

# Chicopee Register

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## COMMUNITY



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

From the left, Frank Chmura sings as St. Stanislaus School students Maria Barrasso, Caden Lambert, Maya Garncarz and Oliver Piskowski hold the Polish flag, miniature Polish flags and a leather painting depicting St. Joseph during the St. Joseph's Day Flag Raising ceremony in Chicopee.

## COMMUNITY

### Vietnam Veterans Appreciation Day set for March 27

The event will be held at the senior center

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
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CHICOPEE – The city will honor and remember veterans of the Vietnam War with a Vietnam Veterans Appreciation Day event on March 27 at 3:30 p.m.

The event, taking place at the senior center, will not only honor Vietnam Veterans, but also remember the 15 veterans from Chicopee who did not make it home.

Throughout the afternoon, attendees will view a massive display from the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 111 about the Vietnam War, the state and the 15 fallen, and have the opportunity to meet with programs and resources that veterans and their families have access to and view a presentation with speakers.

BJ's will donate dessert to the event, while the Friends of RiverMills will sponsor the food.

Stephanie Shaw, director of Veterans Services, stressed the importance of intention and credited Al Picard for initiating the event, leading to a committee comprised of the Friends, the American Legion, the VFW, the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Department of Veterans Services and more coming together in late 2019 to organize it.

The first Vietnam Veterans Appreciation Day took place in 2022.

"We're excited to host it again and we look forward to do-

See **APPRECIATION DAY** page 6

## Chicopee celebrates St. Joseph's Day with flag-raising ceremony

By Kristin Rivers  
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CHICOPEE - Residents, community members, local and state elected officials and more gathered outside City Hall on March 19 to raise the Polish flag on St. Joseph's Day.

St. Joseph's Day recognizes Saint Joseph, known in Western Christian traditions as the husband of the Virgin Mary and the legal father of Jesus Christ.

Father Brad Milunski, pastor at St. Stanislaus Basilica, greeted the crowd in Polish and shared how he and the sixth, seventh and eighth-grade students at St. Stanislaus School

were honored to be at the ceremony.

"We certainly want to wish the city of Chicopee and all of us great blessings today on the Feast of St. Joseph and so we're proud to be here today," Milunski said.

Mayor John Vieau reflected on the history of Polish immigrants coming to Chicopee in 1880, filling many manufacturing jobs and fostering many Polish-owned businesses in the city.

After pointing out a mural of a puppy curated by renowned Polish artist Bezt last summer, Vieau reflected on his own Polish heritage, including his late grandfather John Rosinski.

"He instilled the Polish

heritage and customs in my mom, who raised me to be Polish proud. I'm proud of my Polish heritage, the Polish cuisine that I love and the Polish art of our culture from the pottery to that beautiful mural across the street," Vieau said.

State Sen. Jacob Oliveira (D-Ludlow) reflected on him and State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee) being part of the Polish American Caucus in the state legislature and stressed the importance of St. Joseph's Day.

"Saint Joseph, even though many of us know it as a symbol of Poland, Saint Joseph is also the symbol of the worker, and the work ethic of the Polish people, particularly Polish Americans, is evident all

throughout Western Massachusetts and here in the city of Chicopee," Oliveira said. "Having that strong connection between workers and community and working hard and living the American Dream, that's what it's about to be a Polish American."

After reading the mayor's proclamation, Vieau presented it to Dominik Szczech, a student at St. Stanislaus School.

State Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield) expressed how honored he was to represent Chicopee.

"Your community is so vibrant and continuously making the Polish community one of

See **ST. JOSEPH'S DAY** page 6

## Chicopee Historical Society hears tale of revolutionary intrigue

By Nick Boonstra  
Staff Writer  
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CHICOPEE - Author Andrew Noone spoke at the library at the invitation of the Chicopee Historical Society on March 18 to discuss his book "Bathsheba Spooner: A Revolutionary Murder Conspiracy."

The book tells the true story of the titular woman who conspired to have her husband murdered in the early days of American independence, and who would become the first woman to suffer capital punishment following the signing of the Declaration.

Spooner, born in 1746, was the daughter of Timothy Ruggles, a prominent politician in colonial Massachusetts and eventual loyalist to England during the Revolutionary War. Ruggles' refusal to protest King George III and the British Parlia-

ment alongside his fellow members of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, over which he presided as speaker, made him unpopular in the Commonwealth to say the least.

"Few men were as detested in Massachusetts in the year 1774," Noone said.

Spooner, who also harbored loyalist sentiments, found herself unhappily in what was believed to be an arranged marriage with Joshua Spooner, a well-to-do but possibly abusive businessman from Boston. Settling with Joshua in Brookfield, not far from her father's estate in Hardwick, Spooner developed a reputation for carrying on with a number of other men.

One of these men was young Ezra Ross, a soldier in the Continental Army with whom Spooner conspired to have her husband killed. Following an aborted attempt to have Joshua poisoned, Ross and two other



TURLEY PHOTO BY NICK BOONSTRA

Author Andrew Noone stands with his book titled "Bathsheba Spooner: A Revolutionary Murder Conspiracy," during his talk at the Chicopee Public Library on March 18. The talk was presented by the Chicopee Historical Society.

men attacked and killed Spooner on the evening of March 1, 1778, as he made his way back from a meal with friends, while Bathsheba and her children finished their own dinner at home.

The story goes on to tell of how Bathsheba and her three co-conspirators were convicted rather quickly by a court potentially biased against Spooner and her father, in a trial organized by John Hancock and involving both a relative of Abraham Lincoln and a signer of the Declaration of Independence representing either side of the case.

That July, Spooner became the first woman executed in America following the Declaration's signing and was later found to have been five months pregnant with what was believed to be Ezra Ross's son at the time.

Noone, a retired music teacher from Worcester, said that

See **HISTORICAL SOCIETY** page 6

# IN THE CITY



## Chicopee shows off Irish pride during Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade

HOLYOKE – With a mix of sun, clouds, rain and even some hail in Holyoke, Chicopee came out in full force on March 17 to march in the 2024 Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade.

This year marks 70 years that the city of Chicopee has marched in the parade.

Led by this year's parade marshal, Fr. William Tourigny, city officials, the fire and police departments, residents, students and many more joined court members Giannalee Beach, Lilian Young, Morgan Presnal and Madelyn Rice as part of the Chicopee St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee's contingent.

This year's float called "New Beginnings" also took first prize for the William C. Lunney Memorial Award – Irish theme.

According to the Parade Committee's website, the committee "is one of the largest contingents of the annual Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade."

"We've been involved with the parade for over 60 years, and during our long tenure we've created several award-winning floats and given out thousands of dollars worth of scholarships to some of Chicopee's finest young ladies. We're full of pride and spirit and are always accepting new members!" it reads.

Their purpose is described on the website as the following:

"Our purpose as a committee is to promote and encourage participation in parades, memorials, socials, dances and other activities in memory of St. Patrick. To raise funds, to sanction, sponsor and



PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

promote contests and events in observance of St. Patrick's Day. To cultivate social interaction among the members and to inculcate the principles of charity,

justice, brotherly love, and fidelity and to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its members." It reads.

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## Chicopee St. Patrick's Day Committee releases statement on Chicopee Colleen controversy

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee St. Patrick's Day Committee released the following statement, posted on Facebook, on March 18 regarding the removal of Kinamarie Ayala as the 2024 Chicopee Colleen. The statement reads as follows.

"It has come to our attention as a committee that rumors are circulating regarding this year's Colleen and our decision to ask her to step down.

