then one day I was sitting at the table one

day, and something village came on, all I could see was the name 'Nonna's Village,' Breault-Klusman said. "I knew my mom loved children; she had a daycare herself at one point, she was also a ceramics teacher, and then she helped her brother Mark, who had a restaurant, so the entrepreneurial spirit has always been in our family, and so my mom was right-hand in everything."

Breault-Klusman explained the hours are Monday through Sunday from 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. and that her doors are available to be opened a bit earlier and a little later, but encouraged customers to call ahead.

She clarified that customers can make reservations, but walk-ins are available as well.

The dance studio will be available Monday through Saturday morning, and that includes Spanish dance lessons, Zumba and a few other options.

Before the festivities and grand opening kicked off, friends, family, community supporters and local dignitaries such as Mayor John Vieau



Boomer from the Springfield Thunderbirds with Nonna's Village Owner Angela Breault-Klusman.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY BRENDAN ROONEY

all lined up and expressed excitement for the opening.

"Congrats on newfound prosperity, wealth and good health to you and your family and friends, and obviously, the community is here, we're all engaged, and it's really exciting to open another facility, and hopefully we will be doing a five, 10, 20 year in the future, because that's what it's about as we continue to provide wonderful services to the city," Vieau said.

Lamari Jackson, aide for State Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield), also presented a citation from the Massa-

chusetts State Senate in recognition of the opening.

"Be it further known that the Massachusetts Senate hereby extends its congratulations to Nonna's Village in recognition of the joyous occasion of your grand opening in the city of Chicopee. Be it known that the Massachusetts State Senate extends its best wishes for continued success," Jackson said.

Vieau then handed the scissors to Breault-Klusman, who then dedicated the ribbon cutting to her mom.

"Today, this moment is for her," Breault-Klusman announced as she cut the ribbon, officially opening the doors to her establishment.

After the doors were open, Vieau touched upon the importance of small businesses taking root in the city, before engaging in some ping-pong.

"It's exciting to see someone open their doors in a space that was underutilized, and turn it into something special, where people can come gather and have fun," Vieau said. "It's a great concept, of thinking outside the box, and being creative, in the pursuit of attracting people and allowing them to have a good time, and this center is truly special, and unique, and I'm happy to be here, to commemorate this moment."

Breault-Klusman also reflected on the importance of community support, as her business continues to grow.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RACHEL BEAUDOIN

Inside the Nail Salon room.

"Community support is everything to me. I am a huge believer and have a strong connection to the community when it comes to involvement, and I want to add my prices here are set to be community affordable, and I believe that prices are so high at this moment, which shows that families can't have and partake in these activities, but that's why everything is cut back, but I'll manage and figure it out," Breault-Klusman said.

She noted that some of the rooms she's most excited to see people interact with are the stress-relief room, which was later demonstrated by Vieau, who broke down a porcelain alligator.

Also, the paint splatter

room, adding that all rooms are open daily. She was looking forward to the Golf Simulator being up and running, which will run on Sundays.

"I feel the Golf Simulator is going to be a big hit, especially for Dads and Grandpas, and it's going to be open after 7 p.m. during the week," Breault-Klusman said.

Breault-Klusman stressed the importance of what it means to be a small business owner in this day and age, citing it's "honestly breathtaking."

"I have a big family, I have adopted kids, I have also taken guardianship of children, and so being able to have my own business and being able to be there for them, and work through different things because I also have some children with disabilities, is a big part of being able to go ahead and be a business owner and have that sigh of relief. That I can take a step back, and have someone else step in and run it, and I can still be here due to the volume of the different rooms, and being able to help," Breault-Klusman said.

Breault-Klusman shared the reason why she chose Chicopee to open her business was simple: "I was born and raised here!"

To learn more, visit [www.nonnasvillage413.com](http://www.nonnasvillage413.com), call 413-313-2307, or check out their Facebook page at Nonna's Village 413.



Angela Breault-Klusman, owner of Nonna's Village, and her family and staff pose for a photo with Mayor John Vieau

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## C4R watershed council to hold gathering March 22

PALMER – We have all heard Carpe Diem-seize the day, well our local rivers need us to step up to care for them as we enjoy their beauty.

Join the Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed, C4R, group as its members seek to continue their efforts to do that.

The first gathering in 2026 will be held on Sunday, March 22 from 2-4 p.m. in the Palmer Historical Cultural

Center, 2072 Main St., Three Rivers.

Come hear what C4R has accomplished and how you can help to keep it going. They will review water quality monitoring, paddling trails, clean ups, trail stewardship, leadership needs, and more.

For more information, email [chicopeewatershed@gmail.com](mailto:chicopeewatershed@gmail.com).



## Chicopee Historical Society Talk on Maude Tait

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Historical Society will present a talk on the legendary Maude Tait, born in Chicopee, an aviatrix whose home base was the Springfield Airport during the Roar-

ing Twenties and early 1930s.

Sue Bousquet, docent at the Lyman and Merrie Wood Museum of Springfield History, will present a talk on this remarkable woman for Women's History Month. The

event is free and open to the public, 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18 in the Bazan Community Room of the Chicopee Public Library, 449 Front Street, Chicopee, Mass.

# IN THE CITY

## Chicopee first to install cameras on school buses to catch violators

By Dalton Zbierski  
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – In an attempt to curb illegal passing, Chicopee Public Schools recently became the first district in Massachusetts to install license plate-reading cameras on the exterior of its school buses.

The new technology is meant to record the license plates of vehicles that criminally pass school buses.

If a school bus has its stop bar activated and red lights flashing, it is illegal to pass it, regardless of what side of the road a vehicle is on.

Drivers who are caught illegally passing a school bus when it is picking up or dropping off students will be fined up to \$250 for the first offense. Repeated violators are forced to pay more and can even lose their license.

The initiative was first announced in a press conference at Chicopee Comprehensive High School on Feb. 25.

“It’s my understanding that on average in Massachusetts, it happens multiple times a day that buses are passed by people who are driving recklessly and not willing to wait for students

to safely cross. This puts too many people in harm’s way,” Mayor John Vieau said, ahead of the March 3 City Council meeting.

Vieau shared the update as part of his mayoral briefing. He was proud to announce that the Chicopee school district is the first in the state to take this measure.

“What it is actually is if you pass a bus with its red bar and stop sign out, you will now be getting a ticket mailed to your home,” Vieau said. “I couldn’t think of a better way to protect our community. That law passed very recently. We are the first to implement

this on our buses.”

Right now, a pilot program is active in the city, but beginning on April 6, individuals who illegally pass school buses in the city will feel the full extent of the law – or at least their wallets will.

“Again, the city of Chicopee, through our school district, is responsible for students the minute they step onto our buses until the minute they step off and return home,” Vieau said. “We want to make sure we do that safely, and I couldn’t think of a better way than implementing this law.”

Vieau emphasized that

it’s not just Chicopee residents who can get fined. Anyone who is driving in the city who is caught committing the violation will have a ticket mailed to their home address, no matter where they live.

“I just wanted to share that with you as well; it’s driven by that,” Vieau said.

The mayor took several opportunities to warn the public that the pilot period is over early next month and that all the city’s buses will soon feature the cameras.

“The company we’ve contracted with is on the state bid list. They’ve installed them on the buses,” Vieau

said. “They’re going to continue to make sure all the buses have this technology very soon. Again, just forewarning the public that as of April 6 it will be in full force enforcement.”

Vieau gave credit to Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello for spearheading the charge to bring the technology to Chicopee. He called her a key voice in the process of getting this done, and she expressed thanks that it went through.

“We’re the first one in the state, and we have a lot to be proud of for this safety measure,” Costello said.

## City Council salutes Shaw, reappoints her as veterans services director

Shaw’s reappointment was unanimous last Tuesday

By Dalton Zbierski  
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – Anyone who has even briefly encountered Chicopee Veterans Services Director Stephanie Shaw can attest to her passion and love for helping the city’s veteran population.

Since entering the role in the summer of 2017, Shaw – a Ludlow resident – has made a significant impact on thousands of veterans in Chicopee and beyond.

Whether she’s organizing ceremonies on military holidays or pursuing funding to bring in much needed resources, Shaw is always keeping busy.

It’s no surprise then that the City Council unanimously reappointed her to another year in the position. This occurred during the March 3 meeting.

Mayor John Vieau applauded Shaw’s military service and the career that she has established in Chicopee. He said the city is proud of its veterans and that Shaw embodies that pride.

“[Shaw] is always there to help and accommodate the veteran community of Chicopee, and it’s been a pleasure and honor to work with you all these years, and I want to continue doing that,” Vieau said.

Before the council took its vote, Shaw was given an opportunity to speak. She

kept it brief but made it clear that she prizes her platform to make a difference.

“I’ve been here since July of 2017. I quite enjoy this work. I think we’ve accomplished many, many wonderful things in this city, but my wish list isn’t done. There’s still a lot more good work to do, and I’d like that opportunity,” Shaw said.

Before voting on the order, numerous City Council members took time to thank Shaw for the excellence she has displayed leading her department for nearly a decade.

Ward 7 Councilor Bill Courchesne said it was an easy decision to reappoint Shaw to a term ending on April 1, 2027.

“I think we’re all familiar with Stephanie and the amazing work that she does for the city and for the veterans,” Courchesne said.

Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello expressed her gratitude as well.

“I want to thank Stephanie Shaw for her hard work,” Costello said. “As the wife of a combat veteran, I appreciate all the work and the attention you give to the city’s veterans.”

George Balakier, the councilor from Ward 4, agreed that Shaw does phenomenal work.

“I think she’s the only person who can do that job at that degree and that magnitude,” Balakier said. “She’s always been professional at city events, taking care of the veterans, and I’m in favor of this reappointment.”

Vice President/Ward 6 Councilor Sam Shumsky

noted that Shaw does a lot of work to help veterans across the region, not only those in Chicopee.

“I’ve seen her at multiple events throughout the area,” Shumsky said. “She’s a wonderful person, a wonderful mother, and we are very lucky and fortunate to have her in the city of Chicopee.”

Councilor-at-Large Joel McAuliffe, who is the son of an Iraq combat veteran, commended Shaw.

“She’s been exceptionally helpful not only to my family but to countless others,” McAuliffe said. “I do want to let her know that my dad has moved to Florida, so he will not be bothering you anytime soon.”

