

# Chicopee Register

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## \$250K allocated to Abbey Brook project

Chicopee will receive \$100K grant

By Dalton Zbierski  
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – Phase II of the Abbey Brook Revitalization Project received a major boost during the March 17 meeting of the City Council, as the board approved a \$250,000 allocation to support the effort.

Now that Chicopee has made this commitment, city officials say the Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration will provide a \$100,000 reimbursement.

DER is a division of the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game within the state's Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

"We had requested \$250,000 from the DER Priority Projects Fund in the current round of the program," City Planner Lee Pouliot said. "They awarded the city \$100,000 of that \$250,000 request. However, to advance the additional scope that started last year with a \$150,000 award for the project, we request to the mayor and City Council to match that \$100,000 with the additional \$150,000."

Abbey Brook is a 1.5-mile stream that flows through Szot Park before entering the Chicopee River.

Work has been ongoing for several years to clear several obstacles that obstructed the stream's flow.

Phase I of the project included the removal of Lower Bemis Pond Dam and the restoration of lower Abbey Brook in and around Szot Park, which was completed in August 2025.

The second phase will involve the replacement of the Front Street culvert and "day-lighting" the underground section of the brook.

Down the line, Phase III will entail the removal of the Upper Bemis Pond Dam and further restoration of Abbey Brook.

Pouliot detailed the progress that is being made as those involved place their focus on Phase II.

"We are going to be reviewing conceptual or 25% design alternatives this week with our design team. Then, after that review, Planning, Parks and the DPW will need to meet and determine which alternatives for each component of the project we're going to move forward with," Pouliot said.

Once that selection is made, he noted that the funding will help the city advance some initial additional work on the selected alternatives.

"Then, we'll be working

See **ABBEY BROOK** page 7



Chicopee Police having fun marching in the parade despite the dreary weather. TURLEY PHOTO BY KARA WALSH-VEY

## Chicopee marches on

Chicopee came out in full force despite downpours and wind to march in the 73rd Annual Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 22.

The contingent included the fire and police departments, Mayor John Vieau, the 2026 Chicopee Colleen Charlotte Fields and her Court Members Mila Dillard, Gracelyn Jarry and Shannon Calo-



This child was so excited to purchase a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle balloon.

See **PARADE** page 5

## School Committee receives update on Barry

By Brendan Rooney  
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – The Anna E. Barry Elementary School project is now entering the schematic design phase, which will allow the MSBA (Massachusetts School Building Authority) to develop a project scope and budget agreement that will eventually go before the City Council for approval.

Project Architect Bert Gardner revealed the decision during the March 18 School Committee meeting, where Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware and Mayor John Vieau, who also chairs the School Committee, were in attendance.

Following the current timeline, the schematic design submission is expected to be due on June 25.

"In this phase, we look to develop our robust schematic design submission," Gardner said. "The intent of this submission is to really define what the project scope is and to put a cost to it, so we have a cost estimator and the owner's project manager(OPM) who represents the project. So, they have an independent cost estimator, and the two of them will get our documents, they'll estimate it, and then we'll reconcile those to make sure that we've got an accurate estimate for what the project's going to cost."

See **BARRY** page 6



There was Polish merrymaking to be had in Chicopee as the community celebrated St. Joseph's Day. TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

## Polish flag-raising ceremony marks St. Joseph's Day

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE – Residents, community members, local and elected state officials and many more gathered inside City Hall Auditorium on March 19 to raise the Polish flag for 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.

Fr. John Koziol opened the ceremony with a blessing, noting the seventh and eighth students from St. Stanislaus School in attendance.

"St. Stan's has a special connection to the city of Chicopee, of course, and we come together to raise the Polish flag. St. Joseph is one of the primary pa-

trons of Poland, and so, the Polish people have a great devotion to St. Joseph, and so, that's why we raise the Polish flag on St. Joseph's Feast Day," Koziol said.

Mayor John Vieau said this day is his favorite day due to the colors red and maroon and being half-Polish himself, noting the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning is celebrating 25 years this year.

"If you have not had an opportunity to take a tour of the Polish Center, I encourage you to do so. Because you walk out of there feeling, 'Man, I'm proud to be Polish today!'" Vieau said.

Vieau later shared how St. Joseph is honored as "a model of humility, hard work and devotion to family, values that resonate deeply in the Polish culture and, also, right here in Chicopee's history."

"In Poland, St. Joseph

is a beloved patron, especially of workers and families, and his Feast Day has long been a time of gathering and gratitude. His example reminds us of the strength that's often quiet, found in responsibility, sacrifice and care for other people," Vieau said.

Michael Sugrue, president of Polish National Credit Union, said, "It's great to be Polish on a day like today," and shared that the credit union is celebrating 105 years in 2026.

"With deep roots the Polish have here in Chicopee as well with the Polish National Credit Union, they really built this city, so it's something to be very proud of—the Polish—and I'm very honored to be representing the credit union here today," Sugrue said.

State Sen. Jake Oliveira-Ludlow, said the Polish-American community

in Western Mass—specifically in Chicopee—and St. Joseph are tied together in this way.

"St. Joseph was not just a hard worker, but he was a carpenter, and when Mike came up here from Polish National and spoke about the Poles who built this city of Chicopee, you think of the carpenters. You think of the hard workers that built this city around us and that built Western Massachusetts," Oliveira said.

Another trait of the Poles, Oliveira added, was farming, a major reason many came to the United States.

"Massachusetts is a real special place, because unlike the Midwest where they have these large agri-businesses and farms that are owned by cor-

See **POLISH FLAG RAISING** page 7

## Preliminary FY27 losses announced

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
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CHICOPEE – Director of Budget & Finance John Miarecki announced preliminary FY27 losses during his budget presentation to the School Committee on March 18.

Miarecki explained how enrollment decreased by 141 foundation students from 7,198 in FY26 to 7,057 for FY27.

"It's important to understand, when you look at '27 and you see 7,057, that is not our enrollment. It is not our enrollment, it is our foundation enrollment, and so what that is made up of—yes, our students that are here, the 6,700 to 6,800 students—but it also captures students that might be at charter schools," Miarecki said. "So, there are state laws that say you have a student for 100%, obviously, when they're here. When they choose to go to a charter school, it goes down to 60%, to 40% and then next year after that and then you lose the funding and that funding moves on to the charter school."

The foundation budget, different from the required net school spending number, is the calculation of foundation enrollment in 13 different categories. From the amount of students, they are multiplied times the rates to get a number, then the columns are added together.

See **FY27 LOSSES** page 9

# IN THE CITY



Holyoke Caledonian Pipe Band taking a break between songs.



Rumbleseat Staff partaking in the festivities.

TURLEY PHOTO BY BRENDAN ROONEY

## St. Joseph's Day celebration at Rumbleseat

By **Brendan Rooney**  
Correspondent

CHICOPEE — Last Thursday, on March 19, the Rumbleseat Bar & Grille hosted a celebration feast for St. Joseph's Day, which is a holiday honoring Polish her-

itage and culture.

According to staff and ownership, the celebration started at 11 a.m. and continued until 1 a.m., which was the official closing time for the establishment.

The event was in partnership and sponsored by the

Polish Center of Discovery and Learning, for which a portion of the proceeds went toward the museum, Rumbleseat owner Billy Stetson shared.

Stetson also offered insight into how the process came together, citing that he wanted to create a way to honor both the Irish and Polish communities with both St. Patrick's Day and St. Joseph's falling right next to each other, along with the Holyoke Parade closing out the weekend.

"I feel tonight, and this week in particular, was a celebration of both the Irish and the Polish cultures here in Western Mass, and earlier this week we had a massive St. Patrick's Day Party, with Bo Fitzgerald and the YankCelt Band, to commemorate the St. Patrick's Day Holiday, but as a Polish-American, I also wanted to ensure and bring awareness to St. Joseph's Day with the same amount of respect," Stetson said. "So we held our celebration, by hosting a Polish style meal which was catered by Bernat's Deli, consisting of pierogies, kapusta, kielbasa, and golumpki's, which drew rave reviews, and then we thought to bridge the Irish connection by having the Mummies stop by as well,

which shaped up to be a once in a lifetime night for all, and we couldn't be happier with hoe everything turned out."

Discussing the importance of the Aqua String Band was Captain Austin Tilley, who shared this is the organization's 29th year visiting Western Mass, ahead of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day, which has now become a daily tradition.

"I mean St. Patrick's Day is the second biggest weekend of the year for us, with New Year's Day, being the first, but with this being our 29th year taking the trip up here to Western Mass, and this being our third year here at Rumbleseat, we felt this was a great way to start the weekend," Tilley said. "The crowds were definitely the highlight for us; they were electric, everyone was dancing, singing along, it was just a great time."

Also in attendance was the Holyoke Caldeonian Pipe Band, who performed after the Mummies left to continue on their Western Mass tour, which kept the party going.

Speaking on behalf of the level of community engagement present, shown by the standing room only atmosphere of the local establishment, was City Council Vice President/Ward 6 City Councilor Sam Shumsky, who stopped by.

"I think this is a great opportunity for the city of Chicopee to come together as one to celebrate the different cultures that make up the cities demographics, and I think the St. Patrick's Day Parade weekend is one of the best times of the year, for the cities morale, by bringing the values of Chicopee and Western Mass together," Shumsky said.