It's unfortunate that this issue has taken a turn in the public eye. As mentioned before, we have been working to protect Kinamarie's privacy and have not wanted to comment further. Under no circumstance was this a racial decision, which should be evident by the fact that she was elected as our Colleen in the first place.

Kinamarie repeatedly violated our code of conduct, a document which she and her mother signed, and after being spoken to about this issue multiple times, she continued to violate our rules and the requirements of this position. That is why she was asked to step down.

The Chicopee Parade Committee requires our Colleen to be in good academic standing, represent her community in a positive light and to respect and value the time of her court. This is an important position in the Chicopee community and we are saddened that this issue is taking away from the court who is serving the community well.

In a continued effort to protect Kinamarie's privacy, eliminate baseless speculation, and to shield the integrity of our Court who are upholding their positions with pride, we are turning off commenting on this post. None of us benefit from false accusations and rumor spreading and at this time, we want nothing more than a positive experience coming off of parade weekend."

# Anna Barry Building Committee reviews next steps after MSBA approval

By Kristin Rivers  
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CHICOPEE - The Anna Barry Building Committee met on March 14 to review their next steps after receiving approval for phase two of the elementary school's feasibility study.

The discussion comes after the Massachusetts School Building Authority unanimously approved the proposal to repair or replace Anne E. Barry Elementary School on Feb. 28.

Committee Chair Carissa Lisse said the members "have a lot of homework to do" including putting together the request for services, or RFS.

Lisse said the hope is to complete the draft by next week, which would then go to the MSBA for review.

"Once they review it, then we can place the advertisement in the central register to appear, hopefully, for May 1," Lisse said.

She added getting the draft to the MSBA for their review by April 11 will be key.

"If we can do that, if we can get the draft in by April 11, we should be able to get and hire our OPM (Owner's Project Manager). We should be able to get in front of the OPM review panel for the July 1, 2024 meeting," Lisse said. "If we don't make the April 11 deadline, then our next meeting...it's going to push us back to the Aug. 5 meeting."

Michael Pise thanked everyone for attending the MSBA meeting and shared how "it was so great to have so many people from Chicopee there on the call."



Exterior shot of Anna E. Barry Elementary School.

"I think it really helped the MSBA know that we're very serious about the project. We want to move forward. They approved five other schools at the same time and only (two) get put on an OPM slot," Pise said. "So that's why I think Carissa's asking us to kind of follow these timelines. Otherwise, we're going to get pushed back."

A module was then shared by Scott Chapdelaine depicting the other parts of the process, including forming a project team and working with the OPM, the designer selection procurement process, organizing an OPM Selection Committee and negotiating with the highest ranked firm.

Pise narrated the process.

"We will be receiving applications and then based on what we draft, we're going

to have questions about what kind of skills and qualifications we want for the OPM. We'll do the ranking and we'll get that packet together. We'll provide the selection packet to the MSBA and then we'll attend that panel that Carissa was indicating we shoot for July," Pise said. "And if we're successful with picking the OPM, it would then execute the contract with the OPM."

Later, a slide showed the dates for when a draft RFS would be due, reiterating the importance of the July 1 deadline and what would happen if the process does not meet this date.

"The first one we could probably do is July 1. If we don't get it done, it's a monthly review. So August, September, October, November, we'd get pushed and, hopefully, there'd be space, because as Chris has said too, (you) get put on per

month," Pise said.

Another aspect of the draft was the importance of evaluation criteria and ranking for the application.

"They stress it's important to have the evaluation criteria and the ranking done and to follow that and to document all that. We didn't come up with a shortlist. We should be retaining the scoring sheets," Pise said. "So, then they went through some of the documents with us and there's a reference checklist. We would check the references of the candidates who put in their applications, go through the matrix through scoring and then we put the selection page back to the MSBA."

On the OPM Selection Committee, Lisse explained the committee would have to organize a subcommittee to interview and select the OPM.

"It's going to be kind of a tedious process that's going to have to get done very quickly," Lisse said. "It's going to require some time and some effort and some meetings on short notice, so we can get this together to meet an April deadline."

After several minutes of reviewing how many members to have on the OPM Selection Committee and what they would be looking for in applicants in regards to experience and addressing any Article 97 concerns, a motion to appoint Chapdelaine, Michael Sarnelli, Frank Boron, Stanley Kozikowski and Lisse, with Brian Solomon as a nonvoting member, was presented.

The motion passed 12-0.

The committee will meet again on April 2 at 6:30 p.m. to review the RFS draft, with a final meeting location to be determined.

## Adoption Fundraiser Event taking place at Rumbleseat on March 28

CHICOPEE - The Halfway Home Cat Rescue Inc. is partnering with the Rumbleseat Bar & Grille for an Adoption Fundraiser event on Thursday, March 28 from 4 - 7 p.m.

Halfway Home Cat Rescue Inc. is a nonprofit rescue group located in Chicopee dedicated to the care and adoption of cats and kittens.

During the event, meet kittens available for adoption and fill out an application and get pre-approved on the spot. Raffle prizes will also be available with a free raffle ticket presented with the donation of a wish list item.

Wish list items include Purina Kitten Chow, Royal Canin Baby Cat (wet and dry), Wellness Kitten (wet and dry), Friskies Wet Food, Stage One KMR and litter.

The Rumbleseat, located at 482 Springfield St., will also donate 15% of all purchases of food, takeout and drinks during the event.

To learn more, contact Robin Fiskaa, president of Halfway Home Cat Rescue Inc., at 413-304-4048 or check out their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/HalfwayHomeCatRescueInc?mib-extid=JR0KGI>.

## Investigation into fatal shooting on I-391 in Chicopee underway

SPRINGFIELD- On Wednesday, March 12 at 10 p.m. a vehicle with multiple occupants arrived at Baystate Medical Center, some of whom were suffering from gun-shot wounds, one of the individuals passed away.

The surviving occupants have been uncooperative, leaving investigators trying to locate a crime scene. Investi-

gators were able to locate a scene earlier this morning on Interstate 391 South between exits 3 and 4.

This investigation is being conducted by the Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit assigned to the Hampden DA's Office and the Hampden District Attorney's Murder Unit.

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## GUEST COLUMN



### Thank goodness for the 'happy plant'

It was a bad night and the next day didn't start out much better.

I had heard that the days prior to delivery can be a bit uneasy for a soon-to-be-mother (and therefore for her spouse!), now I know it to be true. Luckily, even before my husband came home from work, the smile he is accustomed to had returned to my face.

My grin grew even bigger, however, when I greeted him at the door and found he had a pot of gerber daisies in his hand. Years ago, I deemed this particular potted plant "the happy plant."

For me it is next to impossible to look at its brightly colored flowers and remain in a bad mood. If you feel the same way but have never had any luck growing the gerber daisy, read on to learn just what cultural requirements are necessary to keep it happy.

The gerber daisy was discovered by Robert Jameson in the early 1880s near the gold fields of Barberton, in the Transvaal region of South Africa. The most popular species, the one which we will concentrate on today, bears his name, Gerbera jamesonii.

The Barberton daisy, the Transvaal daisy, and the African daisy are all common names for the plant that relate back to its place of origin.

Not long after its discovery, breeding began on the gerber daisy in England, eventually resulting in improved quality and enhanced color variations. Today, the Netherlands and Columbia are the primary producers of gerbers in cut flower form.

In the floral trade, it ranks an impressive fifth in popularity, behind the rose, carnation, chrysanthemum and tulip.