All joking aside, the entire council shared its appreciative sentiment toward Shaw. Ward 1 Councilor Abigail Arriaga echoed Shumsky, noting that Shaw is valued throughout the state.

“I just want to say that when I’ve talked to people outside the city... They’re definitely like, ‘Wow, if every city could have a Stephanie...’ So, I definitely appreciate what you do. Your name is definitely sung among many across the Commonwealth,” Arriaga said.

Before the council took its vote, President/Councilor-at-Large Frank Laflamme took a moment to add to the conversation.

“On behalf of the whole City Council, as president, we all appreciate what you’ve done for the veterans of the city of Chicopee,” Laflamme said.

## RiverMills Senior Center programs

### Women’s History Month

CHICOPEE – The Council on Aging will host a Massachusetts Women’s History Month program on Wednesday, March 25 at 12:30 p.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging’s RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St. Join History Professor Maura Henry of Holyoke Community College for this program in honor of Women’s History Month. During this presentation, you will learn about Massachusetts women Abigail Adams, Deborah Sampson, Elizabeth Freeman, and the birth of America. Although this is a free event, you must register in advance at RiverMills Center or by calling 534-3698.

### Nutrition Workshop

CHICOPEE – Council on Aging will offer a general nutrition workshop on Monday, March 16 at 10 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging’s RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St. Join representatives from Ascentria Care Alliance’s SNAP-Ed program to talk about the solutions and barriers for a lifestyle of healthy nutrition, physical activity and wellness. You will also play some Nutrition Jeopardy and will be able to grab a sample of a healthy soup and recipe to make at home. Although this is a free program, please register at RiverMills Center or by calling 534-3698.

### Poison Prevention

CHICOPEE – The Council on Aging host a poison prevention program on Wednesday, March 18 at 10 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging’s RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street. Every year, Poison Prevention Week is recognized during the third week of March. Join Regional Public Health Nurse Fiona Cioch for a presentation on poison prevention in your home so you can keep yourself and your family safe. Though this is a free event, you must register at RiverMills Center or by calling 534-3698.

### Parkinson’s Foundation

CHICOPEE – The Council on Aging will host a Parkinsons Foundation Information Session on Thursday, March 19 at 10 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging’s RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St. Join the Parkinson’s Foundation for an information session about what the Parkinson’s Foundation is all about, as well as a discussion on the 10 early signs of the disease. This program will provide an overview of the foundations mission and work and highlight the wide range of resources, educational programs, and genetic testing opportunities available through the foundation. Although this is a free event, you must register in advance at RiverMills Center or by calling

534-3698.

### ABC’s of Genealogy

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Council on Aging will host the program “ABCs of Genealogy” on Monday, March 23 at 1:30 p.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging’s RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street. Join David Robinson of Old Bones Genealogy, as he goes through the ABCs of family research, where you will learn how to start digging deep into your family history. You might be surprised as to what you find. You must register in advance at RiverMills Center or by calling 534-3698.

### Red Cross Ready

CHICOPEE – The Council on Aging will offer the program “Red Cross Ready” on Friday, March 27 at 10 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging’s RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street. Representatives from the American Red Cross of Massachusetts will be at RiverMills Center to present the Red Cross Ready program. This program is a national standardized free preparedness education curriculum for adults taught by certified presenters. This program is designed to help people understand, prepare for, and respond appropriately to disasters. You must register in advance at RiverMills Center or by calling 534-3698.

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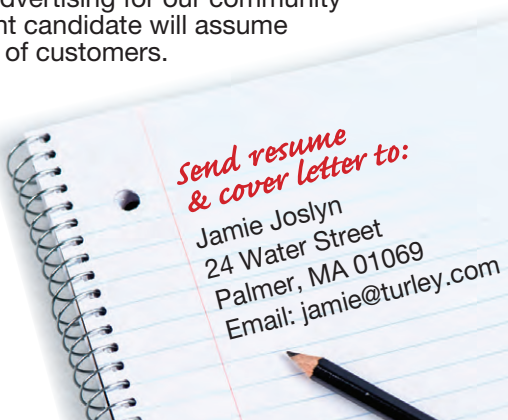
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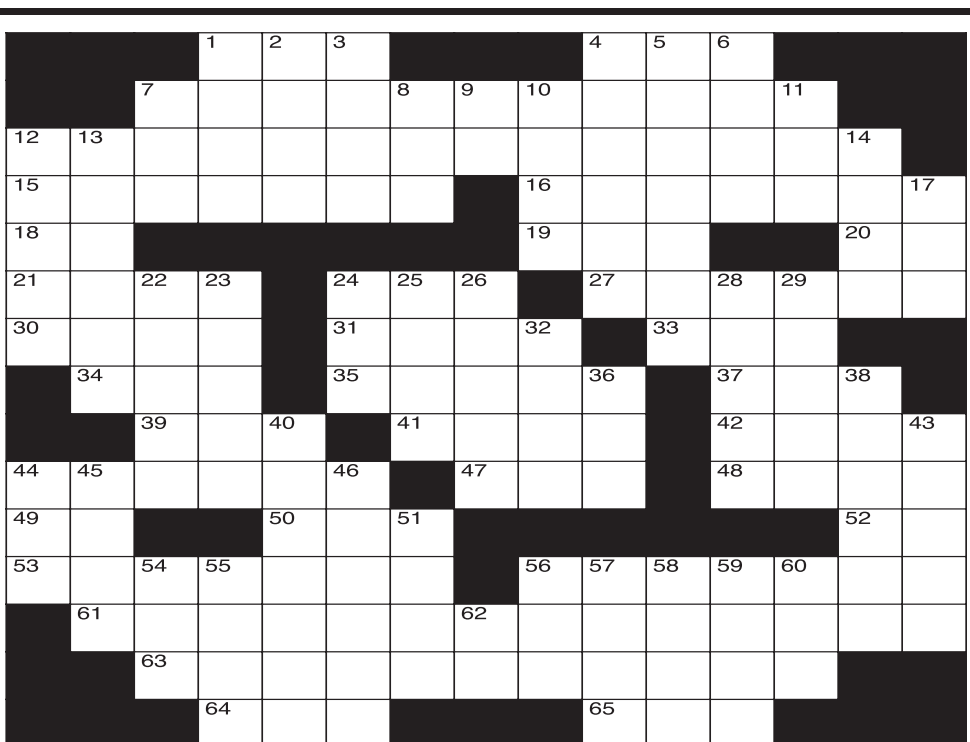
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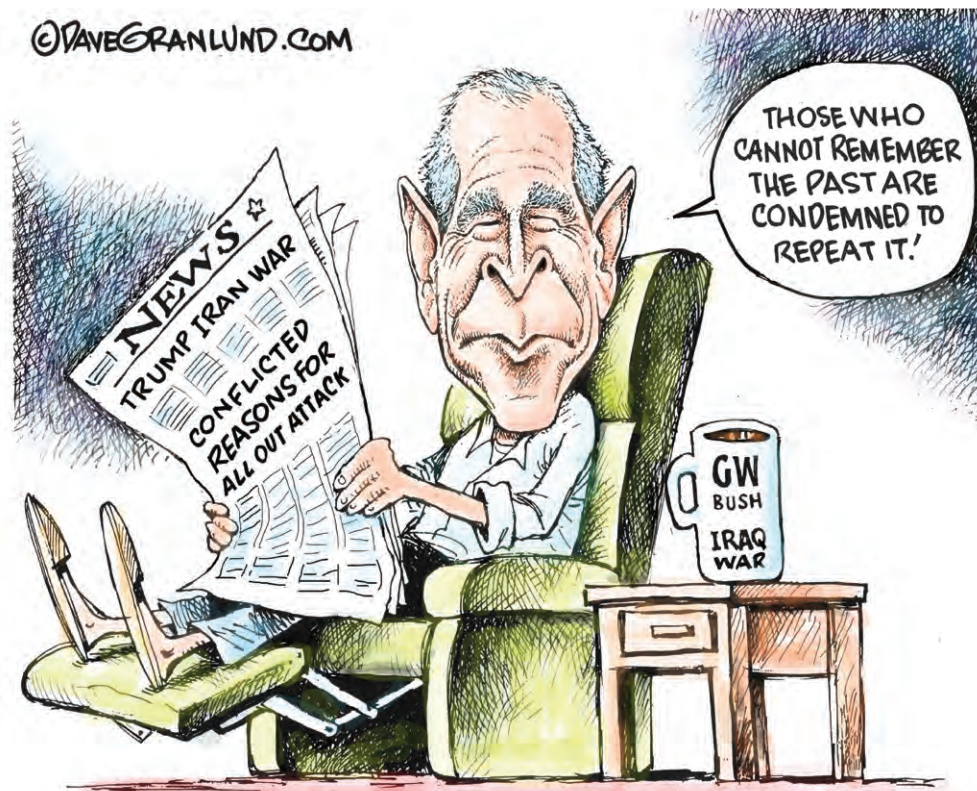


### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Blockchain-based entity
- 4. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
- 7. Painted with glue
- 12. Legendary crooner
- 15. Structure made with strips of wood
- 16. Tropical fruits
- 18. Commercial
- 19. Comedienne
- 20. The Ocean State
- 21. Ancient Scot
- 24. Basics
- 27. Stated propositions
- 30. Scottish island group
- 31. Expression of annoyance
- 33. Large tree
- 34. Engine additive
- 35. Conspiracy
- 37. Drunkard
- 39. Someone who is morally reprehensible
- 41. Ancient Syrian city
- 42. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
- 44. Carry (slang)
- 47. Sweet potato
- 48. European river
- 49. The Golden State
- 50. Windy City ballplayer
- 52. New Testament
- 53. Possess spiritually
- 56. A treeless grassy plain
- 61. Popular historical novel
- 63. In a law-abiding way
- 64. A place to sleep
- 65. Criticize
- 4. Occupant
- 5. Member of Great Plains people
- 6. Social media firm
- 7. Digital audiotape
- 8. Midway between east and southeast
- 9. Chronic, progressive disease
- 10. Chinese lute
- 11. Not wet
- 12. Moves wings up and down
- 13. Communication devices
- 14. Swiss river
- 17. Female sibling
- 22. Receive
- 23. Relating to a type
- 24. General’s assistant (abbr.)
- 25. Steep bank
- 26. Taxi driver
- 28. Moves into without difficulty
- 29. Bicycle manufacturer
- 32. Traditional rhythmic pattern
- 36. Fugitives are on it
- 38. Bitter-tasting organic substance
- 40. Die
- 43. Matched
- 44. Literary genre \_\_-fi
- 45. Cannot
- 46. Pounded
- 51. British rock group
- 54. Debt relief order
- 55. 2006 NL Cy Young winner
- 56. Green vegetable
- 57. Tough outer skin of fruit
- 58. \_\_ Spumante (Italian wine)
- 59. Ailments
- 60. Famed singer Charles
- 62. Camper

## OPINION

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## SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

### Is there income tax on Social Security benefits?

Dear Rusty:  
The Trump Administration is saying that now there will be no taxes on Social Security benefits. Since we're getting ready to start our 2025 income tax return, can you explain how this all works?