He also discussed the humanitarian efforts of Stetson and the leadership he provides on a daily basis.

"Billy(Stetson) is a 'Chicopee first guy' from all the wonderful things he does for youth sports, to the various



From left to right: Marlene Galica and Polish Center of Discovery and Learning Director of Business Development Olen Bielski III.

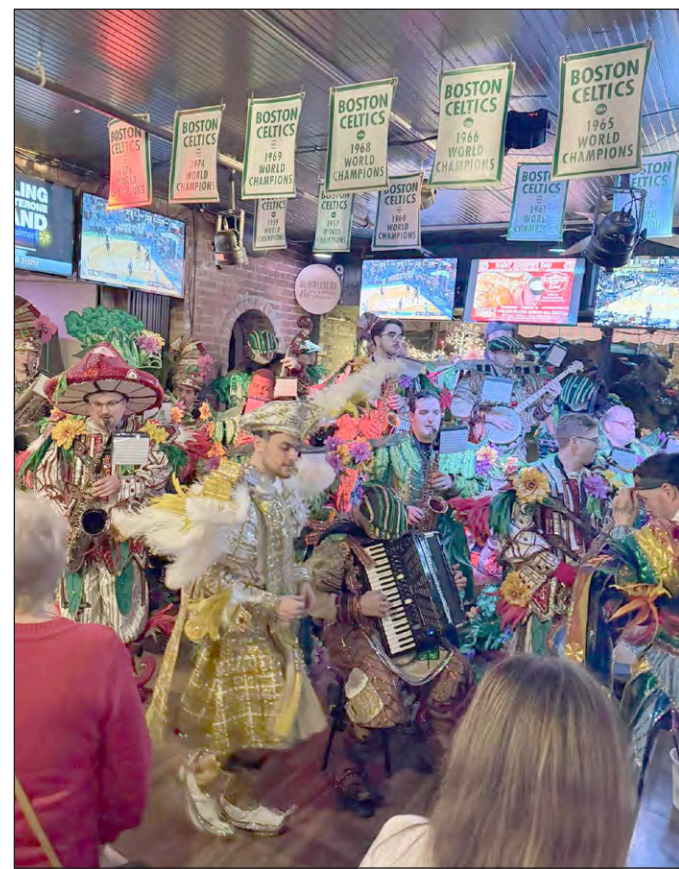


PHOTOS COURTESY OF BILLY STETSON

From left to right: Polish Miss Massachusetts 2026 Dominika Jasinska with Rumbleseat Owner Billy Stetson.

non-profits and organizations throughout the city, and not to mention the amount of events he hosts here at Rumbleseat speaks not only to his professionalism, but his character as

a business owner, and through it all he continues to honor and bring Chicopee's heritage and pride together, he's truly a special person," Shumsky said.



Live close-up shot of the Mummies performing.



Attendees posing with the Mummies.



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# IN THE CITY

## Several City Hall positions discussed by City Council

*The board addressed roles such as auditor, administrative asst. and clerk*

By Dalton Zbierski  
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – The City Council tackled several discussions regarding City Hall positions during its meeting on March 17.

While multiple councilors were away that evening, those in attendance supported the city workers, emphasizing the value of their roles.

The first item was sent to the Ordinance Committee

for further discussion, in line with standard procedure.

That item seeks to extend the work week for the administrative assistant and clerk positions to 40 hours. If it passes through committee and is eventually approved by the City Council, both positions will get raises on April 13.

The administrative assistant would be in line to make \$67,233 each year, while the clerk would be paid an annual salary of \$45,622.

“City Council President Frank Laflamme approached me and had suggested that his office was really interested in going to a 40-hour work week. I said, ‘Abso-

lutely.’ Most employees in the city are at 40 hours, and this would be the adjustment to the 40-hour work week,” Mayor John Vieau said.

Laflamme thanked Vieau for acting on behalf of the City Council and the city employees. He made it clear that these workers needed more hours to complete their jobs thoroughly.

“Our staff in that office work extra hours and time, and there’s a lot of things they need to do, and they don’t have the time to do it,” Laflamme said. “When I go in the office, and a lot of us do go in the office, they’re running around all the time. I tell them, ‘We need to get you

guys to relax a little bit too and be in a comfortable situation working,’ so that’s why this was brought forward.”

Laflamme also offered an update, noting that an administrative assistant is currently away for a month, so a temporary worker has been hired to fill the void. That individual connected with the city through the Valley Opportunity Council.

“We did bring someone into our office part-time for one month to take over while our administrative assistant is going to be out,” Laflamme said. “So, this gentleman will be answering phones for us for a month... He’s excited to help us.”

Later in the meeting, the council unanimously approved a new process for hiring a city auditor.

Longtime City Auditor Sharyn Riley recently retired after working for the city for approximately four decades. With the position open, the council decided now is a good time to modernize the steps.

Little discussion was held regarding this item, but the hiring process goes as follows.

First, the job description must be approved by City Council.

Then, the Department of Human Resources will post the position internally and collect resumes.

Next, all resumes sent to the City Council Administrative Assistant will be given to the members of City Council.

After that, City Councilors will recommend candidates for interviews with the City Council Administrative Assistant.

The fifth step involves the first round of interviews, in which the candidate pool will be narrowed to three.

If a second round of interviews is necessary, this will occur in a special session of City Council.

Lastly, the councilors will interview the candidates at the special meeting and make a vote.

## Chicopee DPW is getting two brand new trucks

By Dalton Zbierski  
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – The Department of Public Works made out well during the March 17 meeting of the City Council, as the board appropriated funding for two brand new trucks.

First, Mayor John Vieau proposed an allocation of \$77,000 to purchase a 2026 Ford F350 Crew Cab.

“In fleet of forestry, a 2008 F250 was taken off the road. It’s no longer repairable, and they’re replacing it with a 2026 Ford F350 Crew Cab. This is the quote we have,” Vieau said.

DPW Superintendent Elizabeth Batista was on hand to answer questions and provide more details about the need for the new vehicle.

“This is a very important piece of equipment considering that in that one department it is the only non-CDL-licensed vehicle. So, when we’re dealing with a shortage

of CDL licenses, this is very helpful to continue with operations,” Batista said.

CDL, or a Commercial Driver’s License, is required in the United States to drive heavy, large or potentially dangerous equipment.

It was made clear during last Tuesday’s meeting that the DPW is running low on employees who have a CDL, which makes this new Ford even more important.

“[This truck] will allow us to tow our equipment to conduct tree maintenance. This is a very vital piece of equipment for the department,” Batista added.

The second truck coming to the DPW is also a heavy-duty Ford. Vieau explained.

“We had actual 2009 F350 pickup truck that was in an accident and totaled by the insurance company,” Vieau said. “The city did receive \$18,047 in compensation for the loss to put toward the replacement of the vehicle.

The new quote is \$65,700, with the difference being the \$47,652.”

Ward 4 Councilor George Balakier stressed the need to approve the request from the DPW.

“This is another important vehicle for maintenance and road plowing, so this is needed by the department in order to keep us at full strength,” Balakier said.

Ward 8 Councilor Doug Girouard agreed. He complimented Batista and her team on a job well done, especially after a tough winter.

“As we all know, the DPW is a very, very busy department,” Girouard said. “I’m happy that, as we go along here, we update our fleet so that we can continue doing the good work the DPW does.”

Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello also took time to praise the department. She is pleased to see the old trucks getting replaced and expressed gratitude for Batista’s avail-

ability at the meeting.

“I appreciate the fact that Superintendent Batista is here to explain the replacement of these two trucks. One was from 2009; the other was from 2008. So, thank you for making sure the vehicles are updated and that we’re safe,” Costello said.

City Council President/Councilor-at-Large Frank Laflamme also took a turn to speak, which was approved by the board. He said he talked to Batista about the need for the new trucks before the meeting and also emphasized the importance of having vehicles people without CDLs can drive.

“Although they have other trucks, this one is an important truck because it does not require a CDL. That’s why they really need this one; so that people without [a CDL license] can move equipment around. This one’s very important to get done this evening,” Laflamme said.

## Metro Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram to Host “Main Street Finds” Community Event

CHICOPEE - Metro Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram will host Main Street Finds, a community-focused automotive showcase, on Saturday, March 28 from 9 a.m. to Noon.

The event invites community members and automotive enthusiasts to bring and share unique pieces of automotive history, including vintage memorabilia, dealership items, racing gear, and rare advertisements.

Unlike traditional car shows, Main Street Finds is centered on storytelling

and connection. There are no judges or trophies-just an opportunity for attendees to showcase meaningful items and connect with others who share a passion for automotive culture.

Event Details: Metro Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram; Saturday, March 28, 2026 9 a.m. to Noon.

The community is encouraged to attend or participate by bringing an item with a story to share.

For more information, visit Metro Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram’s social media pages.

## Annual Scholarship Family Game & Card Party

CHICOPEE - Franco-American Womens’ Association is sponsoring their Annual Family Game & Card Party on Thursday, April 9, at 6 p.m.

It is being held in the Church Hall of Ste Rose de Lima Church, Grattan Street, Chicopee.