According to floral lore, the meaning behind the gerber flower is one I would wholeheartedly agree with: cheerfulness, probably due to the wide palette of colors it is available in – nearly every one except blue. Look for vivid orange, cool coral, hot pink, crimson red and sunshine yellow, not to mention bubblegum pink and creamy white!

Unfortunately, the gerber daisy is not hardy in our area; it prefers a much warmer location in which to grow. On the eastern seaboard, the only place it will overwinter is the southernmost tip of Florida, in hardiness zones 9 and 10.

Here in New England, it is best enjoyed on the windowsill during the winter months. As long as the plant is provided with normal room temperatures, bright light and sufficient but not excess moisture it should bloom prolifically.

Remember to remove spent flowers to keep up the gerber's good looks as well as to encourage future blooms.

Once the danger of frost has passed, it is also safe to plant the gerber daisy outdoors, just as you would any other summer annual. More and more consumers are doing this each year and with success!

The best type of soil for it is one that is organically rich and well-drained. Full sun is a must for flower production.

If you wish to dig up the plant after the season wanes and attempt to overwinter it indoors, be extra careful not to disturb its deep root system or death may incur. Some gardeners who plan on overwintering their gerbers sink the pot and all at planting time to avoid any potential risk later on.

Right now, the "happy plant" sits on the bureau in the nursery, awaiting the arrival of our little girl, just as we are. There is indeed so much to be happy about!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. Have a question for her? Email it to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

## GUEST COLUMN

### Random Acts of Kindness

By Barb Turcotte

I know I have lost loved ones to cancer and in fact I don't know anyone who hasn't, but this story isn't about loss but rather about hope and what one woman has created because of her cancer journey! Just by her unselfishness she has helped so many with what I consider, Random Acts of Kindness as she doesn't always know the recipients of her efforts.

Cindy Sheridan-Murphy was diagnosed with breast cancer for the first time in 2009, she endured all the treatments, was considered cancer-free and then she was diagnosed with her second bout of breast cancer in 2014. For those who know Cindy, you would also know something as I learned when chatting with her, she's a fighter and has a determination to make a difference by helping others. With that determination to make a difference she co-partnered with singer/song-writer Debra Lynn Alt and created a 501(c)3 non-profit in 2019 called 'Each Moment We're Alive'.

Cindy met Debra shortly after her second cancer diagnosis. Debra had written a song in honor of her dear friend Monica who was an incredible photographer that unfortunately lost her battle with cancer in 2012. Monica and Debra were able to collaborate and created a wonderful book that captured many of Monica's photographs and includes a CD of Debra's inspiring song along with other beautiful creations. Because of their collaboration and now Cindy's partnership with Debra, to name their charity after Debra's song was a natural fit.

Cindy has always lived a life of giving back. She was a youth soccer coach plus a high school soccer coach for five years and actually brought her team to their first tournament in ten years. She loved all the coaching but when her daughter became a high school student she knew it was time to stop so her daughter could play sports without mom being the coach.

After coaching sports and being diagnosed, Cindy realized coaching was coaching regardless for what and so the non-profit was created. During COVID, Cindy wanted to continue to help people by supplying the tools and support to survivors when going through treatments or completing them. She learned how to do Zoom meetings and has captured members from Indiana, Florida, Michigan and New Jersey as well as local audiences.

Cindy has expanded this non-profit to include everyone regardless of their type of cancer. She knows that cancer doesn't just impact that person but their circle of people as well. Her Zoom meetings are every Tuesday and it's an opportunity for survivors to connect for support and inspiration. She has monthly

local gatherings for continued cancer support, and quarterly webinars. Her after cancer support programs include the context of 'Living a new day' and 'I survived cancer, what's next?'

March is the cancer awareness month for colorectal, kidney and multiple myeloma. As we know, cancer knows no season so please do your screenings.

Cindy has a couple of things she uses as her mottos, "Cancer is something that happens to you, it doesn't define you." And she also believes, "We don't walk this earth alone, we have a circle of Angels."

Cindy is the Angel for many and continues finding ways to help others. She offers seminars to educate employers about the needs of a person dealing with cancer. Her charity will be hosting their 5th Canine's Fur Cancer Support walk in West Springfield on June 28 as she knows that dogs are a great support for people on their cancer journey. Cindy holds a position on the Baystate Noble Hospital Patient Family Advisory Council representing the voice between the hospital and the patient. Her charity decorates a tree each year for the Ronald McDonald House to support them. She's involved with Our Lady of Hibernian in Holyoke which is for Irish Catholic Women and with this group once a month makes sandwiches for Kate's Kitchen. She is also a Rotarian and they strive to promote services for the personal, business and community life. She believes in giving back to make a positive impact. So as you can see, Cindy is an inspiration to others by leading the way of doing Random Acts of Kindness.

This past January, Gary Rome's Hyundai Hope on Wheels presented Cindy as the representative of 'Each Moment We're Alive,' a \$10,000 check so she can continue her very important supportive cancer work. What an honor to be chosen for this award! Congratulations Cindy! You truly are making an incredible difference!

If you would like to know more about Cindy's incredible work, please see her website. <https://www.eachmomentwerealive.org> You'll find events happening, how to find help for support and you'll feel the warmth she emits from the pages. Thank you, Cindy, for all the help you so willingly offer to others.

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



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# School Committee approves prioritization plans for Student Opportunity Act

By Kristin Rivers  
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CHICOPEE - School Committee moved forward on March 20 with prioritization plans for the school district's Student Opportunity Act Plan.

Jennifer Bellville, assistant superintendent for instruction and accountability, explained the Student Opportunity Act is a three-year plan with annual progress reports requiring "every school district in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to create an evidence-based plan for reducing persistent disparities in achievement across our student groups."

Bellville said the main goal is "to ensure every student" in the state "has access to a high-quality public education," including English language learners, students with disabilities and low-income students.

Chicopee submitted their original plan to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in 2021, followed by progress reports for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023.

"The priority areas for last year, which were actually slightly different than when the plan was originally submitted in 2021, were to expand our access to full-day Pre-K and our four-year-olds, for early college programs for students underrepresented in higher education, inclusion and co-teaching for students with disabilities and English language learners, expanding our capacity to address social emotional learning and mental health needs as well as increasing opportunities for all students to engage in the arts, enrichment, world language, athletics and elective courses," Bellville said.

Bellville explained this year, the state made changes by putting out 10 priority focus areas, with each district asked to choose one to three of them and receiving specific evidence-based programs.

"So, at the end of next year, we will look at our data and we'll say 'Is this what we want to continue for our focus areas and our priorities moving forward?'" Bellville said.

Bellville broke down the three focus areas, which are a multi-tiered system of support academically, socially and behaviorally, the MTSS process for academic supports, particularly for students with disabilities and English language learners, along with targeted academic support and acceleration and expanding access to Pre-K.

Two additional programs are high-quality secondary pathways and programs and educator preparation partnerships.

"What the School Committees are asked to vote on is simply the prioritiza-

tion focus areas," Bellville said.

Ward 6 School Committee member Sonny Brooks said, "To get to these students, we have to get to the parents," asking what the plan was.

"If we can't get through to the parents, we can put out all these programs during the day and these kids are not going to benefit from it if we can't get the parents on board with these programs," Brooks said.

Bellville replied they're doing a lot around family and community engagement, having hired family and community engagement liaisons and another interpreter and working on communication systems such as Parent Square.

"We've improved communication greatly, but it is a conversation that we continually have in the district of other ways we can expand our communication," Bellville said.