Signed: Confused Taxpayer

Dear Confused Taxpayer:

You are obviously referring to the so-called "One Big, Beautiful Bill" and how that bill affects income tax on your Social Security benefits. And this is because of the publicity surrounding the so-called "one big, beautiful bill" enacted last year, which claims to "eliminate income tax on Social Security benefits." Well, that bill did, yet technically didn't, fully eliminate income tax on benefits." Allow me to explain.

The OBBB does eliminate income tax on most SS benefits, but it does so in a somewhat unique way – by providing an additional \$6,000 (per person) deduction to your federal taxable income as reported to the IRS. Thus, you will pay less total income tax when you file your taxes with the IRS because of that additional deduction to your taxable income.

The extra deduction is available to those over age 65 and is meant to offset the income tax which will still be levied by the IRS on the SS benefits you received in 2025. Essentially, the rules governing income tax on Social Security benefits have not changed.

The IRS will still levy income tax on your SS benefits if your combined income from all sources (known as your "provisional income") is over \$32,000 as a married couple filing jointly or more than \$25,000 if you file as an individual. If your provisional income is below the threshold for your IRS filing status, you will pay no income tax on your received 2025 SS benefits.

But if your provisional income exceeds the threshold for your IRS filing status, then somewhere between 50% and 85% of your received SS benefits will be taxed (how much SS income to be taxed depends on your combined income in 2025). By now, you should have received form 1099-SSA which advised of your 2025 Social Security income, including any income tax you had withheld from your SS benefits.

This income should be reported when submitting your 2025 income tax return. If your "provisional income" is over \$32,000 as a married couple filing jointly (or over \$25,000 as an individual filer), then your 2025 SS benefits will still be taxed by the IRS. But when completing your 2025 Income Tax Return, you will also be able to claim an additional \$6,000 per person (\$12,000 if you file jointly), which will likely offset any income tax you must pay due to the SS benefits you received in 2025.

If you use a tax preparer or tax preparation software, they will guide you through this calculation. Note, too, that the \$6,000 per person deduction amount will be less if your combined taxable income is more than \$150,000 as a married couple (or more than \$75,000 as a single filer).

Be aware, though, that the OBBB is temporary tax accommodation which expires after tax year 2028. And that's because the process used to pass the bill in Congress (a "budget reconciliation" process) didn't actually change SS law; rather it provided a way around it to offset income tax paid on SS benefits.

So, to recap, the IRS can still levy income tax on your received Social Security benefits but, because of the OBBB, you will likely also (depending on your provisional income level) receive an extra deduction which offsets any taxes calculated on your Social Security benefits.

Finally, be aware that if your first husband also predeceases you, you will then become eligible for a surviving ex-spouse benefit from him, even if he has remarried.

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

### An herb catalog and a favorite herb

One of my favorite seed and plant catalogs of all time is Richters Herbs ([richters.com](http://richters.com)). I look forward to the paper copy arriving in the mail by early December.

The company is out of Ontario, Canada, and offers over 1,200 unique varieties, mostly herbs of all kinds with a few vegetables thrown in for good measure. I've ordered from them for well over two decades and think their products are just great, everything from common culinary herbs to unique medicinal plants and everything in between, even dye plants and ornamentals.

I love how the seeds are packaged in foil lined envelopes and quantities are liberal, often giving you enough seed for two or three years of sowing, depending on the variety. On occasion I have had to order plants that I couldn't find locally and despite the distance, they arrive in good shape.

Basil (*Ocimum* spp) is one plant in particular that we typically order seed of, and we will soon be starting it indoors. The Richters catalog boasts 29 varieties, and we grow nine of them in the Paul Rogers Herb Garden at Old Sturbridge Village.

A trip to our herb garden in season is really worthwhile. Who doesn't like Italian or Genovese basil? Picture the pesto!

But in addition to our old favorites, there is lemon, anise, cinnamon and spice, each with fragrant leaves. Looking for unique foliage? Try dark opal, whose leaves are tinted dark purple or bush basil, whose tiny leaves altogether make a round globe of a plant, and who could leave out lettuce leaf, with its crinkled pale green leaves.

Over the years I have found that there are just a few obstacles to growing great basil. Seeds should be planted indoors – rarely will they do well from an outdoor sowing,

Start basil about the same time that tomatoes are sown, in mid to late March. Make shallow furrows and space the seed one-eighth of an inch apart in rows within a small pot or seed pack. When

course of the summer you notice that the leaves are no longer grass-green, but instead are pale or even turning brown, your plants may have a nitrogen deficiency.

I usually have had to "top dress" my basil twice after planting, each time with a sprinkling of balanced organic fertilizer and some aged compost. Usually they green up in a matter of days.

Basil has the insatiable desire to flower. We must "deadhead" or the plant will fulfill its earthly desire to reproduce by making and dropping seed, all at the expense of foliage production.

Since we grow this plant for its leaves and not its seed, or its flowers for that matter, clip away the buds at the first sign of them. Another challenge to basil growing has been the Japanese beetle.

Basil leaves riddled with chew marks should best be removed. Japanese beetles are relatively easy to hand pick in the morning and at night.

A gentle tap on a leaf will easily knock beetles into a wide mouth jar of soapy water positioned underneath. Ideally, basil leaves should be harvested after the dew has dried in the morning but before the sun shines too brightly; at that particular time its oils are the most pungent.

Enjoy the new catalog recommendation and be sure to get those basil seeds started by the end of the month.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*

true leaves form pluck out the tiny seedling and transplant it into a cell of a four or six pack, or an individual tiny pot.

Grow on indoors until the weather improves. Basil is particularly cold sensitive, so be sure that all danger of frost has passed before transplanting it into the garden.

Downy mildew disease was discovered to be prevalent some years back. While I don't take any particular precautions, and my basil shows little sign of the familiar leaf blotching, Richters does offer seeds of resistant varieties for you to try if this disease has been troublesome in your garden.



Basil foliage has also been known to burn if planted outdoors without a period of hardening off. For this reason, gradually get seedlings used to bright sun and wind over the course of a week before planting in the ground.

Provide your transplants with fertile, well-drained soil in a sunny spot. If, over the

## in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer



Male red-winged blackbird

On March 2, I received an email from a Worthington resident that he just saw a red-winged blackbird.

Male red-winged blackbirds arrive before the females. They are one of the first birds to return to northern breeding grounds, arriving in late February or early March.

Red-winged blackbirds are abundant songbirds, who inhabit marshes, wetlands and fields. The male is glossy black with bright red and yellow shoulder patches or epaulets. Females have streaked brown plumage.

The highly territorial males often sit on high perch-

es, singing and displaying their epaulets. Their "conk-la-ree" is heard frequently. They are known for "dive bombing" crows, hawks and even humans to defend their territory. They primarily eat insects such as beetles, dragonflies and moths during the breeding season and seeds and grains during fall and winter.

They nest in loosely associated colonies in shrubs or cattails and are found across most of Northern America. They are polygamous and a single male may mate with up to 15 different females in his territory. Red winged blackbirds can form huge roosts during the winter of up to a million birds.

#### Brimfield resident

A Brimfield resident sent an email recently. He said, "On Saturday I was driving to West Springfield to put up

some picture at the library for an exhibit. Some members of the Allen Bird Club are displaying photographs there for the month of March. On the way I stopped by a nest in Ludlow that bald eagles have used for at least three years."

In Brimfield, he said, "Lately we have been seeing a Cooper's several times in the yard and a broad-winged hawk was seen on Feb. 22. The broad-winged hawk sat in a tree in front of the house for over an hour. Last year a pair of broad-wings had a nest on the next door neighbor's property. They could see the nest from their deck, but I was never able to see the nest walking around near where they described its location."

#### Turkey vultures

On Feb. 11, the Brimfield resident saw a turkey vulture in the center of Palmer near the intersection of Routes 20

and 32. This week, his wife saw 25 turkey vultures flying above that area. They often see vultures soaring over that area and the first of the year shows up in mid-February. He said, "I believe the vultures nest in the area, possibly on or near Mount Dumlplin that is just north of the turnpike ramps."

#### Other birds and more

The Brimfield residents still has lots of junco about as well as a healthy gray squirrel population. Recently they saw two and sometimes three red squirrels. He is enjoying the longer days and looking forward to warmer temperatures.

#### Red-tailed hawk

A Rutland couple saw a red-tailed hawk quickly grab a gray squirrel her husband

See GARDEN page 8

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The deadline for  
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### WE CARE ABOUT YOUR NEWS!

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

### Election letters to the editor

The Chicopee Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to Chicopee Register care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to [journalregister@turley.com](mailto:journalregister@turley.com). Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call the editor at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news  
As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in Chicopee Register.

# IN THE CITY

## St. Stanislaus School is hosting its annual auction

CHICOPEE – The St. Stanislaus School is hosting its Annual Auction in March 2026 as an online virtual event.

The Auction begins on March 7 and ends on March 14.

The Auction is to raise funds for a new stage and Per-

forming Arts Fund. During these challenging times in our world, it is more important than ever to have current and relevant curriculum available in all areas of learning. Our goal is to raise \$15,000 to \$20,000 for our school.

The cost of providing a

quality, safe and health environment is higher than ever at this time. Your contribution will help us to continue to provide for the 300 students in our school each day.

In order to reach this goal, we need donations from businesses, parents and individual

benefactors. Please consider supporting our event by donating a gift certificate, monetary donation, merchandise or services. Your company will be listed in the bidding brochure, and your donation will be displayed in the online catalogue for bidding.

We hope you will donate an item or make a contribution to help support St. Stanislaus School where we believe that we should “Strive to be Servant Leaders for Today and Tomorrow.”

