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COMMUNITY

Six new officers sworn in to CPD at City Hall

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - The police department appointed six new officers during a swearing-in ceremony in the City Hall auditorium on March 28.

The new officers are Jared Durocher, Brendan Gawron, Angel Valdes, Korey Therrien, Taina Rivera and Aaron Hale.

During the ceremony, Mayor John Vieau emphasized the importance of public safety.

"One thing I want everyone to know is the city of Chicopee, under the leadership of Chief Patrick Major, we make sure you have the tools you need to keep yourself safe and also to protect this community. I think that public safety is paramount to the success of our city," Vieau said.

Vieau welcomed the new officers, saying how proud he was of them.

"I want to say welcome to our family and I wish you success. Please keep yourself safe, like I said, and make sure you have those tools to keep this community safe as well," Vieau said.

Major explained the six officers are taking the final step of transitioning from civilian to police officer after completing their training at the police academy.

"As chief of the department,



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

From the left, a group photo of Ward 1 City Councilor Abigail Arriaga, City Council Vice President/Councilor-at-Large Robert Zygarowski, State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), Police Chief Patrick Major, Brendan Gawron, Jared Durocher, Taina Rivera, Korey Therrien, Aaron Hale, Angel Valdes, Mayor John Vieau, Jennifer Pickering, district director for State Sen. Jacob Oliveira (D-Ludlow) and Chris Gongora, communications director for State Sen Adam Gomez's office (D-Springfield) during the swearing-in ceremony for the six newest police officers appointed to the Chicopee Police Department.

I am grateful for their willingness to serve amongst the finest officers in the state. I have high expectations for all of these officers. They will be called upon to be at their best when others are at their worst. They will respond to critical incidents and experience, firsthand, traumatic loss of life," Major said. "They will assist and

navigate their victims of crime to work tirelessly to hold offenders accountable for their actions. My highest expectation for them is to go out into the city on every shift."

Major next addressed the families and friends of the officers.

"To the family and friends

of these officers, I hold myself accountable to you to provide them with the best training, equipment and support possible," Major said.

To the new officers, he said this.

"Officers, I wish you the very best in your careers. Keep your standards high, your moral

compass on point, your physical and mental health as a constant priority and continue to be the role models we need for our community," Major said.

The officers were then sworn in by City Clerk Keith Rattell, followed by shaking hands

See **NEW OFFICERS** page 7

COMMUNITY

Families celebrate Easter at RiverMills Easter Egg Hunt



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

The Easter Bunny waves to the camera as he awaits taking photos with families during the Easter Egg Hunt event at the RiverMills Senior Center.

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - The senior center was packed with families on March 29 as they stopped by for the 3rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt.

During the event, children came in their Easter best with baskets ready to collect eggs

throughout the senior center filled with treats and prizes. Those who found the golden egg also received a special prize.

Some of the hiding places included the water cup dispenser behind the television, under things and other nooks and crannies.

Afterward, families gathered

See **EASTER EGG HUNT** page 8

COMMUNITY

Chicopee Family Cookoff brings community together to enjoy family recipes

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - The community gathered at the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts on March 28 for the Chicopee Family Cookoff.

The inaugural event was organized by ChicopeeFRESH and the Chicopee Public Schools Family and Community Engagement Team, bringing together local families to cook their family recipes, with the winner to be added to an upcoming school lunch menu.

The contestants were Sheila Solis and her daughter, Shaelys, who prepared chicken penne alfredo, Jason Perkins and his son, Oliver, who made rock star mini pizzas, Monica Velez and her children, Jose and Ainayi, with their garlic chicken with rice and beans recipe and Migdali McNaughton and her son, Aiden, who made Italian meatloaf.

The celebrity judges were Mayor John Vieau, Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware, Sam Newell, co-owner of Fruit Fair Supermarket, and Donna Minor, head cook at Chicopee High School, who declared



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Sheila Solis and her daughter Shaelys smile as they work on their chicken penne alfredo recipe during the Chicopee Family Cookoff event on March 28.

McNaughton and her son the winner after taste-testing the entries.

Melanie Wilk, food service director for Chicopee Public Schools, and Kristen Coelho, family and community engagement facilitator at Chicopee Public Schools, were excited to hold the event.

Wilk explained how ChicopeeFRESH put out a call for

district families to submit their favorite family recipes, with her and Coelho narrowing it down to the four contestants.

"It's fun to explore in the community for new recipes to put on our school lunch menu, so I just think that's a really cool part of it and just getting people from the community to

See **FAMILY COOKOFF** page 8

Special Good Friday service marks Easter weekend with poetry and vignettes

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - As the community gathered for Good Friday services ahead of Easter weekend on March 29, a special Good Friday service was unfolding at Beulah Baptist Church.

On Friday evening, congregants gathered inside the sanctuary to mark Good Friday with music, vignettes depicting the final hours of Jesus's life and poetry.

The service provided an opportunity for reflection and contemplation ahead of Easter Sunday.

Rev. Adam Couturier, the interim pastor at the church for the past six years, explained the vignettes focused on the final seven words of Jesus as "a way to really kind of focus in on the humanity and divinity of Jesus on display on the cross."

"The hope is, really, to just focus on these key moments, these key vignettes in the passion of the Christ," Couturier said.

Couturier said when he puts together the sermon for the service, he hopes, to the best of his ability, to paint a picture of what Jesus was enduring on the cross.

"That's what I hope to convey is this intersection of this tragedy and from that tragedy, this hope of grace that is available," Couturier said. "That, to me, is the piece I want people to walk away with. In that moment, God just offered forgiveness without any sort of precondition and I think that's what we've been called to



A wide shot of the display depicting the crucifixion of Jesus and his final hours after the sun has set during the special Good Friday service at Beulah Baptist Church on March 29.

do." He also stressed the importance of community, especially during the Holy Week services.

"While there's obviously an individual element to the faith, right? It's always embodied in a corporate dimension and I think the idea of coming together to celebrate that is so important, not only to the historic identity of the church but who we're trying to be today," Couturier said. "So to me, it's this idea of continuity. That we are saved into community, we are created to be a community and it's through that community we reflect God's

love to others."

Couturier noted the importance of grace, something he emphasized a lot during his sermon.

"That's the key to it all, right? If we are supposed to be agents of the gospel or messengers of the gospel and the whole concept of gospel is this idea of peace. At peace with God, at peace with each other. It's something that's in a lived experience and it's something that we need to strive for," Couturier said.

Reflecting on Easter and its meaning, Couturier said "It's about celebrating together in community."



Rev. Adam Couturier provides reflections during the special Good Friday service at Beulah Baptist Church.

"The fact that death doesn't have the final word. That's the exciting part of Easter is that notion of celebration."

Couturier wants the community to know the importance of community and the church itself is open to all.

"We do our best to strive to reflect the character of the God that we serve and we invite anybody and everybody to come join us in that journey," Couturier said.

Couturier's message to residents for Easter was this.

"If you'd like to find a community, we'd like to invite you to be part of that community," Couturier said.

City Council approves appointing Szetela-Lopes to Housing Authority

Plastic bag ban and merging meetings also major highlights

By Nick Boonstra
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CHICOPEE - City Council voted 8-5 on April 2 in favor of approving Mayor John Vieau's appointment of School Committee At-Large representative Susan Szetela-Lopes to the Chicopee Housing Authority Board.

Szetela-Lopes will replace her father, Chester Szetela, on the board and will serve a five-year term that expires on April 1, 2029.

Ward 6 Councilor Samuel Shumsky echoed Vieau's earlier praise of the new appointee after Vieau presented the proposed appointment during the Mayor's Briefing.

"I had the pleasure of working with Sue on the School Committee for the last two years, and I can attest to her work ethic," Shumsky said. "I think she'll be a great and valuable asset to the Housing

Authority."

However, Councilor-at-Large Tim Wagner did not support the proposed appointment of his former colleague.

"Myself and Councilor Shumsky had the distinct pleasure of serving with the then-Vice Chair of the School Committee Sue Lopes for a term," Wagner said. "I have, however, some reservations about the appointment, and it comes not from policy disagreements, but from personal, ethical, moral reasons."

Wagner went on to detail a situation from his service as a School Committee member in which his questions and concerns about the process of selecting a new Superintendent of Schools were, in his words, "rebuffed under the guise of, 'Well, I'm out of town right now, I'm on vacation, I'll get back to you.'"

Unhappy with the follow-up response he received that he felt did not properly address his initial correspondence, Wagner said he reached out to Szetela-Lopes again for clarification.

"What I received in return was what I can only describe as hostility and rudeness on the part of the then-Vice Chair,"

Wagner said, without providing further detail.

Wagner stated that he had been concerned by situations involving student dress codes at the high schools and a potential Open Meeting Law violation in the way the School Committee had conducted some of its business under Szetela-Lopes.

"We have to have respect for our rules, we have to have respect for our students, we have to have respect for members of other public boards, which I believe that, in my time on the School Committee, has not been shown," Wagner said. "So, I'm opposed to the appointment on the floor this evening for those reasons."

In addition to Wagner, the approval of Szetela-Lopes' appointment received "No" votes from Ward 1 Councilor Abigail Arriaga, Ward 2 Councilor Shane Brooks, Ward 3 Councilor Susan Goff and Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello. The other eight councilors voted in favor of Szetela-Lopes' appointment without further discussion.

Procedurally, Szetela-Lopes' appointment was able to be approved without being forwarded to committee after a 9-4 supermajority approved suspending the council's rules for her consideration. Brooks, Goff, Costello and Wagner voted against suspending the rules.

Aside from approving the Housing Authority appointment, other meeting highlights were the City discussions around a potential ordinance change that would aim to reduce plastic grocery bag litter, as well as the possibility of merging the Mayor's Briefing into City Council meetings.

Shumsky proposed the plastic bag ordinance, saying that what he referred to as "trash ornaments" on trees around stores were becoming a rampant issue.