Plan an evening out with your friends and family playing cards and games. Sandwiches, beverages, and desserts are available or you can bring your own snacks. Lots of raffle prizes, including cash, will be given away.

We have been active in the area for over 70 years and we are also looking for new members who are Women of Franco-American Heritage. Members

are from Chicopee and surrounding cities. We meet once a month and have this one fundraiser every year. Our mission is to provide scholarships for higher education to members’ children and grandchildren.

In 2025 through the generosity of our patrons and donors, we awarded ten \$500 scholarships to children and grandchildren of our members.

For donations to the fund or to the raffle prize table, please contact Christine at 413-530-6113 by Tuesday, March 31 to have your name or business included on the Prize List. Christine can also provide information about becoming a member.

## Valley Opportunity Council seeking senior volunteers for senior companion program

*Hosting Open House on March 30*

Funding Secured Through AmeriCorps Seniors to Support Valley Opportunity Council’s Senior Companion Program, Helping Seniors Stay Connected and Independent

CHICOPEE - Valley Opportunity Council’s (VOC) Senior Companion Program (SCP) is seeking new volunteers to serve in Chicopee, Holyoke, and surrounding cities as the program plans for expansion. For those interested in learning more about the program and volunteering, an Open House will be held on Monday, March 30, 2026 from 2 to 4 pm, 516 Chicopee Street, Chicopee, featuring refreshments and information. Current SCP volunteers will also be present to answer questions.

The Senior Companion Program has secured funding through AmeriCorps Seniors to help local seniors stay connected, independent, and engaged in their communities, and allow for opportunities for expansion to surrounding communities outside of Chicopee and Holyoke.

The SCP pairs volunteers ages 55-plus with older adults who need companionship. Senior Companion Volunteers provide social connection and friendly visiting; offer transportation and help with errands such as grocery

shopping or medical appointments; and deliver caregiver respite, giving family members a needed break. Each volunteer experience is unique, based on a carefully created one-on-one match.

Individuals who are interested in volunteering should contact Andrea Holden, Director of the Senior Companion Program, at AHolden@valleyopp.com or (413) 612-0229.

Senior Companion Volunteers serve a minimum of 5 hours per week, and income-eligible volunteers receive a tax-free stipend (\$4/hour), mileage reimbursement, training, insurance, and appreciation events. Senior Companions can earn \$350+ per month without decreasing any assistance. You will make friends and help others in Hampden County.

According to Holden, “Senior Companions make an incredible difference in people’s lives - and in their own. These supports help older adults live independently, reduce loneliness, and strengthen ties within the community. With new initiatives rolling out, it’s the perfect time for older adults to join the SCP Volunteer team.”

In addition to volunteers, VOC is seeking new partnerships with other non-profit organizations or municipal agencies that support seniors in living independently. Organizations in Hampden

County interested in learning more about VOC’s Senior Companion Program should contact Holden, AHolden@valleyopp.com or (413) 612-0229.

VOC’s Senior Companion Program also plans to host Open Houses in April and June.

Valley Opportunity Council, Inc. (VOC) is dedicated to eliminating poverty

by providing the opportunity for our low- and moderate-income neighbors, families, and friends in the Greater Hampden County area to achieve greater independence and a higher quality of life. VOC has proudly operated the Senior Companion Program (SCP) with a grant from AmeriCorps Seniors since 1988.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF JOEL RODOWICZ

Court members Shannon Caloon and Mila Dillard, 2026 Chicopee Colleen Charlotte Fields and court member Gracelyn Jarry.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOEL RODOWICZ

City Council Vice President/Ward 6 City Councilor Sam Shumsky holding granddaughter of 2026 Parade Marshal Bernie St. George as the three smile for a group photo.



The Chicopee sign as the contingent for the city makes its entrance.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY KARA WALSH-VEY



Mayor John Vieau waves to the camera.



Troop 1849 also marched in the parade.



The Chicopee Comprehensive High School Marching Band marches in the parade.



Members of the Chicopee High School Marching Band performing during the parade.



The mummers are always a fan favorite.



Melha Shriners sent in the clowns



2026 Chicopee St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee President Alyson Sliwa marched.

**PARADE** from page 1  
on, Troop 1849, the Chicopee High School and Chicopee Comprehensive High School Marching Bands, the Chicopee St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee and past Colleens, members of the City Council and School Committee and more.

This year's Parade Marshal was Bernie St. George, the 2026 Parade Committee President is Alyson Sliwa, Haley Jarvis received the Woods Award and the Knights of Columbus Elder Council 69 and Home Association received the Atkinson Award.



The Chicopee Fire Department march in the parade.



Chicopee Atkinson Award Winner Knights of Columbus Elder Council 69 and Home Association.



A Chicopee police officer mugs for the camera.



Past Chicopee Colleens were also featured in the parade.



The Polish Center of Discovery & Learning was also featured in the parade.

# IN THE CITY

## Elks Lodge presents \$3,500 donation to Lorraine's



SUBMITTED PHOTO:

Just recently, the Chicopee Elks Lodge #1849 were able to donate \$3,500 to Lorraine's Soup Kitchen which was offered through our Gratitude Grant from Grand Lodge, presented by our Exalted Ruler Hughes Tardif and Lodge Secretary Mary Regan.

## Hampden Charter School of Science outpaces state SAT averages

*The scores stand out amidst overall flat scores across the state*

CHICOPEE - Hampden Charter School of Science (HCSS), located in Chicopee, is proud to announce its one of only 21 schools in Massachusetts that beat the state SAT average while serving a majority of high needs students.

HCSS also is one of only eight schools that beat the state SAT state average while serving a majority Black, Hispanic, and Latino population, making the school stand out among hundreds of other schools in the state that have struggled to bounce back post-pandemic. Recent SAT data released by the Department of Ele-

mentary and Secondary Education for the 2024-2025 academic year shows Massachusetts students scored much higher than the national average (Massachusetts students scored an average of 1127, compared to the national average of 1024). Students at HCSS scored an average of 1153.

"I am incredibly proud to see this achievement for our students at Hampden Charter School of Science," said Dr. Mehmet Cogal, HCSS Chief Academic Officer. "SAT scores aren't just numbers, they are a reflection of the Hampden community's commitment to academic rigor and proof that academic excellence opens doors to collegiate opportunities."

SAT scores provide a metric for colleges to evaluate whether students are

ready for college, and often serve as a key component for admissions or merit based scholarships. Recent research found a correlation between higher SAT scores and college success, particularly among high needs students.

Ranked as the top performing public high school in the Springfield area, HCSS prides itself on providing a college preparatory-focused education to the youth of every race and ethnic group in Western Massachusetts in a safe, academically challenging, and caring educational environment.

The vision of HCSS is to increase the rate of college entry for students by providing them with rigorous academic opportunities that are designed for college preparation.

## 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.

## BARRY SCHOOL from page 1

Gardner's presentation revealed that, according to the current timeline, the construction and closeout are set to take place between December 2027 and July 2030.

Gardner also shared that the MSBA recently approved the project last month on Feb. 25. And to note, the Barry School Commission also met earlier this month on March 12 to discuss similar details and explore various options, and at this moment, a video series of behind-the-scenes and a closer look at the project has been posted and shared on social media.

Gardner shared that the B3 option, which has been deemed as the preferred choice by the commission and one he cited as "the least expensive option," has a current estimated construction cost of approximately \$99.4 million, and after additional 'soft costs', which include the construction, design fees, testing, furniture, and technology package, the estimated total project cost is now in the range of \$124.3 million, based on results yielded from the preliminary design schematic report.

He added that he and his team are working with the School Department to reduce the total cost by looking at the overall program and seeing if they can identify ways to shrink the school without impacting the education. However, he stressed that the estimated range of costs for projects not covered by the MSBA grant results in a range of \$12 million, which consists of the roundabout construction, along with the demolition costs of the old building at Garrity Grove.

He then stressed to the committee that the city could potentially look towards alternative grant sources to help alleviate costs.

Gardner then shifted focus to reveal that a bright spot, a tentative grand opening, is currently set for the fall of

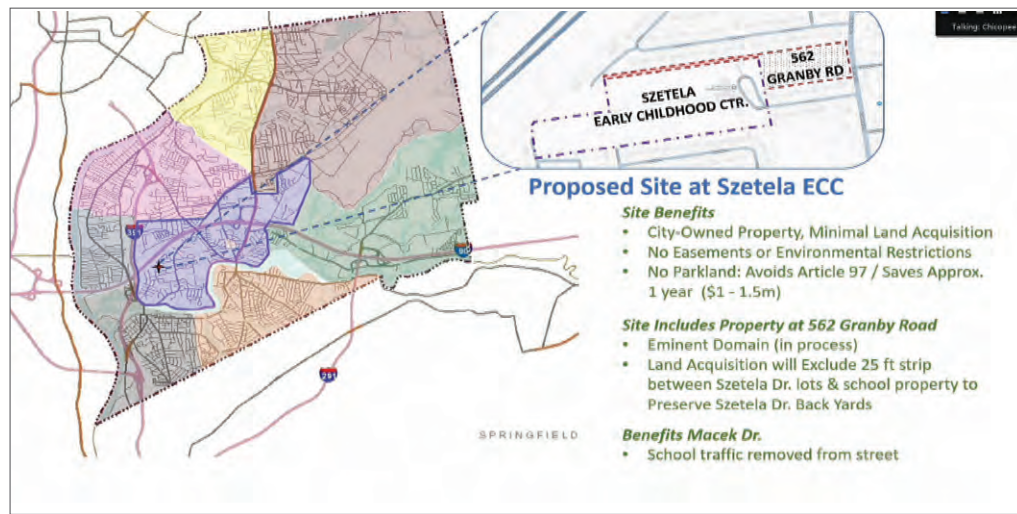


PHOTO COURTESY OF CHICOPEE TV

### Proposed Site at Szetela.

2030, which would be close to 20 months of construction.