Vice Chair Donald Lamothe asked to see the data for how the schools are doing.

"I mean, right now, I don't see the data. I'm taking your word for it that we're targeting those areas and we are, probably, doing exactly what you're saying. So, this is not a slight against you," Lamothe said. "I would like to see the data from where the schools were, which schools improved, which schools are struggling and what we're doing to help those schools."

Bellville let Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware respond to Lamothe's thoughts, who explained the data is part of his entry plan.

Ware added he already planned to have Bellville lead a different version of the state of the schools, until the commissioner gave a different edict on that front.

"(On) April 3, you will actually have a good chunk of that data, where the next meeting following that, Miss Bellville and I are working together so that she can do a deeper dive between the elementary, middle and high. So, it's coming," Ware said.

Ward 1 School Committee member Deanna Rousseau asked a clarification question on the first two focus areas.

"Just wanted to understand with those tiered supports really, generally, if the idea is that we have the resources fit to kind of manage that system or if we're still evaluating as we're continuing to monitor that data and the limitation of that?" Rousseau said.

Bellville said the answers are yes and no.

"We do have some processes. We have some procedures in place. We have data, but we need to continue to expand on that as well as to put solid things in place so that there is equity among all of our buildings," Bellville said.

The motion carried 11-0.

## Chicopee River Cleanup takes place April 6

CHICOPEE - Please consider attending the Granby Road area cleanup this spring on April 6 at 8 a.m.


Participants will meet at the dirt parking area next to E & G Automotive.

The Granby Road area is a popular spot to fish, and this event provides a great opportunity to network, pick up local knowledge, and, of course, provide

some stewardship to this Connecticut River tributary that supports spawning American shad.

Please bring a pair of work gloves if you have them. Anglers might want to bring waders for picking up trash at the water's edge.

To learn more, contact Eric Roach at 603-502-0928.



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# Oliveira: "We need more homes"

By Nick Boonstra  
Staff Writer  
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BOSTON - In an interview held by phone on Wednesday, March 20, State Sen. Jacob Oliveira (D-Ludlow) highlighted the work being done on Beacon Hill to address the housing crisis that thousands in the Pioneer Valley and across the Commonwealth are facing, while also emphasizing the areas in which more work needs to be done.

Oliveira, whose Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester district includes communities spanning from Warren to South Hadley, said that the first step toward helping both a veteran waitlisted for emergency shelter and a working family struggling to keep up with inflation was the same: "The bottom line is that we need more homes."

When it came to the issue of housing affordability, Oliveira said that he approached the subject from a unique point of view relative to others in his role.

"As one of the few renters who's a member of the Legislature, I see things from a little bit of a different perspective from some of my other colleagues," Oliveira said.

He also pointed out the unfortunate reality of what a lack of affordable housing can mean for Massachusetts residents, and why it is so important to address the issue head-on.

"We don't want people living on the streets, we don't want people living in tents, we don't want people living in the woods," Oliveira said. "It's a public safety issue; it's a humanitarian issue."

Oliveira acknowledged that Massachusetts' unique status as the only state in the nation with a right-to-shelter law had become a point of discussion as the housing crisis has escalated. However, he also clarified that this guarantee for emergency shelter only applied to families with children, and that over half of those families currently in the shelter system were citizens of Massachusetts and of the United States.

"There are a significant number of migrants that are being housed, but there's a significant number of Massachusetts residents that are in the system as well — veterans and seniors and other working families that are here in the Commonwealth," Oliveira said.

Oliveira pointed to Governor Maura Healey's \$4 billion Affordable Homes Bill, filed in October, as having the potential to significantly address the housing shortage in Massachusetts, with its call for the creation of over 40,000 new homes for both low- and middle-income residents.

"It's not just low-income folks that

are struggling to afford home rates," Oliveira said. "It's also middle-income families and working families as well."

He added that he hoped to see the House and Senate take up their own versions of the bill this spring.

Importantly, some of these new homes might already be hiding in plain sight.

"My family came to Ludlow in the early part of the 20th century from Portugal and Poland to work in the Ludlow mills, and a lot of those mill buildings have remained vacant for decades now," Oliveira said.

He said that the state was assisting with having these buildings redeveloped for both affordable and market-rate housing. He said that there were plenty of other locations and abandoned buildings throughout the Valley that could be redeveloped in the same way, citing the former Belchertown State School campus as another example of such a work in progress.

He also said that these sorts of redevelopments of existing buildings were helpful in ensuring the character of the communities in which they sit are maintained.

"You can develop those buildings in a respectful manner which doesn't really require new construction," Oliveira said.

Oliveira stressed that the senior population was an especially important one in the conversation around housing.

"A family who's been in a home for a couple decades, they might have paid off their mortgage, but they're struggling to afford property taxes to stay in their homes," Oliveira said.

He said that the Legislature had already passed an expansion of the Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit, which applies to certain Massachusetts homeowners and renters over 65 and helps offset the cost of their property taxes or rent. This expansion was signed into law by Governor Maura Healey in October as part of a suite of tax cuts that will go into effect this year.

Oliveira also recognized that the issue of affordable housing was only one part of the broader issue of the cost of living in Massachusetts and affordability in general.

He said that the EARLY ED Act, a comprehensive bill passed by the Senate earlier this month that would reform early childhood education in Massachusetts, included provisions to make childcare more affordable for working families in the state.

"We're seeing so many families being priced out, or having to make a decision whether or not they go to work or they stay home with their children,

See OLIVEIRA page 6





Open House

Saturday, April 6

9:30-12:30

[www.macduffie.org](http://www.macduffie.org) to register





Mayor John Vieau holds a miniature Polish flag as Maya Garnarz, a student at St. Stanislaus School, cranks the lever to raise the Polish flag during the St. Joseph's Day Flag Raising ceremony outside City Hall in Chicopee on March 19.



St. Stanislaus School student Dominik Szczech shakes hands with Mayor John Vieau as students at St. Stanislaus School, Frank Chmura, City Clerk Keith Rattell, City Treasurer Marie Laflamme and City Assessor Victor Anop watch during the St. Joseph's Day Flag Raising ceremony.

## Chicopee holds St. Joseph's Day flag-raising ceremony



From the left, Father Brad Milunski, pastor at St. Stanislaus Basilica, Mayor John Vieau, Frank Chmura and St. Stanislaus students Maria Barrasso, Caden Lambert, Maya Garnarz and Oliver Piskorowski watch as State Sen. Jacob Oliveira (D-Ludlow) reflects on St. Joseph's Day and the Polish American Caucus during the St. Joseph's Day Flag Raising ceremony in Chicopee.



Father Brad Milunski, pastor at St. Stanislaus Basilica, provides reflections during the St. Joseph's Day Flag Raising ceremony.



State Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield) provides remarks during the St. Joseph's Day Flag Raising ceremony outside City Hall in Chicopee.

### ST. JOSEPH'S DAY from page 1

the staples here in the Hampden district," Gomez said.

The ceremony concluded when Maya Garnarz, another student at St. Stanislaus School, raised the Polish flag as Frank Chmura led attendees in singing a Polish song and "God Bless America" in English and Polish.

Janina Surdyka, a member of St. Stanislaus Basilica, attended the ceremony to honor her family, the Catholic faith and the community.

"It's a great place and a great day to be in Chicopee today," Surdyka said. "Because many, many Polish people have a special devotion to St. Joseph and as a member of a Catholic community, it is very important that we honor our saints."

Surdyka reflected on the importance of having the St. Stanislaus School students at the ceremony.