"I happen to drive down Sheridan Street numerous times a day," Shumsky said. "The amount of trash that the residents have to deal with... I have received dozens of phone calls, I have talked to

dozens of residents, and frankly, I think it's just disgusting to see how much trash is littering the streets, especially bags."

Multiple councilors supported the proposal, with Ward 4 Councilor George Balakier suggesting even further steps than a plastic bag ban may be needed.

"If Walmart's the one who's making the biggest messes out there, I think it's time that Walmart gets fined," Balakier said.

The proposal was forwarded to the Ordinance Committee for further consideration 13-0.

Next, Ward 7 Councilor William Courchesne filed a proposal seeking to reduce printed paper required for City Council meetings by omitting backup materials from being distributed for Mayor's Briefings.

Courchesne argued that these materials are often duplicated in what is already printed in their regular meeting agendas.

"We currently get the backup materials for both our meeting and the Mayor's Briefing every week," Courchesne said. "Sometimes that can be up to a ream of paper per councilor. I think it's a waste of tax dollars, it's a waste of the environment, it's just waste."

City Clerk Keith Rattell explained the Mayor's Briefing was considered a public meeting under the state's Open Meeting Law, which required that the materials for it be posted.

However, Rattell expressed a willingness to help find a more efficient solution, potentially with the help of the city's Law Department, and at one point, suggested merging the two meetings into one as a potential solution.

"It would be nice if we could just condense it all into one meeting," Rattell said. "The Law Department could probably get creative with allowing the mayor to speak for the first ten, fifteen, forty-five minutes, or until he's done."

Councilor Courchesne's proposal was then forwarded to the Rules Committee for further consideration 13-0.



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PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

City Council accepts \$27,950 Emergency Management Performance Grant for jet skis

The grant will support water search and rescue

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - City Council moved to accept a \$27,950 Emergency Management Performance Grant on April 2 for jet skis.

The grant comes from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, or MEMA, and will go to the city's Emergency Management Department to purchase jet skis and equipment for water search and rescue.

Mayor John Vieau explained the grants are received annually with the Emergency Management Department brainstorming how to "try to find creative ways on how we can make Chicopee safer."

"So, a lot of research has gone into it. Our goal is to purchase two jet skis and the appropriate rescue equipment that can be used in case of emergency when we can't get the boat out there quickly or in certain areas of the river where we need to get there and this will enhance response time," Vieau said. "It's not uncommon to use jet skis in a city that has boundaries of two rivers. We feel it's appropriate and in keeping our community safe."

Councilor-at-Large Gerry Roy

asked two questions on training and who gets trained.

"Who's going to do the training for this particular equipment?" Roy said.

Glenn Joslyn, director of the Emergency Management Department, said "The people we're buying from will come up and do a weekend" to show everyone everything.

"And you're going to be training just the particular people at a designated station?" Roy said.

Joslyn replied the designated people would be members of the fire department and some of the search team.

Fire Chief Daniel Stamborski then showed examples of water accessibility problems, including the Chicopee River at the end of Taylor Street having no proper boat ramp and issues with mud and tree branches and Fuller Road having issues with mud despite improvements.

Another issue, Stamborski said, is the current vehicle is a 1958 Jon Boat with a newer motor and nine horsepower motor "which doesn't go very fast and it isn't designed to rescue people."

"Both of these jet skis are much more horsepower, they're two-seaters, so the concept is going to be two firefighters. One will be driving. The other one is going to get into the water with the victim," Stamborski said.

When Vice President/Councilor-at-Large Robert Zygarowski asked how many officers would be trained in

using the equipment, Stamborski said the goal is to train all personnel at Station 4.

"This way, at least two out of the three individuals there will have experience in it," Stamborski said.

On responding to a scene, he added one would stay on shore with a radio while two would go on the jet ski.

"A deputy chief responds as an SOP to these types of incidents. He'll be in charge of the onshore operations, calling more resources and so forth and another engine company will intercept and, by that point, we'll have probably six or seven people on the scene at that time," Stamborski said.

Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello thanked Stamborski and Joslyn for their efforts.

"This is a creative idea and it's going to improve response time and I can't thank you enough for the work and the effort that you put in making sure that the response time is addressed and that people can get rescued," Costello said.

Councilor-at-Large Tim Wagner asked about the equipment lifespan.

"I mean, do we anticipate having to replace it anytime soon or is this going to last us a long time?" Wagner said.

Stamborski and Joslyn said they should last a long time, would only be used for training and rescues and would be kept inside.

The motion to accept the grant was later approved 13-0.

Annual Scholarship Family Game & Card Party takes place on April 11

CHICOPEE - Franco-American Womens' Association is sponsoring their annual Family Game & Card Party on Thursday, April 11, 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.

Our mission is to provide scholarships for higher education to member's children and grandchildren. In 2023 through the generosity of our patrons and donors, we awarded sixteen \$500 scholarships to children and grandchildren of our members. Members are from Chicopee and surrounding cities. We meet once a month and have this one fundraiser every year.

For donations to the fund or to the raffle prize table, please contact Christine at 413-530-6113 by Friday, April 5 to have your name or business included on the Prize List.

To purchase Admission Tickets (\$5 each), please call Renelle at 413-315-8285 or Michelle at ML141@aol.com.

Sunshine Villages visits CPD and CFD with treats



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHICOPEE FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS
CHICOPEE - Sunshine Village stopped by the police department on April 2 and the fire department on April 3 to drop off treats and visit them. The visit was appreciated by both departments!

Holy Mother of the Rosary Tag Sale April 12 and 13

CHICOPEE - Holy Mother of the Rosary Church will hold a Tag Sale on Friday, April 12 and Saturday, April 13 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rain or shine it will be held in the hall at 26 Bell St. Chicopee - across from the Chicopee Public Library.

We have loads of items - jewelry, clothing, shoes, dishes, glassware, books, CD's, toys, tools, household items and much more! We have something for everyone. Baked goods and lunch will be served.

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Dance Dynamics permit application withdrawn

Business tenant halted by landlord's unpaid taxes

By Nick Boonstra
Staff Writer
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CHICOPEE – The Zoning Committee recommended on March 27 that an application for a special permit from Dance Dynamics be withdrawn after it became clear that ongoing issues surrounding the studio's 386 Chicopee St. property were not going to be resolved in short order.

Angela Klusman, the applicant and owner of Dance Dynamics, agreed to withdraw her application per the committee's suggestion, bringing at least some closure, albeit potentially only temporary, to a series of meetings that have been held around the future of this property.

However, questions remain regarding outstanding property taxes and the history of this building.

Klusman rents out of the Chicopee Street property to run her dance studio and had approached the Zoning Committee in recent months for permission to create a single residential unit within the business property.

Klusman had indicated over the course of her meetings with the commit-

tee that she was interested in purchasing the property and that she wanted to add the residential unit to help her in the process of obtaining a loan for the property.

The Planning Department confirmed at a previous meeting the property was split between Business A and Residential A zoning, and thus was allowed to add a residential unit, but only with a special permit.

However, dating back to December of last year, the process to approve Klusman's special permit application had been tripped up when it came to light that there had been unpaid property taxes on the building for a number of years.

Publicly available records from the Hampden Registry of Deeds indicate that the property has been owned by Mission Center New Jerusalem Inc. since 2004. Klusman stated in a previous meeting that the owners supposedly had not paid taxes on the grounds that they were a nonprofit, but also claimed that the building had been vacant prior to her tenancy.

Despite not being the owner of the property and thus not responsible for these taxes, Klusman had taken it upon herself to work with the Assessor's Office and attempt to pay down the outstanding balance.

"On March 12, I wrote an email to

the missionary and told them that I wanted to get this stuff resolved, that they owed \$16,000 in real estate taxes," Klusman said.

She also told her landlord, "If they weren't going to pay it then I wasn't going to pay them rent anymore and I was just going to pay the city."

However, this email was apparently not well received by her landlord.

"Today I walked into my studio and found an eviction [notice], stating that they want to evict me, with no answer to the whole entire thing about the real estate taxes," Klusman said.

Ward 4 Councilor George Balakier wanted to know if Klusman had spoken with either the city's collector or treasurer about the situation, a step Klusman confirmed she had taken.

"I have spoken with the Treasurer, Marie Laflamme, and she told me that it's supposed to go through the landlord themselves," Klusman said.

Despite Klusman's proactivity, Ward 8 Councilor Gary Labrie made clear the landlord's apparent unwillingness to resolve the tax situation left the committee without much of a choice in the matter of the application.

"We can't grant a special permit unless there is an agreement in place with the owner," Labrie said. "The owner is

the only one, I think we discussed last time, that can enter into an agreement with the Collector or the Treasurer."

He added, "So, I think, until she buys the property, I can't see us voting on a special permit," and later summarized by saying, "It looks like a dead-end, as far as I can see."

The Zoning Committee suggested to Klusman she withdraw her special permit application, advising her that their only other alternative would be to deny the application outright, a decision that would prevent Klusman from submitting any similar special permit applications for two years.

Labrie also stated the decision to recommend the withdrawal of the application was not one the committee made lightly or with any ill will.

"We've all pulled for her, all the way along," Labrie said. "Everybody has — the fire department, the building department — and this is a deal that I can't see happening."

He went on to say, "I hope she comes in at some point about the building, needs the special permit, she doesn't have to wait the two years; I think that's the best-case scenario."

The Zoning Committee voted 4-0 to accept Klusman's petition to withdraw her application.

Child abduction leads to arrest

CHICOPEE – On the morning of March 29, 2024, at approximately 8:51 a.m., WESTCOMM Regional Dispatch received a 911 call from a female reporting that her motor vehicle had just been stolen from the area of 136 Exchange St. It was also reported to dispatch that a three-year-old male was in the back seat. Due to the nature of this call, all available officers responded to the area to begin searching for the vehicle.