"This date will allow the School Department the full summer to get classrooms set up and ready, and allow maintenance to be trained on the new systems in the building," Gardner said.

In addition, as previously reported, it was noted that placing the new building at the Szetela site wouldn't displace any families from their homes, along with the confirmation that the site was also deemed large enough to support the development of a new school project. Current benefits of the location consist of the property already being considered city-owned—so clear avoidance of Article 97 Impacts—no additional easements or additional environmental restrictions.

Gardner also revealed that for the proposed site at Szetela, the eminent domain process of acquiring 562 Granby Road has begun, which would then create a school access drive into the property without impacting any of the residential neighborhoods on either side of the school.

"In my mind, one of the big benefits is that right now, Macek Drive has a lot of school traffic and backup on it, and this will solve that problem, and we won't be burdening any of the other side streets with traffic for the school, either," Gardner said.

Gardner also discussed some of the site strategies that are being passed around.

"I can tell you that through our meetings with the district, the shape of the school is constantly being worked on, with the idea being a compact and energy-efficient building, so that's how the body orientation came to be," Gardner said.

He also noted that the proposed school is positioned in an open field west of the existing Szetela School, and that the parking lot will separate the proposed building from the existing school. In addition, the classroom wings will be organized along an east-west axis to maximize passive solar benefits, and lastly, the central location also allows landscape buffers between school grounds and abutting neighborhoods.

Gardner also noted that the district looks to ensure that the new school will come equipped with a proper HVAC system.

"We're currently pursuing a geothermal field with ground source heat pumps; it's the most efficient system that we can use," Gardner said.

Pros for this type of heating will include the lowest operational costs, highest energy performance, best life cycle for operational costs, and lowest on-site emissions implications, with everything

being electric.

Cons are that this option has the highest upfront and installation costs, which have to be purchased before selective incentives or rebates.

### Szetela will stay open; the project is done in phasing

Gardner also revealed to the committee that the new building will be built behind Szetela, meaning that the current preschool will continue to operate, even while construction of the new school takes place.

He then talked about the concept of the project being handled in phases.

Phase One will consist of establishing a construction entrance to isolate the new school from Szetela and then

work on the new school will begin.

"In Phase Two, we would look at connecting our entrance road, working on the new parking lot, and drop-off at Szetela, and then finishing up we're going to relocate the ballfield at Szetela, now to the far west end of the site. Where it narrows on the left, there's a multi-purpose recreational field," Gardner said. "The last phase is the construction of the roundabout, and at the last meeting, we proposed to the School Building Commission at their last meeting that we considered taking that out of the school project, and letting it be pursued as an independent city project because it won't be covered by the MSBA."

Gardner said the latest model of the project is focusing on pedestrian safety as the highest value.

"We are currently looking at and proposing to have new sidewalks between Edgewood Avenue and Simonich Street to the north and Sunflower Avenue to the south. There will also be new high-visibility crosswalks at the school entrance and a pedestrian connection to the Daniel Drive neighborhood," Gardner said.

Gardner's presentation also provided a look at staff traffic, bus traffic and parent traffic with separate en-

trances for pre-K and K-5 students for both Szetela and the new Barry, sharing the property, being highlighted. He also noted that the project calls for separate playgrounds for pre-K and kindergarten and grades one through five, universal design for inclusion of all students; quiet, less active outdoor spaces; outdoor classrooms, a youth baseball field and a multi-use field.

### Next Steps

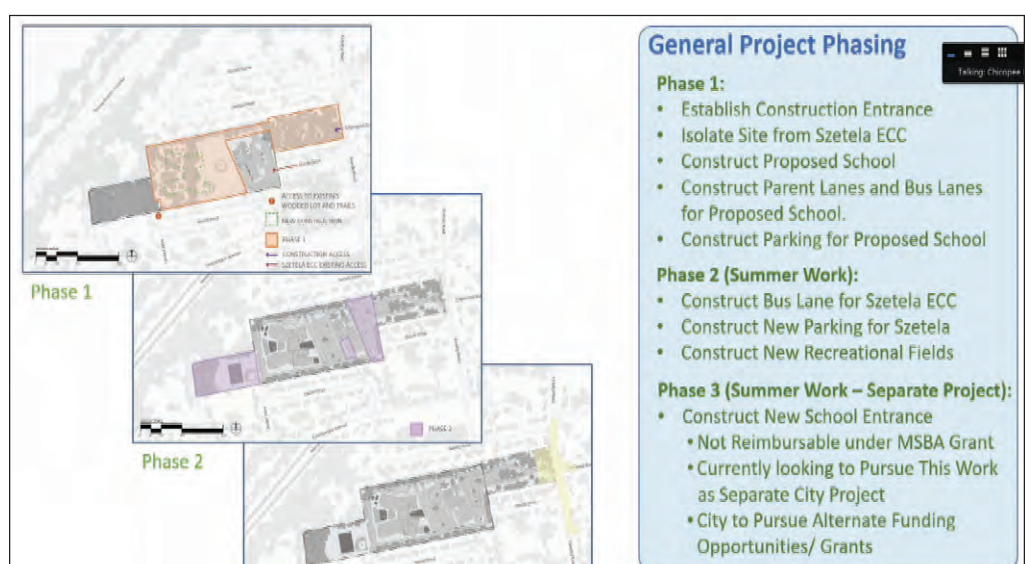
Gardner closed his presentation by sharing key dates, such as the end of this phase being June 25, which is the submission of the schematic design is expected to be due on. From there, the MSBA will then create a project scope and budget agreement, currently set for Aug. 25, and will then be pitched to the City Council in the pursuit of seeking funding for the project, slated to transpire later this fall.

"From there, we would then move into detailed design, meaning we would submit our construction documents to the MSBA at 60% and 90%, each of which also has an independent cost estimate to ensure we are staying in your budget, and then we open the project up to bid," Gardner said.

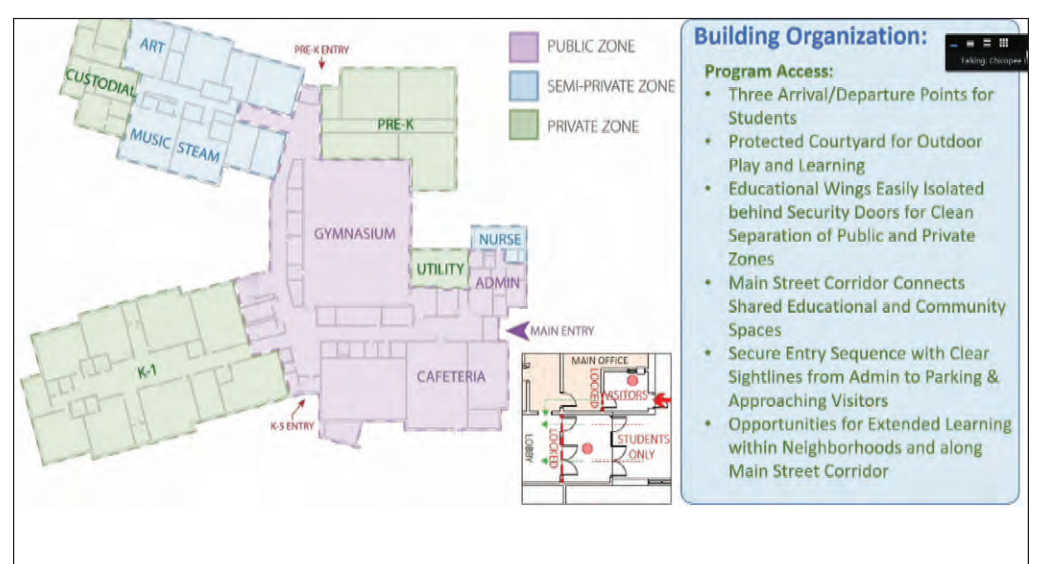
The expected move-in date for students is tentatively set for Fall 2030.



Site Strategies.



Phasing options and breakdown.



Building Organization.

# IN THE CITY

## PNCU hosting community holding collection drive for Alianza

CHICOPEE - PNCU is proud to host a community collection drive in support of Alianza, an organization dedicated to helping survivors of domestic violence. The drive will take place now through April 30, 2026, with donations being accepted at PNCU's Front Street Branch, located at 923 Front Street in

Chicopee.

Community members are encouraged to donate new, unused items from Alianza's wish list. Requested items include personal care products, household essentials, baby items, and new clothing for women and children. Gift cards to stores such as Walmart, Target, CVS, and

local grocery stores are also welcomed. For health and safety reasons, Alianza asks that all donated items be new and unopened.