"It's extremely important for them to get involved, not only to celebrate our faith but also to get involved in a community event like this one. Maybe to learn a little bit about our community, about residents, their input in heightening the success of a city," Surdyka said. "So extremely important and we need to know our past as well. Maybe that would inspire them to get more involved in the future."

Surdyka shared this message on St. Joseph's Day.

"I want people to be proud to be a part of this community, to be proud of our Polish heritage and the patriotism. I was so happy to see that our elected official recognized the input the Polish people have," Surdyka said. "Also, the support for Poland as a nation as it supports the United Nations and also, our close relationship with the United States when it comes to NATO and defending democracy."

From the left, City Treasurer Marie Laflamme, St. Stanislaus School students Natalie Tarka, Madison Sawicki, Mackenzy Caron and Kaylie Rattell pose for a group photo during the St. Joseph's Day Flag Raising ceremony in Chicopee on March 19.



### APPRECIATION DAY from page 1

ing it for many more years," Shaw said.

Shaw said organizing events like Vietnam Veterans Appreciation Day is "a pleasure," praising the community for their participation and support.

She hopes to do more programming to recognize Pearl Harbor Day and D-Day.

"We've added a few since I started here because of those collaborations. We're able to cover Purple Heart Day and now there's a formal sit-down meal for that to honor those veterans," Shaw said. "It's because of the community that we have been able to implement these additional opportunities to get together with veterans and we've been able to sustain them."

Shaw also reflected on the impact of Vietnam Veterans Appreciation Day, with new people who haven't interacted with the department or the event before attending and later expressing gratitude for the event. "She shared the story of how a Vietnam Veteran from the eastern part of the state found the event last year and came to Chicopee to attend."

"He drove all the way out here and he was blown away. He thought it was spectacular, he loved the intention, he loved all the amenities. He loved the duration," Shaw said. "There were so many interactive elements and he connected with a lot of our resources. A lot of the resources we bring in are not Chicopee or Western Mass specific. It's state, federal

benefits, regional opportunities, nonprofits. So, I look forward to seeing who I get to meet this year."

Shaw is honored to support the veterans and their families in Chicopee, hoping attendees take the time to visit the display from the Vietnam Veterans Chapter 111 and talk to them during the event.

"Talk to them about their service, about the fallen, because that's what we're there for, it's for them," Shaw said. "Take the time to really absorb what they've created on that end of the building."

Shaw encouraged the community to attend Vietnam Veterans Appreciation Day next week.

"I want them to know that it's open to the public. It's not just for the Vietnam Veterans of the surviving families. It's for everyone, whether you had a relative that fought in the war, or you're just curious or you want to go ask a veteran about their service," Shaw said. "It's really open to everyone."

She also encouraged attendees to take advantage of everything going on at the event.

"Even if you're not a Vietnam Veteran, I can't imagine that you won't be moved by the displays, the presentations and the program," Shaw said. "And I also think you can probably connect with one of the resources or even our office."

To learn more about the Department of Veterans Services, visit [www.chicopeema.gov/286/Veterans-Services](http://www.chicopeema.gov/286/Veterans-Services), connect with them on Facebook and Instagram or stop by 36 Center St.

### HISTORICAL SOCIETY from page 1

he had always been interested in revolutionary history, but that it was his family moving into a house across the street from the suspected burial site of Bathsheba Spooner that got him interested in learning more about her story.

He said that the Americans of the revolutionary era were just as hungry for sensational stories as we are today. This was especially true at the very moment that Spooner undertook her plot. "The war had moved south by that point," Noone said, "so they wanted an exciting story — and

they got one."

Noone said that, if there was one lesson from the story applicable to our modern age, it was to "try to avoid the sensational nature" of stories like Spooner's, especially when it comes to seeing impartial justice done.

Noone said he expected to have a second book out this coming autumn, about the story of Quock Walker, an enslaved American who sued for his freedom in a series of trials that have been credited with formalizing the abolition of slavery under the Massachusetts Constitution.

### OLIVEIRA from page 5

because they can't afford childcare," Oliveira said.

He went on to say that supporting childcare providers with better wages, expanding the Commonwealth Cares for Children Grants program and making middle-class families eligible for childcare subsidies were important steps toward solving this problem.

He also cited a prescription drug reform bill passed by the Senate in November as critical to improving affordability for Bay Staters, saying it would be a "huge game-changer for any senior or family that relies on these life-saving prescriptions."

He added, "Massachusetts could be leading the way on this."

Away from the State House, Oliveira was in Ludlow last month along with Representative Aaron Saunders (D-Ludlow) to advocate for mobile-home owners facing steep rent increases from park owners, a situation he said people throughout the Commonwealth have been reaching out to him about.

"Hopefully we're putting some pressure on these owners of these properties," Oliveira said.

Ultimately, he said, "We're trying to do everything we can to make Massachusetts a more affordable place to live and to raise a family and retire with dignity."

# Sports

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## More than 6,000 brighten great day at St. Patrick's Road Race

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – After some dreary, cold, or rainy weather during the past few years, the people attending the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Road Race drew a winner yesterday.

On a sun-splashed afternoon with comfortable temperatures, the 47<sup>th</sup> running of the popular 10K Road Race took place.

With more than 6,000 harrriers competing, and many more taking part in the Fun Run or walking events, the first part of St. Patrick's weekend was definitely a success.

Louis Serafini was the big winner of the main event. He completed the very hilly, 6.2-mile course in 30:12. Serafini is from Cambridge.

The top female was a local runner from Western Massachusetts. Anna Steinmen, of Springfield, came across the finish line at 37:00.

Ryan Davis, of South Hadley, was one of the top local finishers at 34:36. He was 20<sup>th</sup> overall.

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 on Monday, April 15. Many runners over the years have enjoyed

See **ROAD RACE** page 8



The runners are off in the 2024 Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Road Race.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



The pace truck makes its way across the finish line followed by state police, which escorts the first set of runners.



The wave of runners head down the first stretch of the 6.2-mile course.



Male top finisher and first overall Louis Serafini, of Cambridge, finishes the race at 30:12.



Anna Steinmen, of Springfield, was the top female finisher at 37:00.

## Chicopee begins Szlats tournament



Mia Hines sends a free throw away.

CHICOPEE – Last weekend, the Szlats tournament, an annual girls basketball tournament at the middle school level, took place in Chicopee.

The tournament included multiple division and the Chicopee Galaxy 5-6 girls participated in three matchups prior to the playoffs.



Ella Reyes drives into the paint.



Selena Gilpatrick shoots ahead of pressure.



Alyssa Morrissett makes her way down the court.



Angelina Peidra goes for the layup.

## More players needed to fill Quabbin Valley League rosters

With April looming, the Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking for more players to fill its open roster spots.

There are more than 15 open roster spots as the league heads for its open practice and tryout date and teams are looking to fill their 14-player rosters for a 2024 season that will see the league get back to its normal schedule.

The league is very enthusiastic to welcome new members to the league to fill these roster spots so all teams have the full depth they need. To register, go to: [www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org](http://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org) and click on the Registration tab.

Following heavy turnover between 2022 and 2023, the league had to downsize to five teams and ran a modified schedule that included scheduled

See **QUABBIN VALLEY LEAGUE** page 8

## T-Birds get much-needed win over Charlotte

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Springfield Thunderbirds (27-27-3-2) answered a Charlotte comeback the day before with one of their own en route to a 6-4 win over the Checkers (31-23-6-0) on Sunday afternoon at Bojangles' Coliseum.