At approximately 8:59 a.m., we received information from MA State Police Northampton that the vehicle in question had traveled past a license plate reader on 91 South. At that time, CT State Police were notified as well as all local CT agencies along 91 South.

While our Detective Unit was in the process of issuing an Amber Alert, Lt. Laflamme was able to access our real-time crime center software to review

city cameras in an attempt to identify where the suspect came from as well as get a description to broadcast out to all agencies. With the use of this software we were able to locate the vehicle parked on Exchange St., observe the suspect approach the vehicle, enter it and drive away. We were then able to track the suspect's movements around Chicopee Center based on other cameras in that area. The use of cameras played a pivotal role in gathering information on the suspect.

We are happy to report that the child, suspect and vehicle have all been located. We greatly appreciate all the support from the community as well as our neighboring agencies to ensure that this story had a happy resolution.

The suspect, identified as Vadim Vorobyov, a 52 year old male from Springfield was arrested in Connecticut.



Updates on Chicopee Flood Station

CHICOPEE – Mayor John Vieau met with Kristen Elechko, the Western Massachusetts director from Governor Maura T. Healey's Office, to tour two local flood stations on April 1.

The day's plan was a firsthand look at the flood stations' challenges and brainstorm ways to secure funding for essential repairs and updates, with some parts of the flood defense system being outdated and beyond repair.

The next steps will be diving into collaboration with the Governor's Office to unlock grants and federal funding that will be needed to modernize the flood stations.



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GUEST COLUMN



Veteran uncertain about Social Security and healthcare coverage

Dear Rusty

I'm not sure what I should sign up for in terms of Social Security; I am 64 and I am still employed full time and intend to stay employed until age 70.

I am retired from the Navy and receive military retirement payments and have military TriCare, as well as medical, dental, eye and life insurance through my employer. I don't want to lose benefits, but I also don't want to take Social Security until it reaches the maximum at age 70 (I think that is correct?). I will turn 65 in four months. Can you advise me?

Signed: Uncertain Veteran

Dear Uncertain Veteran

First of all, thank you for your service to our country. From what you've shared, and since you're still working full time, not claiming Social Security yet is a smart decision. If you were born in 1959 your Full Retirement Age is 66 years and 10 months and, if you claim SS before your full retirement age, you'll be subject to Social Security's earning test, which would likely make you ineligible to receive SS benefits at this time.

The 2024 earnings limit (limit changes yearly) when collecting Social Security early is \$22,320 and, if that is exceeded, Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 over the limit (half of what you exceed the limit by). If you significantly exceed the limit, SS will declare you temporarily ineligible to collect SS benefits until you either reach your FRA or earn less.

The earnings test no longer applies after you reach your FRA. So, if you're now employed full time and plan to stay so until age 70 and you expect at least average longevity (about 84 for someone your current age), delaying until age 70 to claim Social Security is how to get your maximum Social Security benefit.

As for your healthcare coverage as a veteran: TriCare requires you to enroll in Medicare Part A inpatient hospitalization coverage and Part B coverage for outpatient services at age 65, but you do not need to take Social Security when you enroll in Medicare. You must, however, enroll in Medicare at age 65 or you will lose your TriCare military healthcare coverage.

You could choose to delay enrolling in Medicare at 65 because you have "creditable" employer coverage, but if you do so you will lose your current TriCare coverage and need to rely solely on your employer healthcare plan. In that case, you would still be able to enroll in both Medicare and TriCare-for-Life without penalty prior to your employer coverage ending and have coverage under both programs thereafter. I suggest you contact TriCare directly at 1-866-773-0404 to discuss your personal TriCare coverage after age 65. You can also go to www.TriCare4U.com.

Whenever you enroll, Medicare will be the primary payer of your healthcare costs and TriCare will be the secondary payor. Your vision, dental, and prescription drug coverage would be through TriCare (Medicare does not cover those services) or acquired separately. Just remember, you must be enrolled in Medicare Part A and Part B to have TriCare-for-Life coverage after age 65.

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

GUEST COLUMN



Fox sparrow

I had fox sparrows under my feeder for several days now.

Most recently I counted five of them usually it is two or three. The fox sparrow is a large sparrow about seven inches long. It has a gray head and back with bold, rufous or brown streaking. It has an irregular shaped central dot on its breast and reddish, brown rump and tail. The reddish coloring resembles the color of a fox, hence its name.

It often jumps forward and back, pulling aside ground cover to find food underneath. It may come to feeders when seed is scattered on the ground. I not only put seed in the tray feeders, but I sprinkle some on the ground for the juncos, sparrows and mourning doves.

The female lays four to six light blue green eggs with darker marks in a cup like nest of grasses, lichens and leaves lined with hair, fur and rootlets. When we had horses, I would often find nests with their hair in them. My daughters and I would leave hairs groomed from their manes and tails on the ground for the birds.

The fox sparrow's song is a short series of clear melodious whistles and it is more melodic than most sparrows. Males may have one to three versions their songs, which are distinct to each male.

Interesting sightings

I have received emails of several interesting sightings. A Granby resident wrote, "I recently saw a bald eagle in my neighbors tree right next to my property. It was on Feb.

28. To make sure what I was seeing, I grabbed my binoculars and sure enough it was a bald eagle. He stayed there for around five minutes then he flew away." She said, "It was my first time spotting an eagle in Granby. I did spot one in the 90s at the Quabbin flying around. I usually see hawks in my neighborhood on a regular basis. But this was a nice site to see for sure."

A Barre resident saw a snow bunting on March 15. An Oakham resident saw two sandhill cranes on the morning of March 15. He said, "While driving down Rutland Road in Oakham, I did a double-take and hit the brakes. There, near the road at Eva Grimes' old place, stood two Sandhill Cranes. They almost could have been mistaken for lawn ornaments, but they were real. One stood erect while the other pecked at the lawn grass. Last year I observed three cranes fly over my house. Perhaps they plan to nest in one of our large beaver-impacted marshes?"

Brimfield resident

A Brimfield resident reported on March 18, he saw 22 ring-necked ducks and an immature bald eagle at a pond in Warren. He also said, "On South Street where last year there were three great blue heron nests and an osprey nest. There were two great blue herons standing in one of the nests used last year and an osprey sitting on the nest used previously. The osprey have been present there for three years, producing at least one chick each year. He also said his wife saw a dozen chipping sparrows in their yard, a first of the year at this location.

He report the only spring arrival in our yard had been one male robin a few days ago. No phoebes yet and he still has some juncos and at least one white-throated sparrow.

The Brimfield resident said he did a tour of some local ponds on Wednesday. At the heron rookery at

Conant Brook in Monson he saw one great blue heron and one tree swallow. In Brimfield, there were 54 male and 18 female common mergansers.

Turkey vultures

On Tuesday, I spotted about four turkey vultures perched in a dead tree in Oakham. Several more were circling overhead. I have seen them at this location in past years.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.



Letters to the Editor

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

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

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

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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 Bazan Community Room on the lower level.

All library events are free and open to the public.

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 Kela 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 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 and 594-1800 x3.

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 16 and 30, at 10:30 a.m. in the community room, the library will have a Little Kid Dance Party geared for kids 5 and under and their caregivers. Older kids are welcome, as well. There will be songs, dancing and big movement!

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 8th, 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 Pokémon 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.

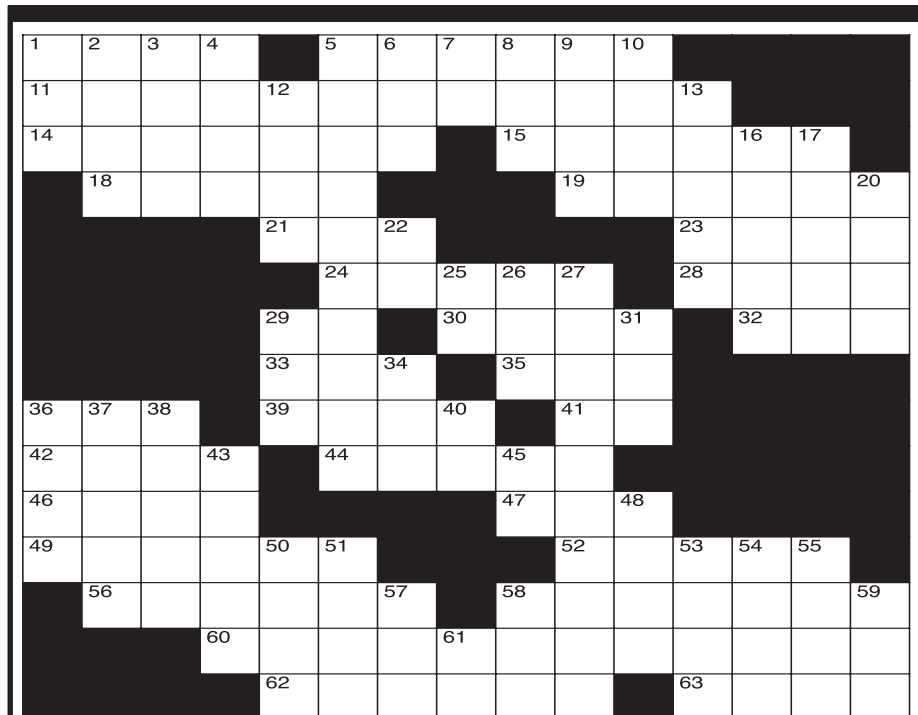
The library will also host events for teens in April. Teen events are for middle and high school students, ages 11-18.

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.



- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. A minute amount (British) | 41. Commercial | city | 37. Doctor ___: children's book author |
| 5. Mystical or magical | 42. Spots where golfers start | 4. Clip | 5. In a way, misleads |
| 11. Shortening | 44. Polite form of address (Indian) | 6. Human gene | 38. Hebrew calendar month |
| 14. More satisfying | 46. French river | 7. The Golden State (abbr.) | 40. Designated hitter |
| 15. Other side | 47. Reduce the light | 8. Lizard genus | 43. Northern Poland village |
| 18. Philippine island | 49. Blood-sucking fly | 9. Parasites that invade the skin | 45. A passport is one form |
| 19. More unnatural | 52. A way to categorize | 10. Took apart | 48. Hand (Spanish) |
| 21. Mutual savings bank | 56. Procrastinates | 12. Mild yellow Dutch cheese | 50. Hit with the open hand |
| 23. Famed designer Chanel | 58. Tall slender tower | 13. S. California town | 51. Actor Idris |
| 24. Makes less wild | 60. Where researchers work | 16. Suffix plural | 53. Shakespeare's nickname "The ___" |
| 28. At some prior time | 62. Office of the Pope | 17. Painting technique | 54. Northern U.S. lake |
| 29. The cops who investigate the cops | 63. Office furnishing | 20. Small Eurasian deer | 55. Marvin and Horsley are two |
| 30. Immune system response | | 22. Mr. T character | 57. Soak |
| 32. Distress signal | CLUES DOWN | 25. Microsoft | 58. Partner to cheese |
| 33. Engine additive | 1. Possesses | 26. Shock therapy | 59. Expression of disappointment |
| 35. "No Scrubs" trio | 2. American Board of Orthopedic Surgery | 27. Able to be sold | 61. College dorm employee |
| 36. Very fast airplane | 3. Ancient Syrian | 29. A doctrine | |
| 39. A reward | | 31. These three follow A | |
| | | 34. Pulse | |
| | | 36. Quantitative fact | |

CFD raises Blue Star Flag

CHICOPEE - On March 28, the fire department raised the Blue Star Flag as one of their firefighters is being deployed overseas. The Blue Star Flag is an official banner authorized by the Department of Defense for display by families serving in the armed forces during any period of war or hostilities the United States may be engaged in. This flag will be flown daily until their firefighter returns home safely.

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Six new officers sworn in to CPD



Jared Durocher, Brendan Gawron, Angel Valdes, Korey Therrien, Taina Rivera and Aaron Hale take the oath as they are officially sworn in as the newest police officers of the Chicopee Police Department on March 28.



Angel Valdes poses for his headshot after being officially sworn in as one of six new police officers to the Chicopee Police Department.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS
Mayor John Vieau provides remarks during the swearing in of six new police officers to the Chicopee Police Department on March 28.



Police Chief Patrick Major reflect on the police department and newest members of the force during the swearing-in ceremony of six new police officers to the Chicopee Police Department.



City Council Vice President/Councilor-at-Large Robert Zygarowski, Councilor-at-Large Gerry Roy and Ward 1 City Councilor Abigail Arriaga shake hands with the newest members of the Chicopee Police Department.

NEW OFFICERS from page 1

with Vieau, City Council Vice President/Councilor-at-Large Robert Zygarowski, Councilor-at-Large Gerry Roy and Ward 1 Councilor Abigail Arriaga, signing their contacts and receiving citations from the State Senate.

Taina Rivera is excited to get out into the community, with one of her goals being to improve community relations



A family photo of Aaron Hale, the newest member of the Chicopee Police Department, Brianna Hale (wife), Braelin Hale (daughter) and Brodie Hale (son) during the swearing-in ceremony for the six new officers to the Chicopee Police Department.

between residents and the police department.

Rivera said she learned many things while in the police academy, with learning how to talk to people being the most important.

“You don’t want to escalate situations, you want to deescalate it and I think it’s very important when it comes to use-of-force situations,” Rivera said. “You want to be able to learn to talk to people and get them through their situations.”

Rivera’s younger brother, Carlos, said he’s very proud of her.

“I’ve always looked up to her. It’s super important to me and it’s something that I get to carry on my shoulders and brag about,” he said.

Their mother, Crystal, said she had no words.

“I’m just proud and scared at the same time, her being out on the streets and I hope people take it easy on my baby because she has a family to come home to,” she said. “I love her so much.”

Rivera wants the community to know she and her fellow officers want to make a difference and positive impact in Chicopee.

“Just take it easy and understand that we want to work with them to help us help them,” Rivera said. “I’m looking forward to working with them.”



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EASTER EGG HUNT from page 1

on the second floor to get their picture taken with the Easter Bunny.

Program Coordinator Casey Conroy was ecstatic about the turnout, explaining the event has been growing every year and has become an intergenerational event.

Casey enjoyed seeing the children running around to get the Easter eggs.

"It's nice to see people supporting the senior center and supporting the programming that we do and the work that we put in to offer services to our community," Conroy said. "So, it's nice to see that they're well-received and appreciated."

Conroy said community events like this are super important.

"It is more than just a center, but is a great place for socialization, making friends and participating in things that people enjoy from card games to exercise to crafts and more," Conroy said.

Allan Salois, a driver at the senior center, was excited about the turnout and to see his friend the Easter Bunny take pictures with families.

Salois said he looks forward to the event every year.

"It's just nice to get together and see everybody's smiling face. The kids have so much fun. That's the thing is watching the kids having so much fun," Salois said.

Salois said the event is also important to the seniors as it brings families together.

"It's not too often people get together like this with their grandkids or with their friends. So, anything like this where people get together and just interact and be social, other than the phone, I think is a really nice thing," Salois said. "Seeing people face-to-face (and) interacting."

Nicole O'Connor came with



A family photo with Kathy Blanchard, Katie Scagliarni and Molly during the Easter Egg Hunt at the RiverMills Senior Center on March 29.

her daughter, Thea, to the event and had a great time, hearing about it through her stepmother who works at the senior center.

"It's good to be a part of the community and be able to bring their kids somewhere for it," O'Connor said.

O'Connor thanked the senior center for the event.

"It was very organized and it was great to see all the kids running around and finding the eggs," O'Connor said.

Marge Ribadeneyra also came with her family, sharing how her granddaughter, Selena, enjoyed meeting the Easter Bunny.

Ribadeneyra also enjoyed meeting the Easter Bunny and seeing all the festive decorations.

"She was so excited. She gave the Easter Bunny a high-five and sat with him and talked to him for a while," Ribadeneyra said.

Ribadeneyra expressed gratitude for the senior center



From the left, Betty Shaheen, a volunteer at the RiverMills Senior Center, the Easter Bunny and Brandon Dumas, volunteer and activities coordinator at the RiverMills Senior Center, take a fun photo during the Easter Egg Hunt at the RiverMills Senior Center on March 29.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS



From the left, Christine Rumanowski, Richard Salvas, Jackson, Kylie, Chelsea Theriault, Scott Theriault, and Sophia pose for a big intergenerational family photo during the Easter Egg Hunt at the RiverMills Senior Center.

holding intergenerational events like this for the families.

"It's great. It's a nice opportunity for the grandkids to come along and see what we do, where we hang out too. It's really fun. Fun for the little ones too," Ribadeneyra said.

Conroy wants the communi-

ty to know the intergenerational events are open to all and will be noted in the newsletter, with upcoming events including the Summer Carnival, a Mother's Day Tea, a Father's Day Breakfast and more.

"We really try to encompass being able to provide some kind

of activity for everybody that comes here, plus more if we create an intergeneration activity," Conroy said.

Ribadeneyra thanked the senior center for all they do.

"Bravo to them. They do a beautiful job," Ribadeneyra said

FAMILY COOKOFF from page 1

come and not only visit our event but also see the new Food Bank which is now in Chicopee," Wilk said.

Coelho said they were also looking for engaging events for families to have fun and to bring the school community together.

"So we're always looking to host other events. You'll be seeing us in the community doing much more in the next few months and just really looking for a lot of feedback," Coelho said. "Just a lot of light-hearted good times with our families."

Wilk was happy to hold the event at the food bank, expressing gratitude for their partnership.

"It's a perfect venue for this idea. It really is just perfect," Wilk said.

Wilk and Coelho stressed how much they want to engage with families in the community and hope to do so more in the future.

"We're really looking to partner with families. Build that trust, engage them and just have a good time," Coelho said.

"We love engaging with the families," Wilk said.

Andrew Morehouse, executive director at the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, was excited to have the competition and invite the community to check out the Food Bank since its official opening in Chicopee



Jason Perkins and his son, Oliver, work on their rock star mini pizzas as their entry during the Chicopee Family Cookoff event at The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts.

in December 2023.

Morehouse said the food bank provided food to 4,500 individuals every month in 2023, equating to 800,000 meals over twelve months.

"That's the highest it's been. Even higher than during the pandemic and that's because of the expiration of all the pandemic-era federal benefits and inflation kicking in," Morehouse said.

Morehouse explained taking part in community events helps spread the word about the organization and interact with the community.

"That's really important because we rely on the com-

munity for support in so many ways," Morehouse said. "One of the best ways is knowing about us and understanding what the Food Bank does and how we partner with so many food pantries and meal sites in Chicopee and across all four counties."

He encouraged residents to visit www.foodbankwma.org to learn more.

Coelho's message to the community was this: come out and join us.

"It's a great time. Your children want to participate in fun events with you, so just join us and just have a good time," Coelho said.



Ainayi and her mother, Monica Velez, work in the kitchen on their garlic chicken with rice and beans recipe during the Chicopee Family Cookoff event at The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts.



From the left, Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware, Mayor John Vieau, Sam Newell, co-owner of Fruit Fair Supermarket, and Donna Minor, head cook at Chicopee High School, sample the contest entries during the Chicopee Family Cookoff event.

Sports

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Pacers take down Athol

CHICOPEE – Last Friday afternoon, Chicopee boys volleyball scored the win over Athol. The Pacers won 3-1, scoring their first win of the regular season. The Pacers would lose their second match of the season against Granby and are 1-1 to start the year.