As a thank-you for supporting the drive, anyone who donates will be entered into a raffle to win a gift basket. Participants simply need to fill out a raffle ticket with their name

and phone number when dropping off their donation.

"Supporting organizations like Alianza is an important part of our commitment to the community," said Michael Sugrue, President of Polish National Credit Union. "We encourage our members and neighbors to participate in the drive and help provide

essential items that will support individuals and families during difficult times."

PNCU remains committed to supporting organizations that strengthen and uplift the local community. By partnering with Alianza, PNCU hopes to help provide essential items that support individuals and families as

they transition to safety and stability.

Donations can be dropped off during normal business hours at the PNCU Front Street Branch through April 30, 2026. For additional information about the collection drive, please contact Shane Hall at (413) 206-0623 or shall@pncu.com.



The Polish flag is unveiled by students from St. Stanislaus School and Polish Miss Massachusetts 2026 Dominika Jasinska.



Polish Miss Massachusetts 2026 Dominika Jasinska took photos with students from St. Stanislaus School after the ceremony.

### POLISH FLAG RAISING from page 1

porations, here in Western Massachusetts, here in New England, we still have many family-run farms. Many of them are multi-generational Americans," Oliveira said.

He added the State Senate's legislative session will take up a Farm Bill soon.

"We understand that without farms, we don't have food. Without food, we cannot live and farmers face an extraordinarily amount of challenges up and down the valley. From tariffs that impacted them to things like droughts and extreme weather and flooding. All of those things make it challenging to run those family farms up and down the valley. So, we'll be doing some work in the legislature to uplift them and support them this session. Many of them are Polish-owned," Oliveira said.

Vieau presented the mayor's proclamation to City Assessor Victor Anop, who expressed pride in the city's Polish roots.

"All of us are so proud of our Polish heritage. The original Poles who came here, many of them were probably heading to Chicago, but they got lucky they came to Chicopee," Anop said. "Happy St. Joseph's Day!"

After two musical performances of the Polish National Anthem and God Bless America, the Polish flag was unveiled by Polish Miss Massachusetts 2026 Dominika Jasinska and two students from St. Stanislaus School.

Jasinska was honored to unveil the flag with the students and see them at the ceremony.

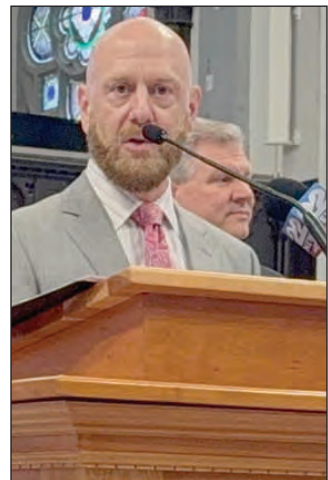
"Just like Fr. John said, they represent why we're here," Jasinska said. "It doesn't matter what age you are, you can always connect on our heritage and our val-



Fr. John Koziol of St. Stanislaus Parish opens the ceremony with a blessing.



Olen Bielski III, the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning director of Business Development, reflects on 25 years for the museum in 2026."



Michael Sugrue, president of Polish National Credit Union, reflects on the city's Polish roots, including the credit union's

ues, our morals and beliefs."

Reflecting on her role as Polish Miss Massachusetts 2026, Jasinska said there's a lot more to it.

"It really gave me something to think about and I hope to represent my community and what we stand for and inspire the younger people to be proud of who they are, be proud of their heritage and carry on their traditions as well," Jasinska said.

Her message was this. "I wanted to wish everyone in Chicopee a Happy Feast of St. Joseph's and



State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) talks about Polish pride and heritage.

just let them know, be proud of who you are, be proud of your heritage, remember where you came from and always carry that in your heart and pass it down to the next generation so they remember where it all started and where it all came from," Jasinska said. "It's an amazing culture that we have and it's an amazing Polish community that we have here in Chicopee. It could almost be called Little Poland with how much we have. Stay proud of your heritage and culture and never forget where you came from."



State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) and Polish Miss Massachusetts 2026 Dominika Jasinska joined local musicians and attendees for a group photo.



It was a day of red and celebrating Polish pride in Chicopee.

### ABBEE BROOK from page 1

with DER, the Mayor's Office and City Council to figure out how we're going to fund the design development to get to an actual bid package," Pouliot said.

All the councilors who were present at the meeting approved the appropriation and several voiced praise for Pouliot's commitment to the project.

"It's imperative that this gets done, so I commend Lee

for getting this grant to help offset some of the cost to the city and taxpayers and look forward to seeing this project through completion," Vice President/Ward 6 Councilor Sam Shumsky said.

Shumsky spoke on the different wires that run underground in this area, which makes the project even more critical.

Ward 4 Councilor George Balakier agreed.

"This is an enormous project with ramifications. Unless this is done proper-

ly, we could potentially have some big issues, which we don't want," Balakier said. "So, it's great to have a grant for \$100,000. Again, we're looking for additional monies. This will take a while, but I'm sure that this will be done as quickly as it can be."

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# SPORTS

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## Perfect day for a road race: Holyoke runs 49<sup>th</sup> holiday 10K

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – A warm and hot day is not ideal for running long distances, but give a harrier a 40-50-degree day, and it's the perfect environment make great time.

Louis Serafini, of Cambridge, experienced that as he completed a sub-30-minute 10K in the 49<sup>th</sup> running of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Road Race last Saturday afternoon. Serafini completed the hilly course throughout downtown Holyoke in 29:45. He had a great pace going, averaging 4:47 a mile with thousands of people cheering him on as he completed the course 50 seconds ahead of the runner-up.

Yankarlos Diaz was the second-place finisher. He comes from Manchester, CT. He completed the 6.3-mile course in just 30:35.

This year's top female finisher was Rachel Schilkowsky. She comes from Providence, RI and placed 12<sup>th</sup> overall. She completed the course at 34:03, winning the race for the very first time.

Among local finisher, Monson's Matt Provost came in at 34:15. He had a pace of about 5:30 per mile.

According to the results provided by Presidential Timing, which took over the timing of the race last year, nearly 4,900 runners, male, female, and many children and teenagers, completed the 10K race.

In addition to the ideal temperature for running, the day was sun-splashed and beautiful, making for a great setting for the running of the



The runners are off in the 49<sup>th</sup> running of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Road Race.

race, which had more than 6,200 runners signed up.

The race included multiple waves of competitors, and also included a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem by a member of the Holyoke Grand Colleen Court, Bridie Bowler.

Crews in the city did an excellent job preparing for the race, getting the course prepared despite a lot of snowfall during the past couple of months.

While there were plenty of local runners, race results showed individual participants from all over New England, New York, and New Jersey. There were even some international runners.

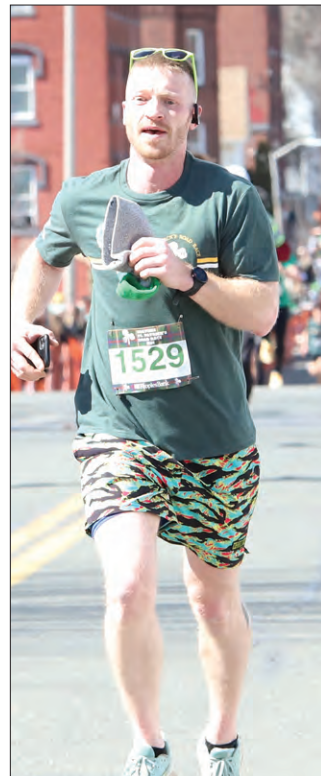
Last Saturday's even included a fun run for children and a walk as well that have been traditions in recent years. Prior to the race, there were musical performances and other entertainment downtown.



Tyler Leahy heads for the finish line.



Chicopee's Nick Williams gets in full stride near the end.



Jesse Geary completes the course.



Alexander Celetti is nearing the finish.



Garret Theberge, of Chicopee hustles toward the end.

## Pair represents Chicopee in Senior All-Star Game



Dominic Garcia seeks to enter the arc.

SPRINGFIELD – Last Friday night, the Senior All-Star Games took place at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. Holyoke was represented in one of the matchups by Brody Fay, who notched 1,000 career points this season. Dominic Garcia represented Chicopee High School.



Dominic Garcia takes the side approach to shoot.



Brody Fay starts his way down the court.



Brody Fay makes a rush to the hoop.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

## Bay State Games announces new leadership changes

BOSTON – Bay State Games has announced new staff appointments and board leadership changes leading into the 2026 Summer Games.

Alanis Tirabassi has been promoted to deputy executive director. Alanis has been with Bay State Games since 2017, when she began as an intern while attending Salem State University. She was hired full-time as sports coordinator in 2020 and later promoted to director of operations before her recent promotion.

She joins Kevin Cummings, who has been with the Bay State Games since 1984 and has served as executive director since 1999, as part of the organization's two-person full-time staff.

In addition to her role with Bay State Games, Tirabassi serves as a committee chairperson for the National Congress of State Games. She also works as a consultant for Dave McGillivray Sports Enterprises and Conventures Events, Communications & Marketing.