It did not take long for the Checkers to score their fourth consecutive goal of the weekend, as captain Zac Dalpe worked a 2-on-1, give-and-go rush to perfection with Cam Morrison, snapping a shot over Colten Ellis to make it 1-0 Charlotte just 2:56 into the first.

Springfield answered in kind on its first power play chance of the day, as Will Bitten hit a crashing Ryan Suzuki in the crease for a redirection past Magnus Hellberg at 5:22, making it a 1-1 game.

Charlotte continued having penalty troubles, giving the T-Birds two additional man-up situations in the period. However, the Checkers' PK answered the bell, and on their third kill of the afternoon, Rasmus Asplund added offense with a shorthanded shot past Ellis on the blocker at 14:32, finishing off another 2-on-1 and giving the home side the 2-1 lead at intermission.

It took Adam Gaudette just 19 seconds to restore a tie score when he stole a breakout pass and slapped a blistering shot over Hellberg's shoulder to even the game, 2-2. It brought him back into a tie for the AHL goal-scoring lead with Ontario's Samuel Fagemo.

The 2-2 tie only lasted 50 seconds, though, as Wilmer Skoog answered back on a jam shot from the right circle to give Charlotte the 3-2 advantage during a delayed Springfield penalty.

Charlotte's third power play proved to be a charm when Gerry Mayhew gave the Checkers a two-goal lead when he poked a loose puck under Ellis at 8:32 to make it a 4-2 game.

With much of the momentum seemingly on Charlotte's side, the T-Birds got a wonderful stroke of luck at the 10:25 mark when a Skyler Brind'Amour pass caromed off Uvis Balinskis' skate and squeaked under Hellberg's legs. Suzuki was given credit for his second of the game, and the Charlotte lead suddenly slipped to 4-3.

With their power play beaming with confidence, the T-Birds tied the game when Will Bitten

deflected a Calle Rosen shot in behind Hellberg, tying the score, 4-4, with just 3:01 remaining in the middle period.

Early in the third, the Springfield power play again made a huge impact following a double-minor on Mayhew. With just two seconds remaining on the first minor, Jakub Vrana played the role of the deflector, as he guided a Dylan Coghlan snapshot through Hellberg, giving the T-Birds their first lead at the 2:30 mark of the third, 5-4.

After both teams committed minors just 51 seconds apart to set up 4-on-4 play, Coghlan added to the T-Birds lead on a 2-on-1, picking a spot over Hellberg's stick-side arm to make it a 6-4 lead for the visitors at 9:26 of the final period. Coghlan finished the two-game set with three goals and five points, and his goal put him atop the AHL leaderboard for goals by defensemen with 16.

From that point onward, Ellis and the T-Birds' defense stiffened, blocking countless Charlotte attempts en route to the win. Ellis, in picking up his third straight win over Charlotte, made 42 stops.

## Locals named to Senior All-Star Game

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced the team rosters for the 2024 Western Massachusetts Senior High School All-Star Games. On Thursday, March 21, the Hall of Fame hosted the 2024 All-Star event on the Jerry Colangelo Court of Dreams at the Hall of Fame. A total of 60 players were selected from different divisions within the region to participate in three games that will showcase the top seniors in their final high school contest.

"The Basketball Hall of Fame is honored to host the top high school basketball players from Western Massachusetts at our 13th annual All-Star celebration," said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. "We encourage the residents of Western Mass. to join us as we celebrate these outstanding seniors in the final game of their high school careers."

A committee of local coaches and media members who represent each division on the boys' and girls' sides selected the teams. Using the designated classes for the PVIAC 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 can be found on the next page.

For the 13th 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, in addition to their sportsmanship and character off the court.

The three All-Star Games were held on Thursday, March 21. There were two boys games and a girls game on the slate.

Among the all-stars named were Granby's Colin Murdock, Monson's Colin Beaupre, Ware's Jack McKeever and Emily McGrail, Palmer's Andrew Menard, Minnechaug's Lylah Jeannotte, South Hadley's Drew Alley, Holyoke's Amilyan Treadwell-Mercedes and Shawn Rivera, Chicopee Comprehensive's Alyssa Caney and Tineus McCluster, and Agawam's Colin Smith.

### QUABBIN VALLEY LEAGUE from page 7

doubleheaders and bye weeks for teams in order to complete a 15-game schedule. Rain also hampered the league's schedule as well last year.

On March 3, the league's board voted to bring in a new team, bringing the league back up to six teams and creating an even schedule with every team playing on 15 Sunday morning starting on Sunday, April 21 through late August with play-offs to follow.

The league is also voted to play a segment of its schedule using wood bats only. The middle five games of the schedule will be played that way while the rest of schedule is played with either metal or wood bats.

The league will be holding an open practice for all league players and especially players who are new to the league on Sunday, April 7 at 10 a.m. at Beachgrounds Park in South Hadley.

Prior to that, the next meeting is scheduled for Sunday March 24 at 12 noon at the Hangar Pub & Grill in South Hadley. All are welcome to attend the meeting, ask questions and express interest in joining. The league's board will be discussing final preparations for the 2024 season.

The Quabbin Valley league is an all-abilities league and all are welcome to join. Eligibility is players who are age 28 and over. You must be 30 to be eligible to pitch in the league. Your age for eligibility is whatever age you will turn in 2024. The league is also able to entertaining taking in an entire group as a team to add to the league. Please email the league board for to inquire about entering a team.

Games are typically held in the Easthampton and South Hadley area with some expansion to Chicopee, West Springfield, Agawam, and Granby being considered.

## Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please fol-

low and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.



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Tyler Leahy heads for the finish line.



Joshua O'Brien, of Chicopee, finishes at 42:36.



Nolan Aronson, of Chicopee heads for the finish with other racers.

### ROAD RACE from page 7

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.

Of the more than 6,000 runners who were registered, 4,442 finished the 10K course this year. Race officials have said the participation level in the event is still rebounding from the pandemic. Prior to the pandemic in 2019, race participants totaled about 7,000. The race was not held in 2020 and 2021 before it returned in 2022 with around 5,000 participants. More made their way out to the race last year, but that number was surpassed this year.

Because of that, the start of the race featured multiple waves, though 4RUN3 ran the bibs and electronic results kept accurate results for all those involved.

A number of this year's participants were featured in the usual celebratory costumes and outfits for St. Patrick's Day, while many others opted for cartoon and other fictional characters,



Brandon Pavoni races a few others to the finish.



Brandon Balathunis leads a group of runners in the final stretch.

such as Spider-Man. Several local running clubs also made their way to the race, as did the youth of the region. Youth participants in the race were as young as seven-years-old. Security was in full

force at the event with plenty of presence from the Massachusetts State Police, Holyoke Police, and Hampden County Sheriff's Department, and the event went off without any incidents.



# Chicopee Public Library hosts programs for kids and families

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

On Tuesdays, April 2, 16 and 30, at 10:30 a.m. in the community room, the library will have a Little Kid Dance Party geared for kids five and under and their caregivers. Older kids are welcome, as well. There will be songs, dancing and big movement.

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

Sensory Play Saturday will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 6. Come let your babies socialize and explore sensory play! We will have our play area set up with some sensory activities and other play opportunities! For babies 0-24 months and their caregivers.

The Library's All Ages Playgroup will be held in the children's room each week on Saturday from 1-2 p.m. While

the children's room playspace is always available to kids and families visiting the library, during playgroup there are extra toys to explore. It is a great time for families to meet up and play.