Alex Garcia goes straight up with a set.



John Centeno goes for the spike.



Triston Tautalatsi goes high for the serve.



Jeniel Nazario sets near the net.



Damien Ottero reacts with a tip from the back line.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Pacers get through weather in scrimmage

CHICOPEE – Last Thursday in the rain, Belchertown girls lacrosse visited the turf at Chicopee High School for a scrimmage. The Orioles and Chicopee braved the rain. Chicopee defeated Lee in its season opener 14-13 and are scheduled to face Fitchburg on Saturday, April 6 at 11 a.m.



Maidson Thibault comes from behind the goal to start a play.



Sophia Moriera heads up the field.



Avery Placzek winds up for a shot.



Olivia Dobronski looks for an opening to shoot on goal.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Autumn Seymour attempts to get around some defenders.

Games being delayed or moved off Monday for eclipse

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

Athletes, parents, and fans are seeing changes to their schedules related to next Monday, April 8.

Several games and contests being held outdoors have had their start times delayed or have had the games moved off the date completely due to the upcoming solar eclipse set for the late afternoon hours that day.

Agawam High School Athletic Director Karen Gomez said she moved a softball game to later in the afternoon after she and other athletic directors received guidance from the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association urging them to move events away from the time the eclipse is scheduled for.

According to the email from the MIAA: "On Monday, April 8, Massachusetts will be experiencing a solar eclipse from 2 to 4:30 p.m. You may already be aware

of the danger of looking at the sun during the eclipse. Outdoor activity, practices, and games should be approached with extreme caution as unavoidable exposure to the harmful intensity could happen accidentally with extreme harm to athletes."

The email did not specifically bar events from happening during that time period, but most of the rescheduled games outdoors were moved to the 5 p.m. hour to avoid the eclipse, which is supposed to result in more than 80% coverage of the sun in Massachusetts.

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education also issued guidance to all schools, directing education officials not to allow students to look directly into the eclipse while it is happening.

"A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes directly between the Earth and the sun," the DESE guidance states. "The moon is much smaller than the

sun, but because it is so close to the Earth, it can appear to partially or completely block the image of the sun."

South Hadley High School Athletic Director Eric Castonguay confirmed he had to move some events scheduled Monday, including a track meet due to the eclipse's timeline. "I didn't really have an issue with it," Castonguay said. "I don't really know a lot about it, but I certainly would not want to expose the kids to anything that could be harmful to them."

The forecasted weather for Monday, April 8, is actually supposed to be ideal for the eclipse. It is currently forecasted to be sunny with temperatures in the low 60's. For more information on what contests have been moved to different times or off the date altogether depending on the availability of officials, go to www.arbiterlive.com for up-to-date schedules.

Trio of Colts score hat tricks in win

PITTSFIELD – On Monday afternoon, Chicopee Comprehensive girls lacrosse opened up the regular season on the road, facing Pittsfield High School out in the Berkshires. It was a good debut for the Colts as they came away with an 11-7 win.

In the victory, the Colts spread the scoring around, with Ede Seymour, Natalie Fournier, and Molly Girouard all scored three goals each. Alexandria Sullivan and Alexa Harber had a goal each. Goalie Allison Wenzell made eight saves for the Colts, who are 1-0 this season.

Late power-play goal sinks Thunderbirds

UTICA, N.Y. -- The Springfield Thunderbirds (29-30-3-2) battled back from an early two-goal deficit, but a late power-play goal from the Utica Comets (29-26-4-5) resulted in a 4-3 Comets win on Saturday night at Adirondack Bank Center.

For a second straight evening, the T-Birds relented a goal to their opposition in the opening half of the first period. Just 4:00 into the action, Shane Bowers skated the puck across the T-Birds blue line, creating a 2-on-1. Bowers opted to take himself, beating Colten Ellis on the glove side and making it 1-0 for Utica.

Springfield's power play had two chances in short order to try to equalize, but the man-advantage came up empty each time. Utica made the T-Birds pay for that at 12:26 when Will MacKinnon let go a seeing-eye wrist shot from the blue line that nicked the inside of the post and beat Ellis to give the Comets a 2-0 lead.

The Comets continued to have penalty troubles, though, and at 16:28, Tanner Dickinson got Springfield's power play on the board with a perfectly placed wrist shot over the glove of Akira Schmid, and the lead was cut to 2-1.

The Comets, though, were undeterred, and they restored the two-goal cushion just 1:29 later when Erik Middendorf crashed the net from the right-wing side. Ellis made the first save, but the rebound sat in the crease, and Middendorf polished it off to give Utica a 3-1 advantage at 17:57, a lead that carried through to the break.

The T-Birds' power play again had a chance to turn the tide of the game when

a pair of Utica penalties gave Springfield some time on both 4-on-3 and 5-on-3 advantages. Unlike the night before, though, the T-Birds came up empty, and the 3-1 score carried past the midpoint of the game.

With Utica on a power play at 12:15 of the period, Springfield used its shorthanded unit to claw back into the game when Will Bitten won a footrace to a loose puck at the Utica blue line, storming in on Schmid and roofing a shot over the goaltender's trapper to make it a 3-2 game on Bitten's 17th goal of the season.

Bitten's goal got the T-Birds' mojo back, and 3:12 later, Ryan Suzuki tied the game on his second point of the night. After Adam Gaudette narrowly missed the top corner, the T-Birds' leading scorer retrieved the puck in the left corner and laid it off to Hugh McGing. With little space available, McGing slid a perfect pass through the top of the blue paint to Suzuki, who one-timed it through Schmid to tie the score.

The stalemate carried to the second intermission, and the two teams cautiously played the opening 15 minutes of the third scoreless. Unfortunately for the T-Birds, a Bitten minor penalty opened the door for Utica's power play, and after a Justin Dowling shot rang off the post, Bowers was in the right place to lift the loose change into the twine with 3:18 to play. Bowers' fourth point of the night and eighth goal of the season proved to be the dagger, and for the fourth straight time in the season series between Springfield and Utica, the home team came away victorious.



Pioneers look to keep adding



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHTOS.COM
Abdel Talabi settles the ball for the Pioneers.



Tomas Duben looks to get through an opponent during an Open Cup match.



LUDLOW -- With about a month remaining until the regular season begins, the Western Mass. Pioneers got a look at their potential 2024 team in the Open Cup match, a loss, held two weeks ago. Now, the Pioneers will continue practice at Lusitano Stadium until they have a "friendly game" exhibition contest on May 10 against Third Eye FC. The home opener for the Pioneers will be on Thursday, May 18 against Pathfinder FC, a familiar opponent for the Pioneers.

Juri Schlingmann looks to avoid losing possession.

Bonsignore picks up win ahead of Thompson Speedway return

RICHMOND, Va. -- For the 41st time in his NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour career, Justin Bonsignore was celebrating in Victory Lane on Friday night.

Bonsignore bested defending series champion Ron Silk in a final dash to the finish to score his second career Richmond Raceway victory and first of the 2024 season driving the No. 51 Modified for Kenneth Massa Motorsports.

Bonsignore started from the second spot, and swapped the lead back and forth with Silk for most of the race. But, the real battle started on the final restart, with just three laps to go, when Silk restarted first and Bonsignore second.

Bonsignore got behind Silk coming off turn two coming to the white flag and crossed underneath him going into turn three. The two drivers raced side-by-side for the final lap with Bonsignore on the bottom of Silk coming to the checkered flag, edging out for the win.

The victory - his 41st career - all driving for Kenneth Massa Motorsports - places Bonsignore just one win away from tying the late Ted Christopher for third all-time on the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour wins list. He is also just

three away from tying Reggie Ruggiero for second on the all-time list as the series heads for Thompson Speedway next weekend.

"The last restart went pretty smooth, it was a wild finish," Bonsignore said. "Ron and I have had a rivalry going and tonight was some good, hard racing. For 150 laps, we just battled our guts out. Anytime our series gets to run at a NASCAR Cup Series venue - it's huge. These facilities are unbelievable and we've been able to win at a handful of them. The trophies definitely stay out front and center when you get home."

The win came with Coastal Fiber LLC on the side of the Kenneth Massa Motorsports machine. Coastal Fiber, LLC, a local Virginia business that is a full service fiber optic construction and splicing company, is owned by Mark Langevin, the owner of Phoenix Communications Inc. -- Bonsignore's normal primary sponsor.

Justin will return to the track at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park for the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Icebreaker 150 on Sunday, April 7.

Railers suffer loss to Newfoundland

WORCESTER -- Newfoundland beat Worcester, 9-3, to pile more logs into the jam that has become the North Division playoff race. After Saturday night's various scores there are three teams tied for third place with 66 points. They are Worcester, Trois-Rivieres and Newfoundland.

Maine has 65 points but games in hand. Reading has 61 points.

"It was the worst game we've played all year, by far," coach Jordan Smotherman said.

Isaac Johnson, just down from the AHL, registered a hat trick by scoring with five seconds left in the third period. He also had an assist. Neil Shea scored two goals for the Growlers.

The Railers got single goals from Brendan Robbins, Connor Welsh and Jake Pivonka. Robbins' was his first since Jan. 5. Pivonka's was his 20th. He is the first rookie in Railers history with a 20-goal season.

Newfoundland's first eight goals were scored against John Muse, who faced a relentless onslaught of breakaways and 2 on 1 rushes. After the eighth goal, which came at 4:44 of the third period, Smotherman pulled the veteran in favor of emergency backup Joe Spagnoli.

Until this season, the Railers had never used an EBUG in a game. It has happened twice this year with Joel Eisenhower taking over for Tristan Lennox in Reading on Dec. 15 after Lennox suffered what turned out to be a season-ending injury.

Spagnoli has served as a Railers, and opposition, EBUG often through the years and practices with Worcester if needed. Smotherman had hoped to get

him into a regulation game at some point.