After more than 22 years as chair of the Bay State Games Board of Directors, Phil Gloudemans will step down this spring. Under his leadership, Bay State Games has grown into one of the largest multi-sport nonprofit organizations in New England. He joined the Board of Directors in 1987 and he will continue to serve on the board and its executive committee.

Gloudemans is the associate director of media rela-

tions at Boston College. Prior to his BC position, he held senior media relations roles at Brown University and Boston University, as well as with three international public relations firms in Boston.

The Board of Directors has elected Dan Adams of Polsinelli PC Law Firm in Boston as its new board chair. Adams has served on the Bay State Games board for nearly 20 years and is head of sports and entertainment at Polsinelli PC. He holds a bachelor's degree from Boston College, a law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and an MBA from Harvard University.

In addition to his volunteer work with Bay State Games, Adams serves on the Board of Directors of the East Greenbush Miracle League. His experience with state games spans decades, including as a three-time participant in the Empire State Summer Games of New York.

Registration for the 2026 Bay State Summer Games will begin in early March. The 2026 Summer Games will feature events from May 9 through July 25 across 30 different sports throughout eastern and central Massachusetts.

Players from Western and Central Massachusetts schools have consistently participated in the Bay State Games during the summer, especially in sports like soccer, field hockey, and volleyball.

# 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 Tuesday March 31 at 10:30 a.m. Terrific Twos is for two- year-olds and their caregivers. This program 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.

**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.

### 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.

### 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)

### April

**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 April 2026.

**Storytime** will be held on Thursdays, April 2, 16 and 30 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 2-3 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. No registration required.

### Build with LEGO

On Thursday, April 2 at 4 p.m. We bring the LEGOs, you bring the ideas! Unstructured building time for kids ages 6 and up, no registration required.

The Holyoke Chicopee CFCE will facilitate a School Readiness Playgroup on Thursdays from 4 to 5 p.m., April 2 - May 7. Children ages 3-5 are invited to meet new friends and practice school readiness skills with a kit from the Boston Children's Museum.

**Sensory Play** Saturday will be held on Saturday, April 4 at 9:30 a.m. Come let your babies socialize and ex-

lore 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, no registration required.

**Saturday Playgroup** will be held on Saturdays at 1 p.m. in April. 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, no registration required. No playgroup on April 25. Come to a Mini Circus Show instead!

**Monday Crafts** will be held on April 6, 13 and 27 at 4 p.m. Different projects each week. April 27 will be a rock painting project, outside weather permitting.

**Terrific Twos** will be held on Tuesdays, April 14 and 28 at 10:30 a.m. Terrific Twos is for two- year-olds and their caregivers. This program 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 one 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. No registration required.

The Kids Room Sewing Club will meet on Wednesday, April 15, 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, no registration required.

The library Homeschool Meetup will be on Friday, April 17 at 11 a.m. This group meets once a month September - June for home-

schooling families with kids of all ages to hang out, do activities and learn together. This month we're celebrating Poetry Month. Bring a poem in your pocket to share with the group.

### April School Vacation Week

The library will be celebrating 30 years of Pokémon with a Pokémon Party on Tuesday, April 21 at 3 p.m.! There will be exciting, Pokémon-themed activities for all ages, and everyone is welcome to stop by at any point during the event. Can't make it to the party, or just want even more Pokémon? There will be a special scavenger hunt around the Children's Room all week long!

The library will host a Big Kid Dance Party on Wednesday, April 22 at 10:30 am. A bit like our regularly scheduled Little Kid Dance Party, but geared specifically towards elementary age kids. We'll sing and dance and get out the rhythm sticks. Caregivers and younger kids are welcome, no registration required.

The library will host a Mess-tival on Wednesday, April 22 at 2:30 p.m. Join us outside for a messy party! We will be exploring lots of different ways to get messy, from water to sensory tables and more! Dress to get messy!! For all ages, no registration required.

The library will have Bingo for Books on Wednesday, April 22 at 6 p.m. Play a few rounds of bingo and win the best prize: books! For kids and families of all ages, no registration required.

On Thursday, April 23 from 10 a.m. to Noon, Fermata Arts Foundation will host a Global Art Exchange between Kharkiv, Ukraine and Chicopee, MA geared towards students in grades 4 &

5. Let's Build a Roof Over the World: What happens when the animals move north? An art exchange between Kharkiv, Ukraine and Chicopee, MA. For 4th and 5th graders. Students will participate in a Zoom meeting with a virtual tour by the students in Kharkiv, Ukraine. Students will create an art piece inspired by the drawings they like most that Fermata Arts Foundation will send to Kharkiv, Ukraine. Hosted by Fermata Arts Foundation.

This program is supported by a grant from Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Get your little groove on at a Baby Rave on Friday, April 24 at 11 a.m. Join us for a baby dance party with lights, glowsticks, scarves, shakers and, of course, music! Recommended for kids ages 0-2, no registration required.

Help create a Community Craft: Cardboard Kingdom on Friday, April 24 at 12:30 p.m.

Stop by the Activity Room anytime after 12:30pm to create a cardboard creation for display! For kids and families of all ages, no registration required.

The library will host a Mini Circus Show for all ages by Small But Mighty on Saturday, April 25 at 1 p.m. The show includes aerial silks, hula hoop acrobatics, aerial hoop, and a fun interactive segment to teach the audience hula hoop tricks and other ground skills. The show will be outside, weather permitting. No registration required.

This program is funded in part by a grant from the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Celebrate Poetry Month on Wednesday, April 29 at 4 p.m., Read Poetry to a Dog! Pediatric therapy dog Lena will be all ears while kids practice reading poems aloud. Bring a poem, or pick one when you arrive. No registration required.

### Programs for Teens

**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!

Join us for Anime Club on Wednesday, April 29 at 3 p.m. to celebrate the premier of the highly anticipated anime adaptation of Witch Hat Atelier! Whether you're already a fan of the series, or have yet to check it out, we'll be showing off what makes this fantasy series unique and even getting to practice some of the magic showcased in the series!

**Girls Who Code Workshop Series** every other Saturday, beginning April 11.

April 11 and 25, May 9 and 23, June 6 and 20, 1 to 3 p.m. in the Computer Lab.

Girls Who Code is dedicated to increasing gender equality in the tech field. In this workshop series taught by local cybersecurity analyst Alexandria Rosado, girls in grades 9-12 will learn about AI, Coding and Cybersecurity in a fun environment with peers.

Sign up by going to [clubs-hq.girlswhocode.com/](http://clubs-hq.girlswhocode.com/) login and sign up for an account on the Girls Who Code website and then join our club with this code: MA67606

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

### FY27 LOSSES from page 1

The foundation budget number was \$136,705,069 in FY26 and \$136,875,017 for FY27, an increase of \$169,948.

The required district contribution also increased from \$36,463,911 in FY26 to \$38,338,156 for FY27, an increase of \$1,874,245.

"Then we get into our Chapter 70 aid, and that's what we're receiving from the state. That's \$1,770,000. That is up \$529,000," Miarecki said.

The grand total came out to \$2.4 million.

Miarecki said the situation is this: Chicopee is now a state minimum aid district.

"We've always been at a required net school spending number, a foundation, at 100%. I have not seen it otherwise. This year, we are inverse, so now it's at 101.63%. What this means is our foundation budget, what we got from the state last year, is less than it was last year, through our calculation. From our enrollment, our low-income going down a decile. Also with our ML students," Miarecki said. "We've lost that funding. So, when your state aid is below your number last year, you are a minimally-aid funded district. We are only getting \$75 per student. That's where you see the \$529,000."

For this calculation, Miarecki said the foundation number is taken and minus out the city contribution, creating a difference of \$98,500,000 under foundation aid, which is less than \$100 million.

The district cannot have anything under \$100 million, leading to the \$75 per student.

"So, we are only receiving \$2.4 million this year for

this," Miarecki said. "This is new to Chicopee. It is not new to many districts in the Commonwealth, but to urban districts it is very new."

Miarecki said this is continually being discussed with state leaders and other district members.

On the FY27 low-income classification, Miarecki explained that the percentage is 69.34%, putting Chicopee in income group 10. The district was previously in income group 11, which is 70 to 79%.

"We dropped about 1.5%. We were at 70.85% last year," Miarecki said. "What does that mean? Our low-income dropped by about 217 students."

The difference between those groups, he added, was \$1,071.97 per low-income student.

"So, what I did was I take our current students that we know is low-income—which is (4,721), I believe—multiple it by that 1,071.97 and we get slightly over \$5 million. If we were at decile 11 right now with the current low-income students that we have," Miarecki said. "What that would have done to our budget because, now, we would have gone as a held-harmless district—as I just explained—to receiving more money in our budget than what we have. So, I think I calculated out another \$3.5 million that would have come to us if we were in that decile."

He also calculated that number for every decile category, which came out to \$40,486,541.