On Monday, April 8, celebrate the Solar Eclipse at the library starting at 2 p.m. in the library's backyard. There will be eclipse glasses available to share, as well as music and a story.

Storytime will be held in the children's program room on Wednesday, April 10 at 10:30 a.m. and again at 4 p.m. We will be offering the same Storytime for both morning and afternoon sessions that day. Morning storytime will be held on Wednesday, April 24 at 10:30 a.m. There will be no afternoon storytime that day. Storytime is based loosely around the early childhood literacy skills: sing, talk, read, write and play. It is a great way for preschool aged kids to practice skills they will need for school. It is also fun for younger elementary aged students. Library staff lead a circle time where they read picture books and lead the children in song and movement, afterwards they do a craft or activity.

Little Movers will be held in the children's program room on Fridays, April 12

and 26 at 11 a.m. Babies crawling to 24 months and their caregivers are invited to join us for free play followed by circle time exploring songs, fingerplays and movement!

The library will host several fun events for April School Vacation Week (April 16-19).

On Tuesday April 16, a drop-in Craft will be available in the Children's Room between 2:30 and 4:30 p.m. Kids and families can make a spring bird craft with mixed media collage.

On Wednesday, April 17 at 10:30 a.m., Talking Hands Theatre will perform "Race Cars", a puppet show about a race between an electric car, a hybrid car and a gas-powered car. Who will win the mystery prize? No matter who wins, they'll all need to work together to spell out what it is! This show focuses on early literacy and is recommended for ages 2-6. This performance is supported by the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the MA Cultural Council, a state agency.

Also on Wednesday, April 17, kids and families can play Bingo for Books at 2:30 p.m. Listen to the numbers and letters, mark off your bingo card, and maybe

win a book as a prize! Library staff will host as many rounds as folks can play in an hour.

On Thursday, April 18, there will be a Pokemon Party in the Children's Room! Kids, teens and families are invited to stop by for activities and a scavenger hunt from 2:30 - 4 p.m.

The library will also host events for teens in April. Teen events are for middle and high school students, ages 11-18.

The Teen Anime Club will meet on Thursday, April 11 at 3:00 p.m. This month's theme is "Retro Day." Look back on the many decades of anime and enjoy some retro, 8-Bit style arts & crafts!

Teens are invited to a Throwback Thursday event on April 25 at 2:30 p.m. Childhood nostalgia is on offer with fun games, coloring, and the giant parachute.

The Nintendo Switch will be ready to play in the library's Teen Space after school on Tuesdays 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. in April. (Not including school vacation week). Teens can play Press A to Play, Super Smash Bros Ultimate, Warioware, and more!

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

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**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. HD24C0088CA**

**In the matter of:  
Adonis Geraldo Gomez  
CITATION ON PETITION  
TO CHANGE NAME**

A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by Adonis Geraldo Gomez of Chicopee, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Adonis Geraldo Gomez-Castro**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/11/2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

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

Date: March 14, 2024  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
03/22/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD24P0480EA**

**Estate of:  
Bruno Michael Bak  
Date of Death: 12/31/2023  
CITATION ON PETITION  
FOR FORMAL  
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Brenda Bak 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: **Brenda Bak of Chicopee, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/19/2024.**

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

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

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

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

Date: March 15, 2024  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
03/22/2024

**SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES UNDER G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A**  
Notice is hereby given by

Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on April 5, 2024, at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

**2003 Nissan Altima**  
VIN: 1N4AL11DX3C189381  
Richard Guertin  
19 Ogden St.  
Indian Orchard, MA 01151

**1999 Toyota Corolla**  
VIN: 2T1BR18E4XC231505  
Elizabeth Santiago-Bonilla  
110 Hampshire St.  
Holyoke, MA 01040

**1994 Mercury Sable**  
VIN: 1MELM50U2RA649841  
Ronald Banister  
66 S Prospect St  
Turners Falls, MA 01349

**2013 Nissan Sentra**  
VIN: 3N1AB7AP5DL772587  
Devondrick Ines  
473 Stafford St.  
Cherry Valley, MA 01611

**2010 Ford F250 Super Duty**  
VIN: 1FTSW2BRXAEEA27001  
Alexander Resnikoff  
124 Joel Dr.  
Hebron, CT 06248

**2013 Ford Fusion**  
VIN: 3FA6P0H76DR239913  
Lucas Santos Da Silva  
206 Pilgrim Ave. Apt 1  
Worcester, MA 01604

**2013 Nissan Sentra**  
VIN: 3N1AB7AP1DL562987  
Madison Boothe  
27 N Main St Apt 3  
Webster, MA 01570

**2005 Honda Accord**  
VIN: 1HGCM56845A177486  
Luis Cabera  
1907 Persimmon St  
Chesapeake, VA 23324

**2004 BMW X3**  
VIN: WBXPA73414WB21261  
Hector Ruiz  
18 Rockland Rd Ct  
Auburn, MA 01501

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

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

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

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

**2015 Nissan Rogue**  
VIN: 5N1AT2MV8FC760869  
Kendra Edwards  
81 Crescent Dr.  
Chicopee, MA 01020

03/22, 03/29, 04/05/24

**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. HD24P0490EA**

**Estate of:  
Renee Guylaine Lavine  
Date of Death: 08/21/2013  
CITATION ON PETITION  
FOR FORMAL  
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment has been filed by **Scott Lavine of Manchester, NH** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Scott Lavine of Manchester, NH** 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 04/04/2024.**

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

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

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

**tion if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

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

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

Date: March 07, 2024  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
03/22/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD24C0083CA**

**In the matter of:  
Zoey Madison Tillman  
CITATION ON PETITION  
TO CHANGE NAME**

A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by **Zoey Madison Tillman of Chicopee, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Zoey Edna Dowd**

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

**of 04/08/2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

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

Date: March 12, 2024  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
03/22/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Division  
Docket No. HD24P0491EA**

**Estate of:  
Arleen Marie Hamm  
Date of Death:  
December 14, 2023**

**INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**  
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Donald L. Hamm of Chicopee, MA.**

**Donald L. Hamm 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.  
03/22/2024

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

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**MISCELLANEOUS**

**4 YEAR OLD MYERS PLOW,** 3 sets of tires with rims 15". Call **413-967-7118** or **413-658-8513**.

**FREE REFRIGERATOR**  
21 cubic foot Amana refrigerator with ice maker. Ivory, good condition. Come and get it. Free. Clean photos on request. **508-344-4879**, West Brookfield.

**WANTED**

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USA. German. Japanese Collections & Small Items  
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**WANTED**

**WANTED TO BUY**

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**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**

**JUNK REMOVAL**

**ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL**  
Full house cleanouts, attics, basements, garages, pools, hot tubs, sheds, decks. Same day service. 8am-9pm. Credit cards accepted. Free estimates on phone.  
Call **Pete 413-433-0356**.

**A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL**  
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We load it & take it.  
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CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

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**CHAIR SEAT WEAVING** & refinishing - cane, fiber rush & splint - Classroom instructor, 20+ years experience. Call Walt at **(413)289-6670** for estimate.

**SERVICES**

**A B Hauling and Removal Service**

**2\*\*\*\*\*A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE\*\*\*\*\***  
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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**ELECTRICIAN**

**NEED AN ELECTRICIAN?** Look no further! **PJ's Electrical** offers fast and reliable electrical services for your home or business. Call now for a FREE estimate! **(413) 366-1703**

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

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Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers and Small Engine Repair.  
*Work done at your home.*  
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**A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE**  
Excavator Services  
Overgrown property?  
Extreme Brush Cutting!  
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal  
Lawn/Arborvite Installed  
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand  
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**DAVE MAZ LANDSCAPING**  
Lawn mowing, Spring thru Fall clean-ups, mulching, pruning. Holyoke, South Hadley, Chicopee, Hadley and Amherst. Call **413-536-3697**.