Please contact Katherine Rorrio at 413-592-5135

or email [ststanis@saintstans-school.org](mailto:ststanis@saintstans-school.org) if you are able to donate. We will gladly have someone pick up your contribution.

Any donations will be tax deductible and will be given a receipt worth the value of the donation.

### COLLEENS from page 1

forward to on Parade Day.

#### Holyoke

“I felt today’s event went so well, and bringing all the communities together, and getting to dance, and hang out with everyone was just incredible to be a part of and watch.” Christie said. “As Grand Colleen, it’s such an incredible honor getting to represent my Irish ancestors, and to ensure their history is always remembered, is just a special moment to reflect on.”

She also brought focus to the inclusion of the new Sensory Street addition to the parade.

“I’m really looking forward to seeing how the Sensory Street designated area is in action, because it’s such a great concept, which will invite so many new faces and families who haven’t had the opportunity to come to the parade due to other intellectual disabilities, and it’s just great to see a sense of inclusivity on the biggest stage possible, which brings the community

together, regardless of ability,” Christie said.

Rounding out her court were Paige Brady Leahy, Bridie Bowler, Anna Mary Evans and Olivia Rose Royland.

#### Agawam

Next up was Agawam, who was led by 2026 Colleen Ava Levesque, and her court Zoie Leopardi, Samantha Machos, Hannah Newsome, Summer Smith and Madelynne “Maddie” Szemela.

Levesque shared this was a moment she had waited all her life for.

“To, actually, be the Colleen is insane; it’s been extremely competitive, all the girls are talented, and it’s such an honor to represent my Irish heritage. And this event has been a great way to network, and everything has been amazing, and I can’t wait till Parade Day,” Levesque said.

#### Chicopee

Following afterwards was Chicopee, who was introduced by 2026 Colleen Charlotte Rae Fields and her court: Mila Dillard, Gracelyn Jarry and Shannon Caloon. Fields said that her highlight of the



TURLEY PHOTOS BY BRENDAN ROONEY

2026 Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee and the 2026 Holyoke Grand Colleen and her court.

gathering was getting to know all of the other Colleens and she’s excited for Parade Day, discussing what it means to be an ambassador for the Chicopee community.

“Everyone is really nice and sweet, and it’s great to see everyone share the same mor-

als that we do,” Fields said. “I can’t wait to see everyone in the crowd, and to take in the moment with my court, in front of everyone, is going to be really exciting. Also, being an ambassador means a lot to me, and I’m really excited to hopefully help bring this community together and just better Chicopee as a whole.”

#### West Springfield

Representing West Springfield were 2026 Colleen Siobhan Erris Ginty and court: Grace Kennedy Atwater, Saoirse Bacon, Ava Dominguez, Kenzie Candon, and Kellen Ross, who were also in attendance and partook in the festivities.

#### Westfield

In attendance for Westfield was 2026 Colleen Reese O’Connell, who led her court into the spotlight as Giara Curran, Maggie Leen, Savanna Mazeika and Angelica Madison Racette followed behind.

#### Springfield

Finally, the last ensemble was Springfield, represented by 2026 Colleen Anna O’Toole, who is from Wilbraham, and a Minnechaug Regional High School senior, and her court Anna Flanagan, Siobhan MacDonnell, Emma Westbrooks, and Sophia Dow.

O’Toole expressed what this honor truly means to her and revealed a deeper meaning.

“I’m very excited to be this year’s Springfield Colleen, and it honestly means more than just a title to me, because I get to represent my grandparents and their heritage, and I wouldn’t be here today if it weren’t for them.”

O’Toole said. “Also, I want to add that representing Springfield is so great because all of the little kids get to look up to me, and say she’s unafraid to represent her heritage, so why can’t I do the same thing, and that means the world to me

because I want to be a good role model, and ambassador for the community.”

She also provided insight into what this title means to her hometown of Wilbraham.

“So, as you know, under the umbrella of Springfield Colleen and my court, we also get to represent the other contingences such as East Longmeadow, Longmeadow and Wilbraham, and being from Wilbraham, it’s great because I get to be a liaison of my school, being Minnechaug, and to be able to represent my school pride and heritage within Springfield is pretty cool,” O’Toole said.

#### Parade Day is almost here

Officially now only under two weeks away, and fast approaching is the 49th Holyoke St. Patrick’s Road Race, which kicks off on Saturday, March 21 and closing out the holiday weekend is the 73rd Holyoke St. Patrick’s Parade on Sunday, March 22.



Colleens dancing with the Black Rose Academy of Irish Dance.

### WRITERS GROUP from page 1

“One member recently had some of her poetry displayed in a few art shows in the area, and multiple members of the group came out on the opening nights to support her. Another had his first children’s book published a few years ago, and many of us attended local readings he was doing in the area,” Klinowski said.

As far as future goals for the group go, Klinowski has a couple ideas.

“It really depends on what people want this group to be or become. For now, I would say our goals are to continue writing and possibly to have some sort of event or space to share our writing further. Perhaps a reading at the Chicopee Public Library. We have also done author talks and workshops in the past,

so I hope to do a few more of those,” Klinowski said.

She also encouraged other writers to stop by.

“Everyone is welcome. There are members of the group who have said that they hadn’t written, really, since high school or college. They’re now in their forties or the sixties and want to get back to it. You don’t have to be working on the Great American Novel to come to a group like this. You just have to want to write,” Klinowski said.

Group settings are very important for writers to feel supported. It’s clear Klinowski knows this and has worked very hard to create a welcoming Writers Group where people can share their passion for writing.

For more information about upcoming CPL events visit, [chicopeepubliclibrary.org](http://chicopeepubliclibrary.org).



TURLEY PHOTO BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

Group members Andrew Goebel, Dennis Spencer, Sarah Kohm, Mary Rodowicz, Ken Hill, and Carolynn Ruzsala at the CPL Writers Group meeting on Thursday March 5.

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## IN THE CITY

## Chicopee Public Library hosts programs for kids and families

CHICOPEE - Each month the Chicopee Public Library hosts a variety of free programs for children, teens, and families. The Youth Services Department provides opportunities for entertainment and enrichment that promote literacy and explore creativity. Here is the slate of events for March 2026.

**Crafts!** - Mondays in March 4 to 5 p.m. Stop by the Kids Room for arts and/or crafts! For kids and families of all ages.

**Terrific Twos** will be held on Tuesdays, March 17 and 31 at 10:30 a.m. Terrific Twos is for two-year-olds and their caregivers. This pro-

gram features about 25 minutes of structured circle time, followed by about half an hour of semi-structured playtime. During circle time, we will sing songs, do rhymes, do some big movements, and read 1 book. The book choice rotates between either a read aloud picture book or a group read of a board book. Playtime involves a choice of craft, activity, or play.

Storytime will be held on Thursdays, March 19 at 10:30 a.m. Storytime is for children ages 3-5. This program features about 30 minutes of structured circle time, followed by 15-30 minutes of a craft or activity. Circle time

will include two to three read aloud books, rhymes, songs, and felt boards. Children will be encouraged to ask and answer simple questions and recognize things like shapes, colors, letters, and numbers. There will be a puppet show in lieu of storytime on February 19, see below.

Saturday Playgroup will be held on Saturdays at 1 p.m. in March. We'll put out some extra toys in the play-space. It's a great time for families with kids of all ages to meet up and play.

Little Kid Dance Party will be on Wednesdays, March 25 at 10:30 a.m. Moving and grooving for kids and

their caregivers. Geared toward ages 0 to 5, but all are welcome! 45 minutes to one hour of energetic activity including singing and dancing, action rhymes, and playing with props like scarves and shakers.

The Kids Room Sewing Club will meet on Wednesday, March 18, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Learn basic stitches and practice skills by making fun projects. Recommended for ages 6 and up. Kids who are not familiar with using a needle and thread should attend with an adult. Teens are welcome.

The library Homeschool Meetup will be on Thursday,

March 26 at 12 p.m. This group meets once a month September - June for homeschooling families with kids of all ages to hang out, do activities and learn together. This month each family will share spring traditions or activities and we'll make a Cherry Blossom craft.

**Teens**

Visit the library after school and enjoy the Teen Space with friends! We've got board games, puzzles, the library's Switch, and coloring to enjoy.

Is your life lacking some cool, anime themed swag? Then stop by our Anime Club on Wednesday, March

25 at 3 p.m. and maybe walk away with some fun posters, knickknacks, or other goodies!

**Friday Teen Hang**

Join us every Friday after school in the Teen Space for some games and crafts! We'll have the Nintendo Switch available to play, coloring pages and paper to doodle, and more!

Teens are invited to join us at LEGO, Sewing Club, and Monday Crafts.

Visit the library website for more info about all of the library's events! [www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org](http://www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org)

## "When a Loved One is Dying"

CHICOPEE - Local non-profits Harmony House of Western Massachusetts and Holyoke VNA & Hospice Life Care will host a free community discussion and book signing on Thursday, March 26, 2026 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Dumay Center at Elms College.

Community members are invited to join a thoughtful conversation about hospice, caregiving, and the connections made throughout the end-of-life journey. The discussion will be led by Maureen Groden, RN, a hospice nurse, educator, and local author of "When a Loved One Is Dying: Conversations About Care, Connection, and Coping." Groden will share selected readings from her new book which provides a com-

passionate guide exploring the emotional and practical realities of supporting a loved one at life's end. She will also be available for book signings following the discussion and reading.

As more families navigate serious illness and caregiving, the event aims to provide a welcoming space for open conversation, learning, and support. This event is free and open to the public, though advance online registration is requested. The event is sponsored through the generosity of Elms College.

When: Thursday, March 26, 2026, 4 to 6 p.m.  
Where: Dumay Center at Elms College, 12 Fairview Ave., Chicopee, MA  
Register: <https://BookSigning2026.eventbrite.com>

## Designer Purse Bingo supports Lorraine's Soup Kitchen

CHICOPEE - A Designer Purse Bingo event to benefit Lorraine's Soup Kitchen & Pantry will be taking place on April 17 at the Knights of Columbus Council 69 on 460 Granby Rd.