"That was a couple million higher last year, so we've gone down that much in that category. So, it has been a severe drop. It is a cliff that was not expected this year. But, it has happened," Mi-

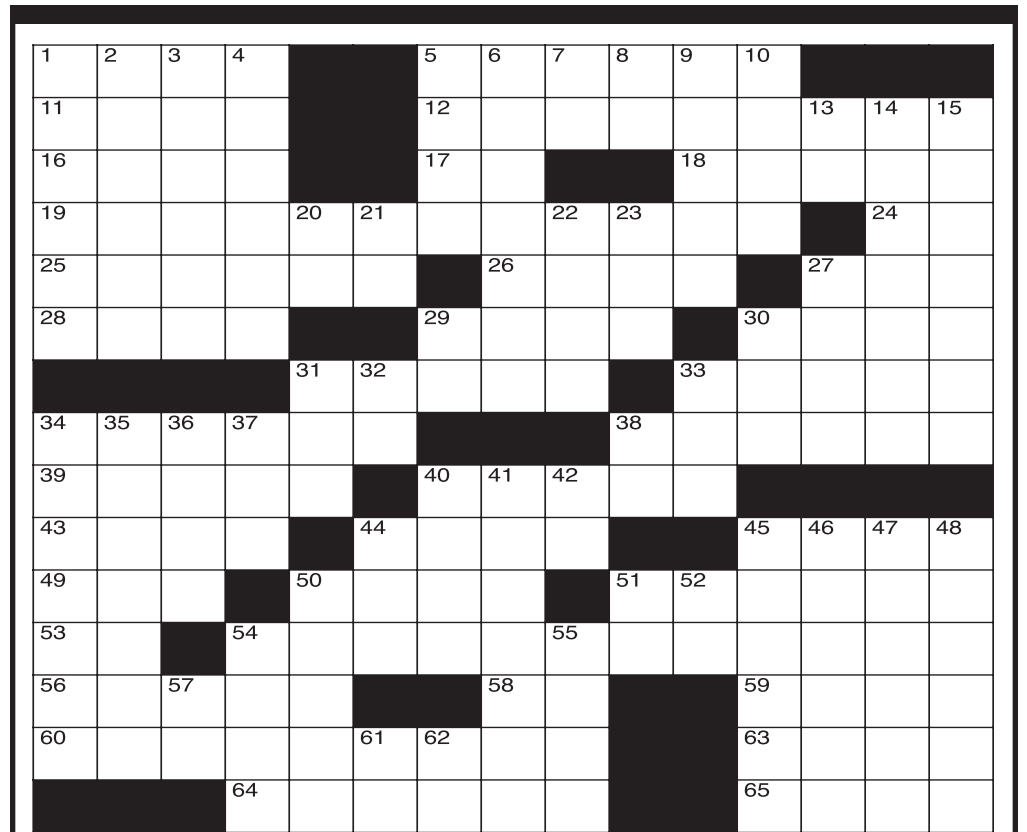
arecki said. "We are trying to address it and we've talked about it for the last year to make sure you're well-informed, our viewers out there are well-informed to what is actually going on and try to prepare. Does not make it any easier to what we're seeing for numbers, but we're trying to prepare and we're trying to address it."

Mayor John Vieau, the chair of the School Committee, said from those numbers, it also means \$5 million is not coming to Chicopee due to the low-income decile reevaluation, with the district going under 70%.

"So, it's very frustrating too, as a district, expecting that you're going to be receiving \$5 million more in funding that we will not be getting. So, there's some real challenges ahead," Vieau said.

Vieau added the district has reached out to the Department of Education and DESE through the governor's office, with a meeting held recently. There will be meetings with local delegations as well.

"Because the Student Opportunity Act—though it's there to help communities like Chicopee—in this particular case, when you got, frankly, just over 0.7 of a percent more low-income in our reclassification, it has now created this \$5 million cliff in our budget," Vieau said. "So, it's a bit frustrating when we're anticipating to receive that money and there's no resolve other than we can try to do reevaluation over the next year and hope that, hopefully, recreates the statutes for the Student Opportunity Act and Chapter 70 money that some of this addressed. Because these cliffs put burdens on communities like Chicopee."



### CLUES ACROSS

- "Bird of Paradise" constellation
- Red Sox WS winner Bronson
- Whirl
- The State Dept. has a notable one
- Energy, style and enthusiasm
- Part of the mind
- Mountainous country
- Type of beverage
- Atomic #109
- Opposite of falsities
- Female sheep
- Rocky peak
- Sensitive information sharing environment
- Ethnic group of Thailand
- Patron saint of Rome Philip
- Psychedelics
- Japanese pine

- Have an impact on
- Violent disorder
- A French river
- Early Mesoamerican civilization
- Messenger
- ribonucleic acid
- Musician Clapton
- Ancient Greek sophist
- Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- Valley
- A way to unwind
- Atomic #93
- Recommending
- Indigo bush
- Larry and Curly's pal
- Off-Broadway theater award
- Fencers
- Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
- Relating to songbirds
- A way to assign

### CLUES DOWN

- Some are "secret"
- Intestinal openings
- Distant planet
- Assembly possessing high legislative powers
- Genus of typical owls
- One with distinctively colored hair
- Red cross
- An alternative
- Abominable snowmen
- About ear
- The opening letters
- Feeling of regret
- Atomic #39
- Luteinizing hormone
- Atomic #55
- Carries a debt
- Albanian monetary unit
- Semitic abjad letter
- Yes
- Negative
- Earn a perfect score
- Connecticut

- Partner to cheese
- Snack nuts
- Quadruped's body part
- Locate
- Pitching statistic
- "\_\_\_, myself and I"
- Utah city northwest of Provo
- Football players in the trenches
- One who runs the show
- Wood
- Performing artists
- Slang for a cut
- More breathable
- Most crafty
- Provokes into action
- University of Dayton
- Sodium
- Large fish of the mackerel family
- Not one
- \_\_\_ and behold
- Sports highlight show
- "The Great Lakes State"

# PUBLIC NOTICES

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Division  
Docket No.  
HD26P0572EA  
Estate of:  
Joseph C. Asante  
Date of Death:  
December 15, 2025**

**INFORMAL PROBATE  
PUBLICATION NOTICE**  
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Kent Asante Wennerstrom of Stockholm, SO.**

**Kent Asante Wennerstrom of Stockholm, SO** 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.

03/27/2026

**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.  
HD26P0632EA  
Estate of:  
Donald Oza Champigny  
Date of Death: 01/29/2026**

**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 **Kurt D. LaPlante 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 **Kurt D. LaPlante 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 04/22/2026.** 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 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. **Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 25, 2026

**Rosemary A Saccomani**,  
Register of Probate  
03/27/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No.  
HD21P1480GD**

**In the interests of:  
Eleanor Davio  
of Chicopee, MA  
RESPONDENT  
Incapacitated Person/  
Protected Person**

**CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION TO EXPAND THE POWERS OF A GUARDIAN**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Chicopee Rehab & Nursing Center of Chicopee, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court:

Expand the powers of a Guardian of the Respondent.

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. 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 **04/17/2026.** 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 13, 2026

**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
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 27th 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.

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

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

2013 Chevrolet Equinox  
VIN: 2GNFLCEK4D6217939  
Anthony Ellicock  
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 April 10th, 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.

2015 Jeep Patriot  
VIN: 1C4NJPBA6FD358304  
William Banfill  
434 Church St., Apt. 18  
Whitinsville, MA 01588

2004 Wildcat 5th Wheel Camper  
VIN: 4X4FWCD244V009048  
William Sanches  
108 Colton St.  
Springfield, MA 01109

2019 Nissan Rogue  
VIN: JN1BJ1CR8KW630017  
Dorreth Thomas Campbell  
949 Liberty St., Apt. 2  
Springfield, MA 01104

2008 Hyundai Accent  
VIN: KMHCM36C58U055760  
Yzian Advier Sanchez-Crespo  
254 Oak St., Fl. #1  
New Britain, CT 06051

2016 Subaru Impreza  
VIN: JF1GPAB6XG8209362  
Gina Lavallee  
78 Kennedy Rd.  
West Brookfield, MA 01585

2010 Acura TSX  
VIN: JH4CU2F62AC011542  
Leroy Goldsbary  
136 Pine St.  
West Springfield, MA 01089

2004 Chevrolet Impala  
VIN: 2G1WP521449460047  
Gabrielle Demers  
35 Worthen St.  
West Springfield, MA 01089

2005 Dodge Durango  
VIN: 1D4HB38N45F600266  
Daniel Griffin  
202 Bradford St.  
Pittsfield, MA 01201

2006 Chrysler 300  
VIN: 2C3KA43R96H212587  
Nemiah Harper  
13 Hawthorn St.  
Springfield, MA 01105

2014 Cadillac Ats  
VIN: 1G6AJ5SX0E0174587  
Scott Joubert  
1517 Memorial Dr.  
Chicopee, MA 01020  
03/27, 04/03, 04/10/2026

**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 April 3rd, 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.