**MATT GUERTIN LANDSCAPING**  
Serving Wilbraham & Ludlow  
Weekly lawn care  
Landscape design and installation  
Hedge trimming, pruning, and mulching  
Now scheduling spring cleanup  
For more services visit **mattguertinlandscaping.com**  
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Insured - Commercial - Residential

**MASONRY**

**PAUL DOWD MASONRY**  
Design, build, restore, repair. All types of stone, brick, concrete, masonry. Free estimate. Call **978-257-8237**. **Pauldowd51@gmail.com**

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Interior only \$199.00 for average 12x16 room. Very neat, references, prompt service call **(508)867-2550**

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**HOT WATER PRESSURE WASHING** We use brushes and state of the art equipment. We remove grime and mold from homes, patios, fences, walkways, all decks, concrete & driveways. Senior Discounts. For free estimates call Bill **(413)519-9800**.

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**HELP WANTED**

**CLASS A DRIVER.** Triaxle dump trailer work. Local deliveries, minimum 40 hours, rate based on experience. **RB Enterprises, Ludlow, MA. 413-583-8393**.

**HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC.** Construction equipment and trucks. Experience required, full time. **RB Enterprises, Ludlow, MA. 413-583-8393**.

**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT**

The Town of Brookfield is seeking an experienced full-time Highway Superintendent. Full job description at **brookfieldma.us**. Please submit resume and cover letter to selectmen@brookfieldma.us. Application review will begin after March 28th. Resumes accepted until position is filled. Brookfield is an equal opportunity employer.

**SQUIER & CO.** is looking to hire an oil truck driver. \$40,000-\$60,000 full time. Squire will provide CDL school for the right candidate! Email: **squiereoil@verizon.net. Call 413-267-3184** or visit us at 5 Squier Ave., Monson, MA. Monday-Friday.

The Town of Huntington is seeking a part-time **HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** for 16 hours per week. Applicants must be proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook. Hours are flexible, but must be worked during the regular highway department hours of Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to assist the Highway Superintendent. Application and complete job description are available online at **www.huntingtonma.us** or by emailing **admin@huntingtonma.us**. Position is open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

## FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

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

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

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

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Circulation: 59,000

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**OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!**

# Chicopee Public Library announces April programming

CHICOPEE - Here are some of our upcoming library programs for the month of April.

It's the 20th Anniversary of the Chicopee Public Library on Front Street!

The Chicopee Public Library will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the opening of the Emily L. Partyka Central Library building on Front Street with two events during National Library Week in April.

An anniversary reception with Mayor Vieau will be held at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, April 8 in the lobby of the library. An exhibit of photos taken during the construction of the building will be featured in the upper level of the library, and refreshments will be served.

On Wednesday, April 9 at 6:30 p.m., the Chicopee Historical Society and the Friends of the Chicopee Public Library will present "The History of the Chicopee Public Library," a talk about the history of the library from its beginnings to today. The

talk will take place in the Library's Bazar Community Room on the lower level.

All library events are free and open to the public.

Tuesday, April 2 at 3-5 p.m. Assistive Technology Lab: If you or someone you know is blind or has low vision, come to the computer lab and use our computers to learn Fusion (JAWS and/or Zoom Text) software as well as how to access all the features on your personal devices. This class is taught by Chicopee resident Robert Baran, M.Ed.

Thursday, April 4 at 6:30 p.m. Join us for our monthly Writer's Group.

We invite all those who love to write to join us for a friendly, supportive place to work on your writing. This group shares writing goals, discusses writing processes and strategies, and sets the direction of future meetings. Stacie Klinowski, a local writing teacher, will help lead the group. This group is for adults.

Tuesday, April 16 at 6:30 p.m. Concert with Too Human

Enjoy a fun hour of jazz standards from the Great American Songbook and jazzy bluesy originals by Too Human - played and sung with heart and humor! They will be accompanied by Keala Kaumeheiwa on upright bass. This program is sponsored in part by a grant from the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Thursday, April 18 at 6 p.m. Needlecraft Circle Do you want a place to work on your needlecraft projects while you chat with other crafters? Join us in the Conference Room on the third Thursday of each month to work on your projects.

Thursday, April 25 at 6 p.m. Polish Paper Cutting (wycinanki) with Susan Urban. If you have small pointed scissors for cutting paper, please bring them with you. We'll provide the paper. Susan Urban

is a Polish Craft and Culture specialist. She will share some of her work as well as teach you how to make your own creation. Ages 10+ are welcome. Register at the Reference Desk, email us at [cpl@chicopeepubliclibrary.org](mailto:cpl@chicopeepubliclibrary.org) or call at 413-594-1800x3.

As always, the computer lab is available to work on genealogy on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. - Noon and 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. We are a FamilySearch Affiliate Library and have helpful databases such as Ancestry (Library edition), American Ancestors and HeritageQuest to help you in your search. We have also just added Newspapers.com to our genealogy resources available in the library.

If you need technology help, we offer one-on-one computer help on Mondays and Fridays at 2 p.m. or by appointment.

For more information, email or call the Reference Desk at [cpl@chicopeepubliclibrary.org](mailto:cpl@chicopeepubliclibrary.org) and 594-1800 x3.

# Classifieds

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## HELP WANTED

### TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

The Town of Brookfield is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Town Administrator. Responsibilities include professional, administrative, supervisory, and technical work. See job description at [brookfieldma.us](http://brookfieldma.us). Salary commensurate with experience. Current appropriation \$89,989.00 Please submit a resume and cover letter to [Selectmen@brookfieldma.us](mailto:Selectmen@brookfieldma.us). Open until filled. Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

### TOWN OF WILBRAHAM

**ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN/  
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HEAVY EQUIPMENT  
OPERATOR 1  
P/T EMERGENCY DISPATCHER  
P/T PUBLIC TV PROGRAM  
COORDINATOR**

The Town of Wilbraham is looking to fill several vacancies. For application and more information please visit [www.wilbraham-ma.gov](http://www.wilbraham-ma.gov). Open until filled. EOE

### TOWN OF WORTHINGTON POSITION OPENING

The Town of Worthington is seeking to fill the position of Assistant Treasurer/Tax Collector: 7-10 Hours a week, the position consists of assisting in the collection and posting of real estate, personal property and motor vehicle excise taxes. Assist in mailings and general office duties. Special requirement: Must meet the requirements to be bonded. Proficient in communicating with the public, computer skills, record keeping, and clerical skills. Please send a cover letter and resume to **Town of Worthington, Tax Collector's Office, P.O. Box 213, Worthington, MA 01098** by: April 11, 2024.  
*The Town of Worthington is an equal opportunity employer*

## REAL ESTATE

### FOR RENT



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# CFD and CPD take part in car safety event and resource fair



Photos courtesy of Chicopee Fire Department

CHICOPEE – On March 16, the fire department, police department, the Massachusetts Child Passenger Safety Program and the Massachusetts State Police teamed up for a car safety event and a resource fair at Stefanik Elementary School.

Some of the other vendors included the Chicopee Public Library, Viability Inc., Alianza, Tech Foundry, the Valley Opportunity Council, Chicopee Public Schools, Head Start, the Holyoke and Chicopee Community and Family Program and more.



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