Doors open at 5 p.m. and the games start at 6:30 p.m.  
10 games = 20 chances to win  
Tickets include entry for 10 games, dauber, door prize

ticket and light refreshments.  
Cash bar, outside food welcome.  
Raffles and door prizes.  
Bring non-perishable food items to be entered into a special raffle.  
\$35 pre-sale only.  
For tickets, contact Donna at 413-557-9280, Kim at 413-474-2991 or the kitchen at 413-592-9528.

BACKYARD  
from page 4

shot. They watched it hungrily consume a "warm meal" in the yard. They moved their feeder nearer to the house due to the deep snow. They have lots of black-capped chickadees and woodpeckers come to the new location

**Bluebirds**

An Oakham resident sees bluebirds on a daily basis.

She enjoys watching them.

*People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005. The Palmer office has a new phone system and I will be getting an extension where messages may be left. I will publish the number as soon as it is set up.*

HEALEY  
from page 1

have people coming downtown."

He also told Healey that Chicopee just passed the law and initiative to make Chicopee the first city in the Commonwealth to implement cameras on school buses to cut down on traffic-related issues, which is in its test phase and will kick off officially on April 6.

Vieau also praised the Chicopee St. Patrick's Parade Day Parade Committee and their unwavering resilience in preserving Irish-American culture and heritage in the city.

"I just wanted to share how significant the Chicopee Parade Committee is; They have kept that Irish-American Heritage active in Chicopee for all of these years, and I know some of their numbers have shrunk a little bit, but they are actually growing again, and they are representing Chicopee with our first ever Tartan, and I'll share that the city of Chicopee was able through ARPA money to help sustain them through COVID, and allowed them to give them a little extra funds that has allowed them to reach out to Scotland, and get our official Tartan that we all wear with pride, and excited because we will all be Irish on Parade Day," Vieau said.

Presenting the official Chicopee Tartan to Healey was Kathy Balakier, the 2017 Parade Marshal, who explained the story behind the colors and the importance of how the city is represented across the board.

Afterward, Healey discussed the importance of Chicopee and what St. Patrick's Day means to the Irish-American community.

"I am so honored to have a Chicopee Tartan because it was built and made with a lot of love and care by a lot of people of Chicopee, and



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOEL RODOWICZ

Chicopee St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee members in a group photo with Governor Maura Healey.



The Governor with the Narvaez Family. The event was held at Goodworks Coffee House in Chicopee.

I will wear it proudly, and I am always happy to be in the 413 because it's a very special part of the state," Healey said. "Chicopee is an amazing community, through decades and generations, and it continues to be. And as governor, I'm going to continue to invest in job growth, opportunity, and advance manufacturing, education, and workforce education and support for communities like Chicopee."

Breaking down the big moment of handing the Chicopee Tartan to Healey was current Parade Committee Member Mary Rodowicz.

"It was just wonderful

to see her and talk with her. She was most appreciative when we handed her the Tartan scarf and the gifts, and she just really felt welcomed here in Chicopee," Rodowicz said. "We hope she returns soon, and we were happy to hear about some of the things she has been working on to bring new business and services to the Western Mass region. It was a pleasure to have her here, and we were honored to share our new Tartan with her, and she told us she would wear it with pride everywhere she goes around Massachusetts."

Vieau also extended an open invitation to Healey

to join the city and march during the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade.

"I couldn't think of another person whom I would want walking beside me on Parade Day, and she's actually taking that under consideration. And hopefully, she's able to make it, but we would love to have her as our guest marching with our contingent, and as I shared prior, the city of Chicopee, we are one of the largest contingents, we're one of the loudest, and we're one of the proudest every single year and we're going to continue to represent our city like that this year," Vieau said.



The governor with a young constituent

ZONE CHANGE  
from page 1

He acknowledged the residents who expressed concerns about traffic, sidewalks and their overall health. However, McAuliffe said these weren't big problems when Bernie's was operational.

"Those are real quality of life issues. But they're also not issues that caused irreparable harm when Bernie's

remained a successful food hotspot for decades, with people coming from all over the region here to Chicopee to patronize the business," McAuliffe said.

McAuliffe accurately predicted that the request would fail to gain the 10 votes it needed to pass. He questioned how this could be when the Planning Board unanimously approved the

item and the Zoning Committee voted four to one in favor of it.

According to McAuliffe, these voting tendencies have plagued the council for the past decade.

The longtime councilor stepped away from public office for several years before returning to the board this January. He explained what fueled his comeback.

"I ran for City Council again because I was sick of the decisions that were being made, rejecting reality and rejecting facts. We need to deal in facts. I hope that the rest of this board will do that. It won't always be popular, but we have to make the right decisions for the whole city and not just a couple of streets," McAuliffe said.

He went on to describe it as a "not in my backyard" situation.

McAuliffe empathized with the residents who live nearby but stressed that this is about more than just them.

"This is bigger than just one particular sliver of land. It's about do we as a council set a standard of making the right decisions, accepting, investigation and going with the recommendation," McAuliffe said.

Meanwhile, Costello leaned into the fact that a large contingent of residents have made their feelings known regarding the zone change request.

"The residents in this particular zone change that

are here tonight have come to many, many meetings and have spoken their piece because they feel this government is [here] to represent the people," Costello said.

She added that she did a traffic study of the area around the James Street property. In just a half hour, Costello counted 439 cars, 12 tractor-trailer trucks and 24 school buses.

The community members also filed two petitions. One expressed opposition to the zone change request, while the other was a rarer protest petition.

"That's a lot of work. These residents have been coming to meeting after meeting, wanting to be represented by their city," Costello said. "They did the protest petition. They did another petition. They have been involved in public input. They have done research because they care. As taxpayers and as residents, they care."

Costello agreed with McAuliffe that it's important to be fiscally responsible, especially when it comes to

land use. She reminded the audience that she spent 17 years on the Planning Board and chaired it for 11 of those years.

"What is also important are people. People matter. Residents matter. And I haven't seen many residents in my time involved in government as diligent as these people are," Costello said.

She went on to say that the area is so busy already that it's hard to safely cross the street. She urged her fellow board members to vote against the proposed zone change, and enough of them shared her opinion to strike it down.

"This area on James Street, it's not ready for business expansion. Simply not ready because one of the issues in zone changes [that] we have to take into consideration is neighborhood opposition. And this neighborhood is here tonight in a storm... They don't want the zone change, and they live there," Costello said.



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# SPORTS

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Elijah Kleps yells out a play as he crosses midcourt.



Modesto Galindrez makes an off-balance shot.



Brody Fay makes a long three-point attempt.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

## Local high school seniors headed to All-Star Games

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced the team rosters for the 2026 Western Massachusetts Senior High School All-Star Games. On Friday, Mar. 20, the Hall of Fame will host the 2026 All-Star event on the Jerry Colangelo Court of Dreams at the Hall of Fame. Sixty of the region's top seniors were selected from different divisions to participate in the final high school contests of their prep career.

"We are honored to welcome Western Massachusetts' top high school basketball players to the 15th annual All-Star celebration at the Basketball Hall of Fame," said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. "This event is a special opportunity to recognize the hard work and achievements of these outstanding seniors, and we invite the community to join us as they take the court one final time in their high school careers."

The teams. Using the designated classes for the PVI-AC Tournament, the players will be divided into six teams: two girls' teams, two boys' teams of Class A and B players, and two boys' teams of Class C and D players. Only graduating seniors are eligible for the All-Star Games. Rosters are on the next page.

For the 15th year, the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame will recognize one boy and one girl as the Western Massachusetts Players of the Year. A special presentation will be made for the recipients during halftime of one of the participating games. A panel of local media members selects the award winners, who are recognized for their achievements on the court as well as their sportsmanship and character off the court.

Participants in the Boys Class C and D game include: Ware's Jack Gaudreau and Brady Guimond, Palmer's Dylan Doherty, Gavin Smola, and Stephen Fredette, Mahar's Jayden Delgado, Granby's Zavien Fernan-

A committee of local coaches and media members, representing each division on both the boys' and girls' sides, selected

See **ALL STARS** page 8

## Colts get past Newburyport in state playoffs

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE—Pope Francis was the only boys' basketball team to beat Chicopee Comp at Herbert H. Curry Gymnasium this winter. The Pacers final home game of the 2025-26 campaign against

Newburyport was a very memorable one.

At halftime, the eighth seeded Pacers found themselves trailing the ninth seeded Clippers, 27-21. Despite the six-point deficit, the Pacers regrouped and delivered a remarkable performance in the second half. Scoring

an impressive 50 points after the break, they overcame the Clippers and claimed a decisive 71-56 victory in a Division 2 Sweet 16 contest before a large crowd, last Wednesday night.

"Teams have a lot of trouble playing a zone defense against us because we

have so many weapons offensively," said Comp head coach Gavin Miller. "We only scored four points in the second quarter, and I told the guys in the locker room at halftime that we would prob-

See **COLTS** page 8

## Thunderbirds upset by Wild

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (22-27-5-2) put forth a big push down the stretch but succumbed to a late goal in falling 2-1 against the Iowa Wild (19-30-4-1) on Saturday night before the ninth consecutive Pink in the Rink sellout crowd of 6,793 inside the MassMutual Center.

The two clubs, who combined for 23 goals in two games in Des Moines in February, continued a weekend of tight checking in the opening period, with young netminders Will Cranley of Springfield (eight saves) and William Rousseau of the Wild (nine saves) turning away every shot that reached the target in period one. Dillon Dube came the closest to breaking the tie for Springfield, ringing the post behind Rousseau with one offering.

The Thunderbirds were frequent penalty killers in the opening half of the game, and the Wild finally connected as their fourth power play began at 9:01 of the third, as Dylan Gambrell stole a clearing attempt, firing a shot on net to force a rebound off Cranley's pads. Tyler Pitlick drove to the rebound and backhanded it under Cranley to make it a 1-0 game as the veteran potted his ninth goal in 14 AHL games this season.

Cranley had to atone for his own gaffe late in the period when he turned a puck over right in front of an open goal, but he recovered to sprawl back into his crease and make a stop to hold the score at 1-0 into the third.

Steve Ott's team emptied the tank in the final period, to the tune of an 18-5 shot advantage. After failing to connect on two more power plays, the T-Birds used a great effort on the rush to finally crack into the scoresheet as Matthew Peca made a perfect drop pass onto the tape of Hugh McGing, who one-timed it through Rousseau to even the score at 13:49.

See **T-BIRDS** page 8

## St. Patrick's Day Road Race set to kick off big weekend

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – Last March, for the first time in several years, it was gorgeous weather for the Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race.