"But not like that," the coach added. Spagnoli is a 40-year-old Rhode Islander, a professional goalie coach. He replaced the 35-year-old Muse, which might be some kind of ECHL record. Spagnoli stopped 11 of 12 shots, only allowing Johnson's late goal.

He played sparingly in the Federal League into 2014-15, his most recent appearance a four-minute stint for the Watertown Wolves. Since then Spagnoli has served as an EBUG for, he guessed, about 40 to 45 games.

"He is the ultimate EBUG," Smotherman said.

Spagnoli knows the job description. "Usually something pretty bad has to happen for an EBUG to come in," he said. He was not the EBUG for the Lennox injury, but joined the Railers in Glens Falls the next day.

Nine years after his last pro appearance, Spagnoli was in a game against a high-powered team. He did not appear to be nervous.

"Honestly, I thought I would be," he said, "at least a little more than I was. I felt like I settled in pretty quickly. A couple touches of the puck and you're right into it."

The cities of St. John's and Worcester have had a lot of similarities.

Both had two different AHL franchises. Worcester had the IceCats and Sharks. St. John's had the Maple Leafs and IceCaps. Both have an ECHL team. Worcester leads the all-time series by 45-43-12. The American Hockey League teams were 29-18-9. The Growlers prevailed in this league, 25-16-3.



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SPORTS

Chicopee 2024 spring varsity schedule

BASEBALL

Monday, April 1	Home	Longmeadow	4 p.m.
Wednesday, April 3	Away	Northampton	4:30 p.m.
Friday, April 5	Away	West Springfield	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 9	Home	Pittsfield	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 11	Away	East Longmeadow	4:30 p.m.
Monday, April 15	Home	Pope Francis	4 p.m.
Wednesday, April 17	Away	Minnechaug	12 p.m.
Friday, April 19	Home	Amherst	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 23	Home	Chicopee Comp	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 25	Home	Holyoke	5 p.m.
Monday, April 29	Away	Belchertown	4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 1	Home	Agawam	4 p.m.
Friday, May 3	Away	Chicopee Comp	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 7	Away	Chicopee Comp	4 p.m.
Thursday, May 9	Away	Holyoke	6 p.m.
Friday, May 10	Away	Palmer	4 p.m.
Monday, May 13	Home	Belchertown	4 p.m.
Tuesday, May 14	Away	Ludlow	4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 15	Away	Agawam	4 p.m.

BOYS LACROSSE (co-op with Chicopee Comp)

Thursday, March 28	Home	McCann Tech	6:15 p.m.
Monday, April 1	Home	Granby	6:15 p.m.
Thursday, April 4	Home	Belchertown	8 p.m.
Tuesday, April 9	Away	Northampton	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 11	Away	Hoosac	4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 16	Away	Smith Vocational	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 23	Home	Pittsfield	6:15 p.m.
Thursday, April 25	Home	Lenox	6:15 p.m.
Monday, April 29	Away	Belchertown	4 p.m.
Friday, May 3	Home	Northampton	6:15 p.m.
Monday, May 6	Home	Hoosac	6:15 p.m.
Wednesday, May 8	Away	Pittsfield	4:30 p.m.
Friday, May 10	Away	Westfield	4:30 p.m.
Monday, May 13	Away	Lenox	6 p.m.
Thursday, May 16	Away	Pope Francis	5 p.m.

GIRLS LACROSSE

Monday, April 1	Home	Lee	4 p.m.
Saturday, April 6	Home	Fitchburg	11 a.m.
Friday, April 12	Away	Pittsfield	4:30 p.m.
Monday, April 15	Home	McCann Tech	4 p.m.
Wednesday, April 17	Away	Hoosac	12 p.m.
Friday, April 19	Away	Hampshire	12 p.m.
Monday, April 22	Away	McCann Tech	4 p.m.
Wednesday, April 24	Home	Chicopee Comp	4 p.m.

Friday, April 26	Home	Central	3:30 p.m.
Monday, April 29	Away	Monson	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 30	Home	Pittsfield	4 p.m.
Tuesday, May 7	Home	Hampshire	5:30 p.m.
Friday, May 10	Home	Monson	4 p.m.
Tuesday, May 14	Away	Central	7 p.m.
Friday, May 17	Away	Pope Francis	4 p.m.
Monday, May 20	Home	Amherst	4 p.m.

Wednesday, April 3	Home	McCann Tech	4 p.m.
Friday, April 5	Home	Hoosac	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 9	Away	Mt. Everett	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 11	Away	Southwick	4 p.m.
Friday, April 12	Away	Drury	4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 16	Home	Ludlow	4 p.m.
Friday, April 19	Home	Palmer	1 p.m.
Monday, April 22	Away	Chicopee Comp	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 25	Away	McCann Tech	4 p.m.
Monday, April 29	Away	Hoosac	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 2	Home	Mt. Everett	4 p.m.
Friday, May 3	Away	Central	7 p.m.
Monday, May 6	Home	Drury	4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 8	Home	Granby	7 p.m.
Thursday, May 9	Away	Ludlow	3 p.m.
Thursday, May 16	Home	Chicopee Comp	4 p.m.

BOYS TRACK

Tuesday, April 2	Home	Central	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 9	Home	Southwick	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 23	Home	Ludlow	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 30	Away	West Springfield	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 7	Away	Chicopee Comp	4 p.m.

GIRLS TRACK

Tuesday, April 2	Home	Central	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 9	Home	Southwick	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 23	Home	Ludlow	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 30	Away	West Springfield	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 7	Away	Chicopee Comp	4 p.m.

BOYS TENNIS

Wednesday, April 3	Away	Westfield	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 9	Away	West Springfield	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 11	Away	Chicopee Comp	4 p.m.
Monday, April 15	Away	Westfield	4 p.m.
Wednesday, April 17	Home	Chicopee Comp	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 25	Home	Westfield	4 p.m.
Friday, April 26	Away	SICS	3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 1	Home	West Springfield	4 p.m.
Friday, May 3	Home	Agawam	4 p.m.
Monday, May 6	Home	West Springfield	4 p.m.
Thursday, May 9	Away	PVCIC	4 p.m.
Monday, May 13	Home	Amherst	4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 15	Home	Belchertown	4 p.m.

GIRLS TENNIS

Thursday, March 28	Home	SICS	3:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 4	Home	Turners Falls	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 9	Away	Frontier	4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 10	Home	Greenfield	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 11	Away	St. Mary's	3:30 p.m.
Monday, April 22	Away	Palmer	4 p.m.
Wednesday, April 24	Home	PVCA	4 p.m.
Friday, April 26	Home	PVCIC	4 p.m.
Monday, April 29	Home	Hampden Charter	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 30	Away	Renaissance	4 p.m.
Thursday, May 2	Home	Mohawk	4 p.m.
Friday, May 3	Away	Mohawk	4 p.m.
Monday, May 6	Away	Turners Falls	4 p.m.
Thursday, May 9	Home	Frontier	4 p.m.
Monday, May 13	Away	Greenfield	4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 15	Away	PVCIC	4 p.m.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Friday, March 29	Home	Athol	5:15 p.m.
Tuesday, April 2	Away	Granby	5:15 p.m.
Thursday, April 4	Home	Southwick	5 p.m.
Monday, April 8	Away	East Longmeadow	6 p.m.
Thursday, April 11	Away	South Hadley	5:15 p.m.
Friday, April 12	Home	SICS	4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 16	Home	Duggan	3:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 18	Away	Southwick	5:15 p.m.
Monday, April 22	Home	Holyoke	6 p.m.
Wednesday, April 24	Away	Commerce	5:15 p.m.
Friday, April 26	Away	SICS	5 p.m.
Monday, April 29	Home	Central	4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 30	Away	Holyoke	5 p.m.
Friday, May 3	Away	Chicopee Comp	5 p.m.
Monday, May 6	Home	South Hadley	6 p.m.
Wednesday, May 8	Home	East Longmeadow	6 p.m.
Friday, May 10	Away	Ware	5:15 p.m.
Tuesday, May 14	Away	Sci-Tech	5:15 p.m.
Thursday, May 16	Home	Ware	5 p.m.

Chicopee Comprehensive 2024 spring varsity schedule

BASEBALL

Monday, April 1	Home	Pope Francis	4 p.m.
Wednesday, April 3	Home	Minnechaug	4:45 p.m.
Friday, April 5	Away	Pittsfield	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 9	Away	West Springfield	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 11	Away	Longmeadow	4 p.m.
Friday, April 12	Home	East Longmeadow	4:30 p.m.
Monday, April 15	Home	Northampton	4 p.m.
Wednesday, April 17	Away	Amherst	12 p.m.
Thursday, April 18	Away	Belchertown	11 a.m.
Tuesday, April 23	Away	Chicopee	4 p.m.
Monday, April 29	Away	Agawam	4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 1	Away	Holyoke	4 p.m.
Friday, May 3	Home	Chicopee	6:30 p.m.
Monday, May 6	Home	Belchertown	4 p.m.
Tuesday, May 7	Home	Chicopee	4 p.m.
Friday, May 10	Away	Ludlow	4 p.m.
Monday, May 13	Home	Agawam	4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 15	Home	Holyoke	5 p.m.
Thursday, May 16	Home	Westfield	4 p.m.

BOYS LACROSSE (co-op with Chicopee)

Thursday, March 28	Home	McCann Tech	6:15 p.m.
Monday, April 1	Home	Granby	6:15 p.m.
Thursday, April 4	Home	Belchertown	8 p.m.
Tuesday, April 9	Away	Northampton	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 11	Away	Hoosac	4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 16	Away	Smith Vocational	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 23	Home	Pittsfield	6:15 p.m.
Thursday, April 25	Home	Lenox	6:15 p.m.
Monday, April 29	Away	Belchertown	4 p.m.
Friday, May 3	Home	Northampton	6:15 p.m.
Monday, May 6	Home	Hoosac	6:15 p.m.
Wednesday, May 8	Away	Pittsfield	4:30 p.m.
Friday, May 10	Away	Westfield	4:30 p.m.
Monday, May 13	Away	Lenox	6 p.m.
Thursday, May 16	Away	Pope Francis	5 p.m.