2006 Toyota Corolla  
VIN: 2T1BR30EX6C597152  
Tiffany Perry  
307 Winthrop Ave. 1  
New Haven, Ct 06511

2006 Acura TSX  
VIN: JH4CL96866C031197  
Hector Rivera  
179 Pearl St.  
Holyoke, MA 01040

Snow Mobile Trailer  
VIN: 5KTSC1217XP013051  
Timothy Ormsby  
136 Squassick Rd  
West Springfield, Ma 01089

2008 Infiniti G35  
VIN: JNKBV61F48M264227  
Boulevard Auto LLC  
309 Wisconsin Ave. 13  
Whitefish, MT 59937

2007 Nissan Versa  
VIN: 3N1BC13E67L442844  
Steeve Marcellus  
78 Belmont Ave Apt 3r  
Springfield, Ma 01108  
03/20, 03/27, 04/03/2026

**THE COMMONWEALTH  
OF MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION –  
HIGHWAY DIVISION  
NOTICE OF A  
DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**Project Description:  
Chicopee –  
Hugh Scott Streiber  
Elementary School  
Improvements (SRTS)  
Project File No. 612079**

A Design Public Hearing will be held to present the design for the proposed project in Chicopee, MA.

WHERE: Streiber Memorial School, Cafeteria  
40 Streiber Drive  
Chicopee, MA 01020  
WHEN: **Tuesday,  
March 31, 2026 @ 6:00pm**

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of installing new sidewalks and replacing existing sidewalks as well as improved crosswalks that will improve connectivity to Hugh Scott Streiber Memorial School

along Telegraph Avenue (from Prospect Street to the school), Streiber Drive (from Memorial Drive to the school), along Chicopee Housing Authority from Debra Drive to Streiber Drive, on Irene Court (from Irene Street) connecting to the school, and along the front of the school.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The city is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the hearing.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 612079. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is hosted on the MassDOT website listed below.

This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible and prior to the hearing, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the hearing.

In case of inclement weather, a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

**JONATHAN GULLIVER  
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR  
CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.  
CHIEF ENGINEER  
03/20, 03/27/2026**



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Jamie Joslyn  
24 Water Street  
Palmer, MA 01069  
Email:jamie@turley.com

### SOCIAL SECURITY from page 4

\$218,000 if you file your income tax as "married/jointly." And the IRMAA supplements are "progressive" (higher if your AGI is more), so if your Medicare premiums went up by about \$400 about twice the 2026 standard premium, it's likely that your 2024 AGI was over \$137,000 if you filed as a single or over \$274,000 if you filed as "married/jointly. FYI, you can see the 2026 IRMAA brackets/premium amounts at this link: [www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare/medicare-pre-](http://www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare/medicare-premiums.html)

miums.html  
A couple of additional points:

Your Medicare premiums will, indeed, revert to the standard amounts for 2027, if your 2025 AGI amount is under the IRMAA threshold for your tax filing status.

There is no premium for Medicare Part A, which is coverage for inpatient hospitalization care, because you are receiving Social Security benefits. However, there is a premium for Part B of Medicare (which is coverage for outpatient medical services) and you must also

separately pay a premium for Part D, which is coverage for prescription drugs offered by private insurers. And these IRMAA supplements apply even if you have a Medicare Advantage plan from a private insurer.

Unfortunately, your only "recourse" is, as SSA suggested, to appeal the IRMAA supplement, but that is usually successful only if you can prove you had a "life changing event," which caused (or will cause) your AGI to be less than that used to determine your IRMAA surcharge. Your best option at this point

will likely be to appeal using a "Request for Reconsideration" (Form SSA-561) asking that your 2026 Medicare premium be based on a recent year's (e.g., 2025) lower income.

Finally, IRMAA isn't really a new thing – it was enacted in 2003, effective in 2007. But it does have a profound effect on many seniors, as I explained in this article I recently published on the topic: [https://amacfoundation.org/irmaa-a-medicare-sur-](https://amacfoundation.org/irmaa-a-medicare-surprise/)

## PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- Email all notices to [notices@turley.com](mailto:notices@turley.com)
- Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

**Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.**

visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)

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**HELP WANTED**

The Town of North Brookfield is looking for a **part-time Program Assistant** for the Council on Aging. Please submit a resume with a letter of interest to the **Selectmen's Office, 215 Main St., North Brookfield, MA 01535**; or by email to **selectmen@northbrookfield.net**.

**REAL ESTATE FOR RENT**

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**LAND WANTED**

**Seeking 8-20 peaceful acres** in Central MA for pet memorial sanctuary. Especially interested in lease-option, phased sale, or seller financing. Respectful, serious inquiry. Patrick | 508-735-3232 | **founder@rainbow-meadow.org**

**2026 TAX TIME**



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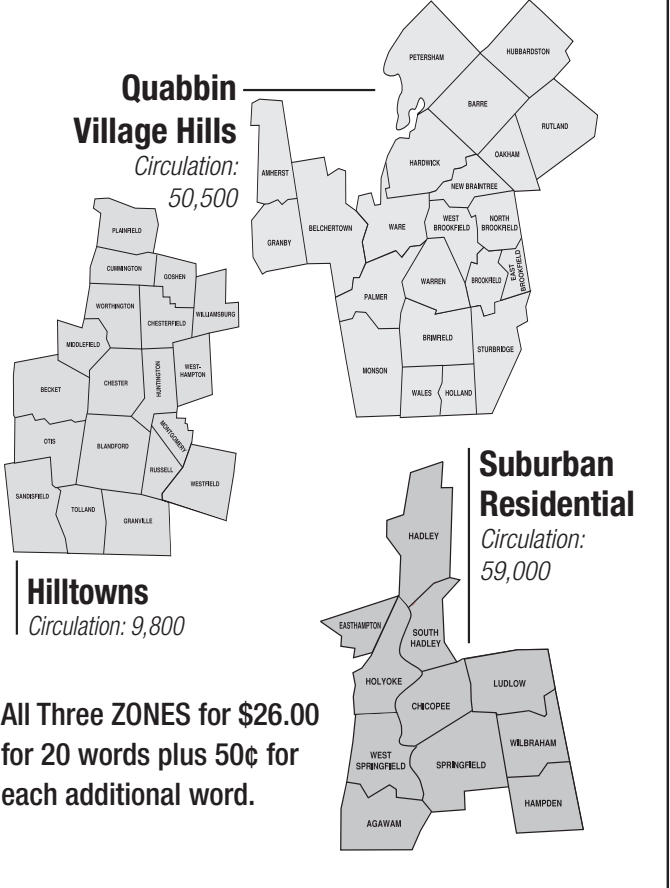
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31	Base Price \$31.50	Base Price \$32.00	Base Price \$32.50
32	Base Price \$32.00	Base Price \$32.50	Base Price \$33.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	Base Price \$33.00	Base Price \$33.50
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35	Base Price \$33.50	Base Price \$34.00	Base Price \$34.50
36	Base Price \$34.00	Base Price \$34.50	Base Price \$35.00
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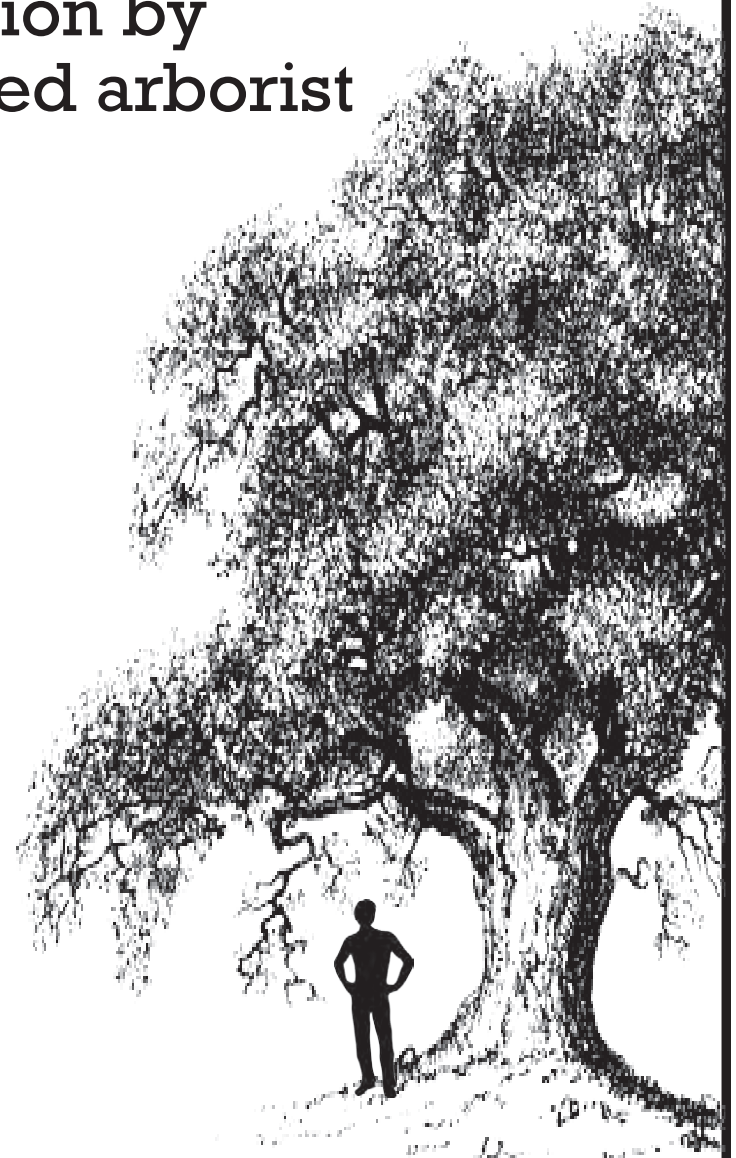


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