More than 6,000 people participated in this year's event, with nearly 5,000 participants finishing the 10K, or 6.2-mile course.

It was Samuel Whittaker of Salem, CT, who finished the race in 31:24. Alex Corbett, who placed second in last year's race, came in 23 seconds later at 31:47.

The top female finisher was Angelia Rafter at 34:13 and she placed 12th overall. Rafter is from Glastonbury, CT.

Among local finishers, Matt Provost of Monson was 19th overall at 35:09. Ryan Davis of South Hadley was a close 20th at 35:10. Lindsay Smith of South Hadley finished 22nd at 35:12.

While the race course, commonly known as a "hilly" and course throughout downtown Holyoke ending with a turn off Beech St. and up the hill on Hampden St. toward the finish line remained largely the same, there was one noticeable change in this year's event.

Presidential Timing took over the official timing duties after 4RUN3 went out of business last year. Those looking for more results from the events can go to www.presidentialtiming.com to look at more specific results from the race. Like previous timers, you can look up people



The participants are off in the 48th running of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race last March.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

by name and bib number to get more specific results.

This year, the road race is set to take place on Saturday, Mar. 21 with the main race beginning at 1 p.m.

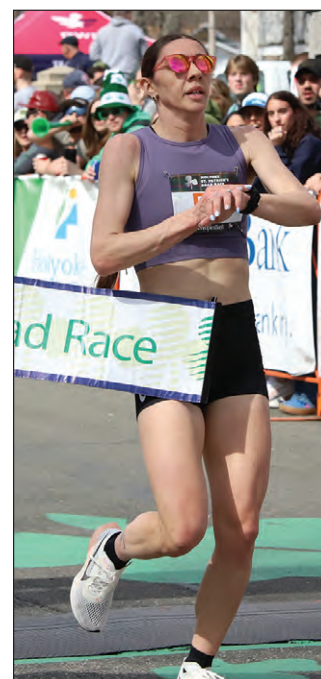
This year's race would feature runners from all over the region, the state, and surrounding states as many are preparing for the Boston Marathon, set to take place in just under a month. Many runners over the years have enjoyed using the St. Patrick's Day Road Race as practice for the marathon because of the challenging hills throughout the streets of Holyoke that runners must navigate through.

While there has been a considerable amount of snowfall this past winter, the

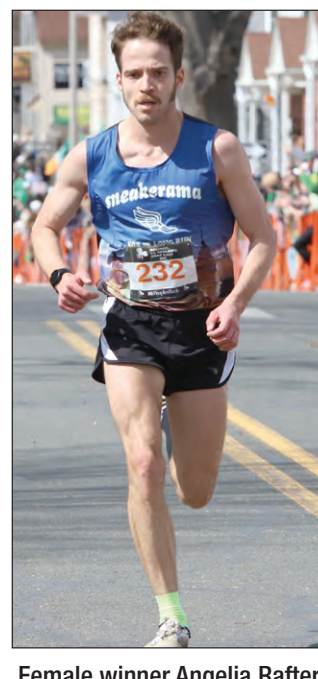
See **ROAD RACE** page 10



Alex Corbett takes second in the race for the second year in a row.



Female winner Angelia Rafter crosses the finish line at 34:13.



Female winner Angelia Rafter crosses the finish line at 34:13.

## More players wanted for Pioneer Valley Baseball League

SOUTH HADLEY – The Pioneer Valley Baseball League, an adult baseball league for players who are age 18 and over, is now fully open for registration for the 2026 season.

The adult league will be administered by the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, and a registration

link is on the home page of the league's website www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. Thought it will be under the Quabbin umbrella, there will be no major changes in how the league is operated.

This year, the PVBL will have a 22-game regular season schedule followed by a double-elimination

playoffs. The league, which had five teams last year and had to utilize multiple byes throughout the season, will be fielding a sixth team this season.

There are several spots open for that sixth team, so players interested in joining the league should get signed up as soon as possible to

claim a spot.

The league is a woodbat only league utilizing playing under regular baseball rules though all players do bat. The league operates on a Saturday-Tuesday schedule. Games are played on Saturday mornings with

See **PVBL** page 8

**\$12.50 Each**

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No. HD94P2339GR1**

**In the interests of Phillip W Wheeler aka Philip Wheeler Of: Chicopee, MA RESPONDENT  
Incapacitated Person/Protected Person  
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR TERMINATION OF A GUARDIAN OF AN INCAPACITATED PERSON**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Dept of Developmental Services of Springfield, MA** in the above captioned matter requesting that the court:

Terminate the Guardianship of the Respondent.

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the Guardian and/or Conservator should be allowed to resign; or should be removed for good cause; or that the Guardianship and/or Conservatorship is no longer necessary and therefore should be terminated. The original petition is on file with the court.

**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **04/06/2026**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance,

you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court  
Date: February 27, 2026  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
03/13/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD26P0469EA**

Estate of:  
**Cecile L Vincelette**  
Date of Death: 02/07/2026  
**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 **Edward J Hart of Chicopee, MA and Christine A Morin of Orange, 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

**Edward J Hart of Chicopee, MA and Christine A Morin of Orange, 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 04/03/2026.** This is **NOT** a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within **thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**  
**UNSUPERVISED**

**ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the 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. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: March 06, 2026  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**,  
Register of Probate  
03/13/2026

**See more legals on page 0**

## COLTS from page 7

ably see a zone defense in the second half. We handled it very well by moving their defense from one side to the other."

Leading the way offensively for the Pacers was junior Xavier Kleps, who came off the bench to score 18 of his 22 points during the second half. It was the third time this season that Xavier Kleps scored more than 20 points in a game. His season high was 26 points in a 63-49 win at Putnam three days before Christmas. He also had 20 points in a home win against Amherst a month later.

Another Comp junior is Jacoby Haney, who scored 14 second half points with the help of three 3-pointers. He finished the season with more than 30 3-pointers, which is a team-high.

"Jacoby just did a fantastic job coming off the bench," Miller said. "That was one of the keys for us. We also played well defensively and we rebounded very well."

The other double digit scorer for the Pacers was senior Brody Fay, who scored eight of his 14 points during the first eight minutes of the contest.

Junior Elijah Kleps, who's Xavier twin brother, chipped in with eight points, while senior's Francis Jordan (7 points) and Modesto Galindrez (6 points) rounded out the scoring column for the home squad.

"Every year that I've played for the varsity team, we always lost in the opening



Xavier Kleps crosses midcourt.

round, but we made it a little bit farther this year," said Galindrez, who joined the varsity squad as a freshman. "It was also very special to win my final basketball game in this gym. It's very emotional."

The other Comp senior is Colby Paul.

"Every player on the team has contributed to our success this year," Miller said. "We're trying to build a culture here. It was a very memorable for our seniors."

The duo of Fay and Elijah Kleps combined to score 13 points in the opening quarter.

With a minute left in the first quarter, Elijah Kleps bur-

ied a 3-pointer from the right side giving the Colts a 17-15 lead.

Comp's only points of the second quarter were a Galindrez put-back hoop and a Xavier Kleps lay-up.

The Colts were trailing, 38-29, with three minutes left in the third quarter before the momentum started to shift sides.

Comp's comeback began with a Haney 3-pointer from the left corner.

With less than a minute left in the quarter, a Haney defensive rebound led to a fast-break lay-up by Xavier Kleps, which cut the Colts deficit to 41-40.

The Clippers, who finished their season with a 19-3 overall record, managed to hold onto the slim lead for the first two minutes of the final



Jacoby Haney heads to the hoop.

quarter.

Galindrez made a pair of free throws with 6:08 left in regulation giving his team a 47-46 lead.

The visitors retook the lead before a 3-pointer from Xavier Kleps began an impressive 22-2 run.

"After we took control of the game in the fourth quarter, we just continue to play well," said Galindrez, who'll be wrapping up his high school athletic career as a member of the Colts boys' volleyball team this spring. "Our defense led to our offense."

The Colts (19-5) outstanding season came to a heartbreaking end following a 57-56 road loss against top-seeded Saint Mary's of Lynn, last Friday night.

## ALL STARS from page 7

dez, and Monson's Austin Meacham.

In the girls game, participants include: Minnechaug's Cailin O'Brien, Kelly Cronin, and Elizabeth Woytowicz, Mahar's Hayden Comeau, and Agawam's Isabella Laprise,

And in the Boys A and B game, participants include: Holyoke's Jordan King-Perilli, Chicopee's Dominic Garcia, Belchertown's Jake Pacunas, Minnechaug's Miles Fergus, Chicopee Comprehensive's Brody Fay, and South Hadley's Isiah James.

## T-BIRDS from page 7

The Thunderbirds had thoughts of jumping to the lead down the stretch, but Rousseau and Iowa kept Springfield from a tie-breaking goal. Instead, it would be the visitors who tasted victory late in the third. After a misplay at the offensive blue line from the T-Birds, Jean-Luc Foudy raced up the ice to set up a 2-on-1 with Gambrell, who one-timed a shot past a stretching Cranley with

exactly 2:00 remaining in regulation. Springfield's last-ditch efforts with Cranley on the bench for a sixth attacker came up empty, and Iowa completed the two-game sweep of the weekend. The visiting team won each of the four matchups in the season series between the teams.

The T-Birds returned to a sold-out Thunderdome on Wednesday, Mar. 11 as they host the Providence Bruins for the first of two games wearing St. Patty's Day specialty jerseys.

## PVBL from page 7

10 a.m. starts typical and on Tuesday evenings with start times in the 5:30 to 6 p.m. range. The league will start play in late April and run through the end of August. There are slots open for both full-time players and part-time players. The fee for full-time players will be \$260 with part-time players getting up to 11 games for \$130. Fees paid go toward the operation of the league, paying for insurance, umpires, fields, and baseballs. No one profits in any way.

In addition to the new sixth team, there are limit-

ed open roster spots on the other teams in the league, so get your registration in as soon as possible to participate in this season.

Games are played at ballfields throughout the region from as far south as Southwick's Whalley Field, through South Hadley's Beachgrounds and up north at Frontier Regional High School in South Deerfield.

For any questions, please go to the league website for more information. The league hopes interested players will come out and join the fun this spring and summer.

## ROAD RACE from page 7

Holyoke DPW will have the streets utilized in the race ready to go for both runners and spectators. Helping matters has been the recent warmer weather that has helped accelerate the melting a lot of the snow.