GIRLS LACROSSE

Monday, April 1	Away	Pittsfield	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 4	Home	Hampden Charter	6:15 p.m.
Monday, April 8	Home	Monson	6:15 p.m.
Friday, April 12	Home	Lee	6:15 p.m.
Monday, April 15	Home	Granby	6:15 p.m.
Friday, April 19	Away	Amherst	4:15 p.m.
Monday, April 22	Home	Pope Francis	6:15 p.m.
Wednesday, April 24	Away	Chicopee	4 p.m.

Friday, April 26	Away	Hoosac	4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 30	Away	Lee	4 p.m.
Thursday, May 2	Away	Granby	4 p.m.
Tuesday, May 7	Home	Amherst	6:15 p.m.
Thursday, May 9	Away	Pope Francis	4 p.m.
Tuesday, May 14	Home	Hoosac	6:15 p.m.
Thursday, May 16	Home	Central	6 p.m.
Monday, May 20	Home	Belchertown	6:15 p.m.

SOFTBALL

Wednesday, April 3	Home	Mt. Everett	4 p.m.
Friday, April 5	Home	Drury	4 p.m.
Saturday, April 6	Home	Easthampton	10 a.m.
Tuesday, April 9	Away	Hoosac	4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 10	Away	Palmer	4 p.m.
Friday, April 12	Away	McCann Tech	4 p.m.
Wednesday, April 17	Home	Monson	1 p.m.
Friday, April 19	Away	Ludlow	4 p.m.
Monday, April 22	Home	Chicopee	4 p.m.
Wednesday, April 24	Home	Southwick	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 25	Away	Mt. Everett	4 p.m.
Monday, April 29	Away	Drury	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 2	Home	Hoosac	4 p.m.
Monday, May 6	Home	McCann Tech	4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 8	Home	West Springfield	4 p.m.
Thursday, May 9	Home	Central	4 p.m.
Monday, May 13	Home	Ludlow	4:45 p.m.
Thursday, May 16	Away	Chicopee	4 p.m.

BOYS TRACK

Tuesday, April 4	Home	Ludlow	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 11	Away	Central	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 25	Home	West Springfield	4 p.m.
Tuesday, May 2	Home	Pope Francis	4 p.m.
Tuesday, May 9	Home	Chicopee	4 p.m.

GIRLS TRACK

Tuesday, April 4	Home	Ludlow	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 11	Away	Central	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 25	Home	West Springfield	4 p.m.
Tuesday, May 2	Home	Pope Francis	4 p.m.
Tuesday, May 9	Home	Chicopee	4 p.m.

BOYS TENNIS

Monday, April 1	Away	West Springfield	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 9	Away	Westfield	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 11	Home	Chicopee	4 p.m.
Wednesday, April 17	Away	Chicopee	4 p.m.
Monday, April 22	Away	Belchertown	4 p.m.

Tuesday, April 23	Home	West Springfield	4 p.m.
Friday, April 26	Away	Hampden Charter	4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 1	Home	Westfield	4 p.m.
Monday, May 6	Away	Agawam	4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 8	Away	West Springfield	4 p.m.
Thursday, May 9	Away	Frontier	4:30 p.m.
Monday, May 13	Home	Northampton	4 p.m.

GIRLS TENNIS

Thursday, April 4	Home	West Springfield	4 p.m.
Monday, April 8	Away	Holyoke	5 p.m.
Wednesday, April 10	Away	Central	4 p.m.
Friday, April 12	Away	South Hadley	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 16	Home	Northampton	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 18	Home	Agawam	4 p.m.
Wednesday, April 24	Away	West Springfield	4 p.m.
Friday, April 26	Home	Holyoke	5 p.m.
Tuesday, April 30	Home	Central	4 p.m.
Thursday, May 2	Home	South Hadley	4 p.m.
Friday, May 3	Away	Lee	4 p.m.
Monday, May 6	Home	South Hadley	4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 8	Home	Lee	4 p.m.
Friday, May 10	Away	Belchertown	4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 15	Home	Pope Francis	5 p.m.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Thursday, March 28	Away	Frontier	6 p.m.
Monday, April 1	Home	Putnam	6 p.m.
Wednesday, April 3	Away	Minnechaug	6:15 p.m.
Friday, April 5	Away	Agawam	6:15 p.m.
Tuesday, April 9	Away	Belchertown	5 p.m.
Thursday, April 11	Home	Longmeadow	5 p.m.
Monday, April 15	Home	Ludlow	11 a.m.
Wednesday, April 17	Home	Westfield	5 p.m.
Friday, April 19	Home	Central	1 p.m.
Tuesday, April 23	Away	Central	5:15 p.m.
Thursday, April 25	Home	West Springfield	5 p.m.
Monday, April 29	Away	Westfield	5:15 p.m.
Wednesday, May 1	Home	Agawam	5 p.m.
Friday, May 3	Home	Chicopee	5 p.m.
Tuesday, May 7	Home	Minnechaug	5:45 p.m.
Thursday, May 9	Away	West Springfield	6:15 p.m.
Monday, May 13	Away	Ludlow	5:15 p.m.
Wednesday, May 15	Away	East Longmeadow	6 p.m.
Thursday, May 16	Away	Southwick	5:15 p.m.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 6:30 PM*** in the Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Zone Change application from Res B to Bus A for 51,835 square feet of property located at 22 Grove Avenue and 0 Grove Street (Parcel ID 0125-00026 & 0125-00029) for the purpose of parking lot, new construction, restaurant, commercial kitchen, housing. Applicant – Ridvan Turan, 185 Grove Street, Chicopee, MA 01020.

The plans/application can be viewed on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>

The April 24, 2024 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. Zoom credentials are available upon request by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>). You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov. 04/05, 04/12/2024

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 6:30 PM*** in the Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Special Permit application under Chapter 275-58 C (4) for the purpose of restaurant with full service liquor license located at 1329 Memorial Drive. Applicant – Zengxin Ouyang, 131 Viscout Rd., Longmeadow, MA 01106.

The plans/application can be viewed on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>

The April 24, 2024 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. Zoom credentials are available upon request by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>). You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov. 04/05, 04/12/2024

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 6:30 PM*** in the

Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Special Permit application under Chapter 275-30 (B) for the purpose of installing one 20'x10' conex storage box and moving the existing one 20'x10' conex for more storage at the Public Safety Complex located at 110 Church Street. Applicant – City of Chicopee, David Rice, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013.

The plans/application can be viewed on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>

The April 24, 2024 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. Zoom credentials are available upon request by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>). You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov. 04/05, 04/12/2024

**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. HD24C0114CA**

**In the matter of:
Marc Jean Chabot
CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME**

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Marc Jean Chabot of Chicopee, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Mark Jean Chabot
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 04/26/2024.**

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 28, 2024

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/05/2024

**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: 3FA6POH76DR239913
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. HD24C0112CA
**In the matter of:
Jamil Riyahd Inusah
CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME**

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

Jamil Riyahd Vega
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 04/25/2024.**

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 28, 2024

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/05/2024

**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. HD24C0113CA**
**In the matter of:
Graysen Evan Jose
CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME**

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

Graysen Evan Vega
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 04/25/2024.**

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 28, 2024

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/05/2024

**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. HD24P0677EA
**Estate of:
Donna Marie Godere
Also known as:
Donna M. Godere**

**Date of Death: 01/09/2024
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 **Stanley Godere 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: **Stanley Godere 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 04/24/2024.**

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 02, 2024

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/05/2024

**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 27, 2024

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/05/2024

**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. HD24P0414EA
**Estate of:
Mary Ellen LaValley
Date of Death: 04/19/2022
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 **Michael R. Labrie 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: **Michael R. Labrie 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 05/01/2024.**

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 25, 2024

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/05/2024

**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: April 02, 2024

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/05/2024

**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. HD24P0647EA
**Estate of:
Christine Ann McCoubrey
Date of Death: 03/06/2024
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 **James B McCoubrey of Easthampton, 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: **James B McCoubrey of Easthampton, 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 04/22/2024.**

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 25, 2024

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/05/2024

**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 25, 2024

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/05/2024

**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.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 6:30 PM* in the Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Ordinance Amendment to add Chapter 275-73 No further business, commercial or industrial development shall occur on James Street from the intersection of James Street and Memorial Drive to the beginning of Syrek Street and any appurtenant Street for one year. Applicant - Derek Dobosz (former Ward 6 Councilor) and Councilor Mary Beth Pniak-Costello (Ward 9).

The plans/application can be viewed on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>

The April 24, 2024 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. Zoom credentials are available upon request by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>). You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov. 04/05, 04/12/2024

INVITATION FOR BID CHICOPEE ELECTRIC LIGHT 725 FRONT STREET, CHICOPEE, MA 01020 BID NO. CEL 24-0511 ISSUE DATE: APRIL 2, 2024

Sealed proposals are being accepted for: 300 kVA and 500 kVA THREE PHASE PADMOUNT TRANSFORMERS
BID OPENING DATE, TIME AND LOCATION: **APRIL 23, 2024 at 10:00**

AM at Chicopee Electric Light, 725 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01020-1778.

BIDS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED IN DUPLICATE. PLEASE READ AND COMPLY WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS ENTITLED 1.0 PREPARATION OF BIDS.

Bid documents are available at the business office located at 725 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01020-1778.

The Vendor/Contractor shall comply with the provisions of Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order No. 11375, entitled "Equal Employment Opportunity" and of Chapter 164 Sec. 56D as amended, of the Massachusetts General Laws, both of which are here-in incorporated by reference and made a part of this contract.

The Department reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or to accept any proposal that in the opinion of the Municipal Light Board, is in the best interest of the Municipal Lighting Plant.

Is your firm a: MBE/WBE (please circle) MBE/WBE firms must be currently certified by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Please submit Bids in duplicate clearly marked with the Bid Number and Title:

BID NUMBER: CEL 24-0511

TITLE: 300 kVA and 500 kVA THREE PHASE PADMOUNT TRANSFORMERS

Natalie Colberg Purchasing 04/05/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hamden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD24P0515EA
Estate of:
Maria Uzun
Date of Death: 04/01/2023
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal

Adjudication of Intestacy has been filed by **Sandy K Szczygiel of Palos Hills, IL** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Sandy K Szczygiel of Palos Hills, IL** 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 12, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate

04/05/2024

LEGAL AD
The Westover Metropolitan Development

Corporation (WMDC) invites sealed bids for AIP Project No. 3-25-0061-0XX-2024, Rehabilitation of **Hangar 13: Install Fire Suppression System** at Westover Metropolitan Airport.

Bidding procedures shall be in accordance with the provisions of MGL, Chapter 149, Section 44A through 44J as amended. The estimated construction cost is: **\$600,000.** Bidders shall be General Contractors certified through DCAMM in prime category "Fire Protection Sprinkler Systems" work.

The work includes but is not necessarily limited to the installation of a wet-based fire protection system and fire alarm system in an existing 31,000 SF aircraft storage hangar.

All work under this Contract must be completed within one hundred and twenty (120) consecutive calendar days of the date specified in the "Notice to Proceed".

Prospective bidders are instructed to send an email to airport.bids@stantec.com to request an electronic copy of the bid documents. The documents will be available after 2:00 P.M., (EST) Thursday, April 4, 2024.

A Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference/Site Walkthrough will be held on Friday, April 12, 2024, at 11:00 A.M., (EST) at the office of the Westover Metropolitan Airport, 255 Padgette Street Chicopee, MA 01022.

Sealed bids will be received at the office of the Westover Metropolitan Airport, 255 Padgette Street Chicopee, MA 01022 until **2:00 P.M., (EST) Thursday, April 25, 2024.**

The contractor must comply with certain Federal Contract Provisions identified in the bid documents and WMDC's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program.

For a complete listing of the "Invitation to Bid" go to the airport's website at: westoverairport.com. A notice can also be found on MA Central Register and COMMBUYS.. 04/05/2024

OBITUARIES

DEATH NOTICE

Ayres "Tony" Cacao
Died March 24, 2024
Services April 20, 2024
Tylunas Funeral Home

IN THE CITY

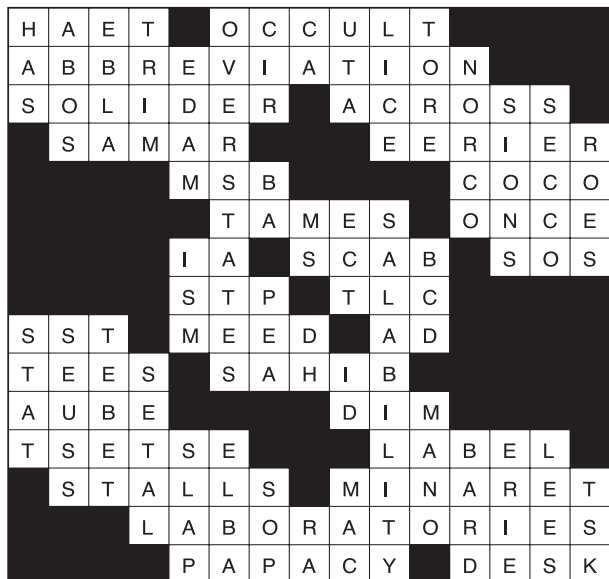
Elms College appoints new members to Board of Trustees

CHICOPEE - Elms College announced that three prominent leaders in the region have joined the college's Board of Trustees.

B. John (Jack) Dill, CRE, FRICS, of Springfield, MA, is the president and principal of Colebrook Realty Services and has been negotiating real estate transactions on behalf of his clients - buyers, sellers, property owners, and tenants - for more than three decades. He holds the Counselors of Real Estate designation along with other professional designations and licenses in the fields of real estate, finance, and construction. Dill is a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. He has been an active supporter of over 20 local nonprofits, including Elms College, and is currently vice chairman of the Fallon Community Health Plan Board of Directors and is a member of the Massachusetts Housing Investment Corporation. Dill earned his bachelor of arts degree cum laude from Williams College.

Ashley Vanesse '11, of West Springfield, MA, is the president of the Elms College Alumni Association and has been a member of the association since 2011. She is currently office manager for Barry J. Farrell Funeral Home and also held various positions in the Elms College Admission Office. Vanesse earned her bachelor of arts degree in history from Elms College and her master's of arts degree in psychology-school counseling from Westfield State University.

Lisa Wills '88, CPA, of Vernon, CT, is a partner at Whittlesey, one of the largest regional CPA and IT consulting firms in New England. She has worked primarily with nonprofits over her 25-year career and is an expert in complex audits. Lisa is a licensed Certified Public Accountant with the State of Connecticut. She is also an active member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), as well as the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants (CTCPA). In addition, Lisa is a recognized industry leader and frequent speaker on topics such as FASB changes and female leadership. She earned her bachelor of arts in accounting and business administration from Elms College.



PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Chicopee Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

This paper publishes birth, engagement, wedding and significant anniversary announcements free of charge. Simply log on to our web site, choose the paper you want the announcement to appear in, then use our SUBMISSION link to email your information.







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UNICOPEE REGISTER

TAX SERVICES

1040 2024 TAX TIME

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The Town of Brookfield is seeking qualified applicants for a part-time (15 hours per week) Grant Writer/Facilitator. See job description at brookfieldma.us. Salary is commensurate with experience. Current appropriation is \$30.28 per hour. Please submit a resume and cover letter to selectmen@brookfieldma.us Open until filled. *Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer*

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HELP WANTED

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF PALMER seeks a skilled, outgoing, and caring Church Administrator to manage the business affairs of the church and to work closely with our Pastor, Moderator, and church members to advance church missions and community outreach. The ideal candidate will have strong communication and organizational skills, be proficient in the use of computer and website technologies, and be creative in developing procedures and practices. The applicant must maintain strong, positive interpersonal relationships with members, ministries, and staff. This job is a 25-hour/week position, Monday-Friday, 9am-2pm, with PTO benefits. Pay commensurate with experience. Please email resumes to scc1847media@gmail.com.

TOWN OF HAMPDEN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The town of Hampden Highway Department is seeking to fill a full-time skilled worker/truck driver position. All applicants must possess a valid Class B CDL, 2B Hoisting License, OSHA 10 Certificate of Training, and a copy of current driving record. Applicants must have the skills and knowledge necessary to perform general road and grounds maintenance and the ability to operate and maintain all associated tools and equipment. The capability to perform maintenance/repair on trucks and equipment, welding, and the use of other garage tools, along with light construction and snowplowing experience, would be beneficial. Please call the Hampden Highway Department (413) 566-8842, or email highway@hampdenma.gov for inquiries and application/resume submittals.

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM

FIREFIGHTER/EMT

The Town of Wilbraham is looking to fill a vacancy for Firefighter/EMT. Paramedic Certification or currently attending paramedic school highly preferred. For application and more info, visit www.wilbraham-ma.gov. Deadline 4/17/24

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR 1 P/T BORROWER SERVICES ASSISTANT P/T RECYCLING ATTENDANT SUMMER CAMP COUNSELOR SUMMER LIFEGUARD

The Town of Wilbraham is looking to fill several vacancies. For application and more information please visit www.wilbraham-ma.gov. Open until filled. EOE

TOWN TREASURER:

The Town of Brookfield is seeking qualified applicants for the full-time (40-hour week) position of Town Treasurer. Full job description at brookfieldma.us. Salary commensurate with experience. Current appropriation is \$80,498.62. Submit cover letter and resume to: selectmen@brookfieldma.us. Reviews begin week of April 15th. Open until filled. *The Town of Brookfield is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.*

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

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The benefits of local newspapers

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

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

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

local newspapers cover local politics extensively.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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Photos courtesy of Janine Dunlea

St. Joan of Arc School enjoys show from Berkshire Theatre Group

CHICOPEE - On Friday, March 8, the Berkshire Theatre Group from Pittsfield, MA performed The Magic Tree House Merlin Missions: Winter of the Ice Wizard. This performance was presented to our entire student body of St. Joan of Arc School through a grant made possible from the Chicopee Cultural Council.

The appeal of this theatre group is that the performers are all school-aged children, mainly junior high and high school students.

The Magic Tree House is the #1 best-selling chapter book series of all time - perfect for beginner readers to more advanced readers. Winter of the Ice Wizard is a play with music, based on Mary Pope Osborne's Magic Tree House book of the

same title. Berkshire Theatre Group's mission is to support wide ranging artistic exploration and acclaimed performances in theatre, dance, music, and entertainment.

BTG's celebrated four stages reflect the history of the American theatre; they represent a priceless cultural resource for the community. Their vision is to be a center for creative work that enriches, educates, invigorates, and transforms artists and audiences. Through careful planning and programming, BTG offers children and families access to culturally enriching activities.

There was also time for Questions & Answers and the students learned a lot about the school-aged performers!



Elms College hosts 3rd annual Health Care Organization Forum



CHICOPEE - Elms College's School of Nursing hosted its 3rd annual Health Care Organization Forum on Tuesday, March 19. The event was for senior nursing students to learn about employment opportunities from several hospitals and health care organizations throughout the region. Shown here are nursing students with representatives from Cooley Dickinson and Holyoke Health Center.

PHOTOS AND CAPTION COURTESY OF WILLIAM RUSSO-APPEL



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