For participants in this year's race, Runner numbers and bib-tags can be picked up on Friday, Mar. 20 from

3 to 6 p.m. They can also be picked upon Saturday morning between 9 a.m. and 12 noon.

There will be free shuttle service going form Holyoke Community College to the race area. The shuttle will drop runners off at the Mater Dolorosa School parking lot outside of the clothing drop. Race officials advise using a shuttle by 12 noon in order to make the start of the race.

**PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE**

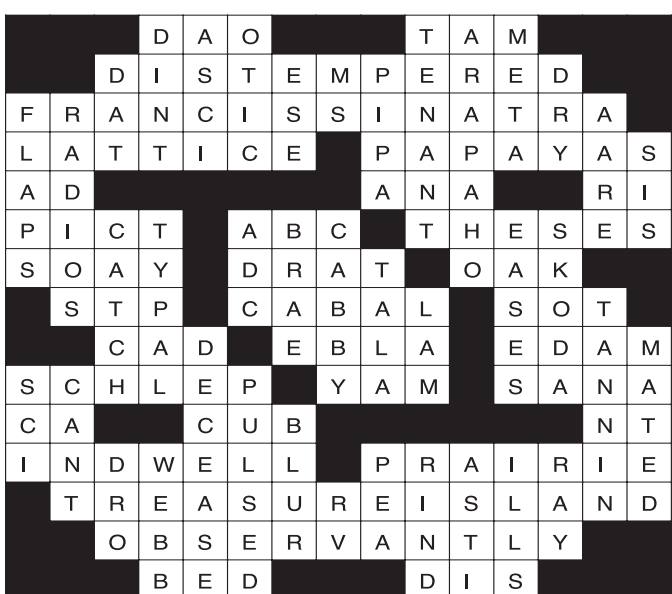
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## PUBLIC NOTICES

ALDEN CREDIT UNION  
NOTICE OF  
ANNUAL MEETING AND  
MEMBER VOTE  
ON PROPOSED BY-LAW  
AMENDMENT

Alden Credit Union will hold its Annual Meeting on Monday, **March 30, 2026, at Food 101 Bar & Bistro, 19 College Street, South Hadley, MA, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** For further details or to RSVP, please contact Jennifer Faustino at 413-536-0475 ext. 107.

The Division of Banks approved an amendment to Article II, Section 1 of the By-Laws of Alden Credit Union to expand the field of membership. The membership will vote on this proposed amendment at the Annual Meeting.

A copy of the proposed amendment is available for review at Alden Credit Union, 710 Grattan Street, Chicopee, Massachusetts, during normal business hours, and on the Credit Union's website at [www.aldencu.com](http://www.aldencu.com) 03/13, 03/20/2026

INVITATION FOR BID –  
CEL BID #26-0526

The Chicopee Municipal Lighting Plant, a/k/a Chicopee Electric Light ("CEL") invites bids from qualified bidders for a contractor to provide FIBER OPTIC UNDERGROUND CONDUIT INSTALLATION SERVICES as described in BID-26-0526. The successful bidder will be awarded a One (1) year contract. CEL shall have the option to grant the successful bidder an extension for up to two (2) additional one (1) year periods. Evaluation for extension of the contract will be done yearly prior to the end of the contract and prior to the end of any contract extension, but in no case shall the contract exceed three (3) years in total. Prices shall remain firm during the contract term and for any extension and the conditions of the contract shall remain the same.

Specifications may be obtained at Chicopee Electric Light, located at 725 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01020, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

All questions or requests for clarification regarding this BID should be made in writing to the attention of Natalie A. Colberg with the Bid #26-0526 in the subject line.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a certified or cashier's check payable to the order of Chicopee Electric Light for a sum not less than 5% of the of the bid price. In lieu of a check, a bid bond may be submitted in an amount not less than 5% of the bid price. Checks, if submitted, will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders after the award of the order.

A payment bond in an amount equal to 50 percent of the total amount of the bid with a surety company qualified to do business in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will be required for the payment under the contract for labor and materials.

All bids for this project are subject to applicable bidding laws of Massachusetts, including M.G.L. c. 149, §§ 44A-H and M.G.L. c. 30, § 39M.

Attention is directed to the minimum wage rates to be paid as determined by the Department of Labor Standards under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 149, §§ 26-27D.

All proposals must be submitted in duplicate form, sealed and marked on the outside "CEL BID #26-0526" and be received at the office of Chicopee Electric Light (CEL), Attn. Natalie A. Colberg, 725 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01020, **no later than 10:00 AM, April 2, 2026**, at which time and place they will be publicly opened.

CEL reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities and minor irregularities in bids received, if it is deemed to be in the best interest of the CEL to do so.

Natalie A. Colberg, Purchasing  
03/13/2026

Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and  
Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No.  
HD26P0293GD  
In the matter of:  
Sean M. Cullen

Of: Chicopee, MA  
RESPONDENT  
Alleged Incapacitated Person  
CITATION GIVING NOTICE  
OF PETITION FOR  
APPOINTMENT OF  
GUARDIAN FOR  
INCAPACITATED  
PERSON PURSUANT TO  
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by

**Nadina M. Cullen of Huntington, MA**

**Michael Cullen of Huntington, MA**

in the above captioned matter alleging that **Sean M. Cullen** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that

**Nadina M. Cullen of Huntington, MA**

**Michael Cullen of Huntington, MA**

(or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **04/03/2026**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 05, 2026

**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
03/13/2026

Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate  
and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No.  
HD26P0455EA  
Estate of:

**Norma Jean Devender**  
Date of Death: **12/01/2025**  
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 **David A Devender 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 **David A Devender 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 04/01/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day,**

**action may be taken without further notice to you.**

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the 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. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 04, 2026

**Rosemary A Saccomani**,  
Register of Probate  
03/13/2026

Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Division  
Docket No.  
HD26P0406EA  
Estate of:  
**Thomas J. Dobitsky**  
Also Known As:  
**Thomas Dobitsky**  
Date of Death:  
**November 28, 2025**  
INFORMAL PROBATE  
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petitioner of Petitioner **George Gosselin of Chicopee, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

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

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
03/13/2026

Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate  
and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No.  
HD26P0483EA  
Estate of:

**Lorraine Rose Golba**  
Date of Death: **08/30/2025**  
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 **Frederick Golba 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 **Frederick Golba 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 04/03/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day,**

**action may be taken without further notice to you.**

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the 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. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 06, 2026

**Rosemary A Saccomani**,  
Register of Probate  
03/13/2026

Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and  
Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No.  
HD26P0415GD  
In the matter of:  
**Philip Wheeler**  
Of: **Chicopee, MA**  
RESPONDENT  
Alleged Incapacitated Person  
CITATION GIVING NOTICE  
OF PETITION FOR  
APPOINTMENT OF  
GUARDIAN FOR  
INCAPACITATED  
PERSON PURSUANT TO  
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Dept of Developmental Services of Springfield, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Philip Wheeler** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Cheryl van Gerven of Oxford, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **04/06/2026**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 27, 2026

**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
03/13/2026

Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and  
Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No.  
HD26P0293GD  
In the matter of:  
Sean M. Cullen

2005 Honda Accord  
VIN: 1HGCM66515A076000  
Alvarezsana, D A  
2143 Amsterdam Ave. #6  
New York City, NY 10032

2014 Ford Fuison  
VIN: 3FA6P0K92ER116069  
Carlos Rodrigues  
5 Loring St., Apt. 1  
Hudson, MA 01749

2013 Chevrolet Equinox  
VIN: 2GNFLCEK4D6217939  
Anthony Ellcock  
71 Ruth St., Apt. 1 E  
New Bedford, MA 02744

2006 Mercedes E 350  
VIN: WDBUF87J76X204645  
Francisca Cruz  
485 Mill St.  
New Bedford, MA 02740

2006 Honda Accord  
VIN: 1HGCM56766A120277  
Terrian Mitchell  
19 Lawndale St.  
Chicopee, MA 01013

2005 Honda CRV  
VIN: SHSRD78925U322034  
Julius Williams  
2056 Palmer Ave., Apt. 21  
Three Rivers, MA 01080

2009 Ford Escape  
VIN: 1FMCU94GX9KC33670  
Fabio Tadeu Pereira  
64 Stewart St.  
Bristol, CT 06010  
03/13, 03/20, 03/27/2026

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

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on March 13th, 2026 at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2007 Hyundai Tucson  
VIN: KM8JM12B57U638384  
Migdalis Miranda Colon  
62 Lionel Benoit Rd., Apt. A  
Springfield, MA 01109

2006 Nissan Altima  
VIN: 1N4AL11D96N380301  
Walter King  
26 Hunt St.  
Springfield, MA 01108

2006 Honda Civic  
VIN: 2HGFA15559H338327  
Curtis Berry  
10 Bess Rd.  
Enfield, Ct 06082

2013 Hyundai Santa Fe  
VIN: 5XYZU3LA5DG051625  
Pedro Disla  
99 Massachusetts Ave.  
Springfield, MA 01109

2014 Nissan Maxima  
VIN: 1N4AA5AP7EC910721  
Julie Vazquez  
150 Eddy St.  
Springfield, MA 01104

2007 Ford Edge  
VIN: 2FMDK46C77BB61373  
Abelardo Claudio Mendez  
011037 Stilton Dr  
Chester, VA 23831

2005 Audi A4  
VIN: WAUDF68E25A429903  
Samuel Rosario  
53 8th St.  
Newington, CT 06111

2018 Freightliner Cascadia 126  
VIN: 3AKJHHR4J5KKB9685  
Nurmukhammad Khaydarov  
3471 Village Dr., Apt. L  
Franklin, OH 45005

2005 Honda CRV  
VIN: SHSRD78525U331720  
Saira Murayes Navichoque  
95 Park St., Apt. 1  
Lawrence, MA 01841

2003 Honda Odyssey  
VIN: 5FNRL18653B060830  
Peddle  
3800 N Lamar Blvd., Suite 230  
Austin, TX 78756  
02/27, 03/06, 03/13/2026

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

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on March 20th, 2026 at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2013 Chevrolet Impala  
VIN: 2G1WG5E38D1193345  
Trevor Smith  
541 Front St., Apt. 3R  
Chicopee, MA 01013

2006 Jeep Liberty  
VIN: 1J4GL48K16W187798  
Konan Martes

431 Appleton St., Apt. 2R  
Holyoke, MA 01040

2012 Honda Crosstour  
VIN: 5J6TF2H51CL004174  
Shamara Price  
1197 Page Blvd.  
Springfield, MA 01104

2003 Ford Explorer  
VIN: 1FMYU60E03UB79994  
Raul Alejandro Fuentes  
7811 Basswood Ave.  
El Paso, TX 79925

2006 Toyota Camry  
VIN: 4T1BE32K36U726460  
Eric Phakos  
44 Mount Carmel Ave.  
Chicopee, MA 01020

2003 Cadillac Deville  
VIN: 1G6KD57Y73U144747  
Robert Kapecki  
17 Goodwin St.  
Indian Orchard, MA 01151

2011 Nissan Altima  
VIN: 1N4AL2AP0BN402227  
Lorin Heath  
25 Genesee St., 2nd Floor  
Springfield, MA 01104  
03/06, 03/13, 03/20/2026

Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
County of Hampden  
The Superior Court  
CIVIL DOCKET  
#2679CV0145

**RE: Polish National Credit Union vs Hugo F. Pontes**  
**ORDER OF NOTICE BY PUBLICATION**

**TO: Hugo F. Pontes**, a Massachusetts resident, and to the best of the Plaintiff's knowledge, with a last and usual place of residence at 901 Front Street, Apt. 1, Chicopee, Hampden County, Massachusetts **all in said Commonwealth;**

**AND TO ALL PERSONS ENTITLED TO THE BENEFIT OF THE SERVICE MEMBERS' CIVIL RELIEF ACT OF 1940 AS AMENDED 2003 as amended:**

**Polish National Credit Union**, a duly incorporated credit union with a place of business at 46 Main Street, Chicopee, Hampden County, Massachusetts claiming to be the holder of mortgage covering property known as 901 Front Street, Chicopee, Hampden County, Massachusetts

given by Defendant to Plaintiff dated September 28, 2022

recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds, Book 24751, Page 111, has filed with said court a Complaint for authority to foreclose said mortgage in the manner following: by entry on and possession of the premises therein described and by exercise of the power of sale contained in said mortgage.

If you are entitled to the benefits of the Service Members' Civil Relief Act of 1940 as amended, and you object to such foreclosure you or your attorney should file a written appearance and answer in said court at **Springfield** in said County on or before **04/17/2026** or you may be forever barred from claiming that such foreclosure is invalid under said Act.

**Witness**, Michael D. Ricciuti, Esquire, Chief Justice of the Superior Court, at Springfield, Massachusetts, this 6th day of March, 2026.

Laura S. Gentile,  
Clerk of the Courts

Lauramarie Sirois,  
Assistant Clerk  
03/13/2026



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

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Tree length available  
\*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap).  
Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!**  
New England Forest Products  
**(413)477-0083**

**MORE HEAT LESS WOOD.** Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. \$2K Tax Credit. Call **(508)882-0178**

## MISCELLANEOUS

**MILLING, TURNING, GRINDING, TOOLS.** Tools inspection, tools granite surface plates, red head spindles and more. **CERA BIDE GRINDING, 34 Front Street, Indian Orchard, 413-543-1227.**

**CLASSIFIED DEADLINES**  
**FRIDAY AT NOON**

## WANTED

**WANTED! CASH for:**  
• Machinist tools, power tools & Snap on.  
• Electronics & Audio Equipment.  
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• 70s/80s/90s Toys.  
• Antiques & Collectibles.  
Much, much more!  
Call/Text Sam  
**413-531-5381**

## WANTED TO BUY

**ALL ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.**  
**BUYING** Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more.  
Donald Roy **(860) 874-8396**

## WANTED

**ALWAYS BUYING ALL ANTIQUES:**  
Musical instruments, guitars, horns, keyboards, vintage electronics, jewelry, coins, watches, military cameras, sports memorabilia, art, sterling, signs, automotive, hunting, advertising, radios, ham radio equipment, audio equipment, toys, one item or entire estate.  
Call Paul **413-206-8688**

## SERVICES

**CHAMELEON PAINTING & REMODELING**  
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Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. **(413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868.**

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**STOP WET BASEMENTS**  
**ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING**  
All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call **(413)569-1611, (413)374-5377**

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Tim **413-563-2229**. Licensed/insured. 35 year construction supervisor.

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Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal  
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Storm Clean-up  
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**Josh Rozell 413-636-5957**

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## HELP WANTED

The Town of Oakham is seeking an experienced certified municipal **TOWN CLERK**. 10 hours a week. \$31.82 - \$40.30 depending on experience. Email [admin@oakham-ma.gov](mailto:admin@oakham-ma.gov) for a full job description and town employment application.

## HELP WANTED

The Town of Oakham is seeking an experienced working **HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT**. The Highway Superintendent serves as the working department head responsible for the planning, administration, and day-to-day operations of the Town's Highway department. Pay rate is \$31.82 - \$40.30/hr depending on experience. Email [admin@oakham-ma.gov](mailto:admin@oakham-ma.gov) for a full job description and town employment application.

## REAL ESTATE

## FOR RENT



**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

## TAX SERVICES

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Registered Tax Return Preparer  
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## FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

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or call: 413-283-8393

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1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
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# SUMMER CAMP

Check Out These Great Camps!

## The benefits of attending summer camp

Summer camp is something akin to a rite of passage for millions of youngsters each year. Many adults look back fondly on their experiences at summer camp, often crediting such times as formative periods in their lives.

Summer camp benefits children in myriad ways. Recognition of the many advantages of attending summer camp can serve as a great reminder of just how fun it can be for children to spend their time away from school at a camp of their choosing.

• Campers continue to socialize throughout summer.

Socializing isn't just for the school year. While children in high school might be independent enough to come and go with their friends during summer break, kids who are still in elementary school or middle school might not be old enough to handle such freedom. That can make it hard to stay in touch with friends, which in turn can contribute to feelings of boredom and loneliness. Camp provides ample opportunities for young children to socialize during a time of year when they might not see their school friends as often as they're used to.

• Campers can expand their horizons. Though some summer camps are exclusive to residents of certain communities, many tend to feature children from numerous towns or municipalities. Such camps provide an opportunity for campers to expand their horizons by engaging with youngsters who come from different backgrounds. Indeed, the Graduate School of Education at Harvard University notes that summer camp may be the first time children spend substantial amounts of time with people whose backgrounds differ from their own.

• Camp can get kids off their devices. Modern children are growing up in a digital world, and parents know how hard it can be to get kids to put down their devices and get outdoors. But the key to making that pivot could be access to outdoor play spaces. A 2025 study from researchers at the University of Michigan published in the journal Health and Place found that efforts to reduce kids' screen time are more successful when children are given a chance to play outside. Many summer camps are structured around outdoor play, making them a

potentially invaluable ally as parents seek to help children cut back on the time they spend using their devices. Children who do not attend camp and live in households where both parents work or in single-parent households where Mom or Dad works may be forced to spend much of summer indoors, which could increase the frequency with which they turn to devices to occupy their time.

• Camp adds structure to summer days. Once a school year ends, the structure a school day provides vanishes into thin air. Couple that with extracurricular

activities that go on hiatus during summer vacation, and kids accustomed to structure are left with little to do and no need to schedule their time. That can add an aimlessness to summer days. Camp can provide the structure kids are accustomed to but still offer a break from responsibilities like homework or the commitments required of extracurricular activities.

There's no shortage of benefits to enrolling youngsters in summer camp, where kids can socialize, grow and get off their devices while engaged in structured but stress-free activities.

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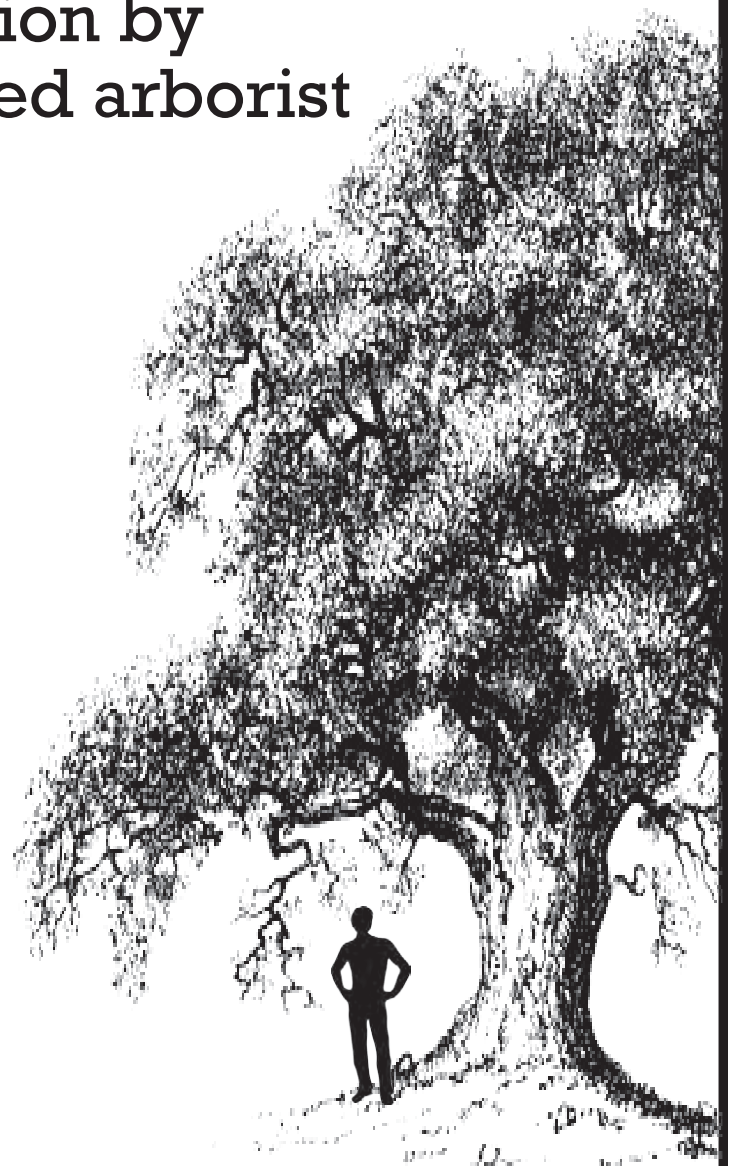


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