

Chicopee Register

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COMMUNITY



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

From the left, Andrea Cameron, special education coordinator at Chicopee Public Schools, Jacilyn Berriman, special education coordinator at Chicopee Public Schools, Erika Carlson, special education teacher and co-adviser of Best Buddies at Chicopee High School, Ashley Ziemba, special education teacher and co-adviser of Best Buddies at Chicopee High School, Kristen Coelho, family and community engagement facilitator for Chicopee Public Schools, and Ellie James smile for a group photo during the Autism Awareness Event at Lincoln Grove Park on April 24.

Autism Networking event raises awareness, provides resources

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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CHICOPEE - The community gathered at Lincoln Grove's All-Inclusive Park from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on April 24 for an Autism Networking Event.

The event, hosted by the Chicopee Public Schools Special Education Department, provided families the opportunity to connect with them and community partners including Sunshine Village, Best Buddies, the fire and police departments, the library, the Holyoke Chicopee Springfield Head Start and more.

Throughout the event, families enjoyed games, socializing,

activities and ice cream from the police department's ice cream truck.

Dr. Andrea Stolar, director of special education, explained the inaugural event was planned about six months earlier along with other events each week throughout April in honor of Autism Awareness Month.

Stolar was excited about the turnout.

"It's kind of exciting. We have a whole bunch of neighborhood community people supporting us," Stolar said. "We're very excited about the number of families here, kids and parents."

Stolar and Kristen Coelho, family and community engagement facilitator for Chicopee

Public Schools, shared how the event came together.

"We were just brainstorming one day and we thought it would be a good idea just to have this community event," Coelho said.

"We're really trying to find ways to engage our parents, our kids, our school people. Trying to get everybody together," Stolar said.

"Everyone collaborate in the community, so it's been great," Coelho said.

"And for people to know what we offer and have available, I think that's important too. There are so many things that happen that people don't know,

See **AUTISM** page 5

Council approves \$24,250 appropriation for Valley-Bike membership fee



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

A photo of the empty ValleyBike stand on Grove Street in Chicopee. The city is working on reintroducing the program.

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - City Council approved a \$24,250 appropriation on April 16 for a ValleyBike membership fee.

Mayor John Vieau announced the city is looking to reintroduce ValleyBike, a bike share promoting short bike trips within core communities which includes Chicopee.

"It's no secret that the company that was providing service to us went bankrupt and our goal was to get our bike share as part of Pioneer Valley's plan," Vieau said. "We're hopeful to use the Mass Gaming Transportation Planning Grant to pay for these funds, but we need to fund it upfront."

Planning Director Lee Pouliot explained when the operator went bankrupt in 2023, the membership moved.

"We secured the bond funds from our bankrupt entity and their contract to assist us and immediately started planning for

the program's future. We have secured a new operator which will be announced by Northampton as soon as the new contract is signed," Pouliot said. "However, for year one, we're essentially starting with zero funds in the bank because we have to program the rest of the bond funds to repair the bikes that have been now sitting for two years to make sure that they're safe and road-worthy."

Pouliot added everyone agreed the "balance of the funds on hand" would go toward the repairs and "we need operation funds until revenue is generated by the system."

"So, right now, we're looking just to fund year one so we can get the vendor operating the system. The goal has been to see bikes on the street by May 1 and Chicopee's portion is what the request is for this evening," Pouliot said.

On the grant, Pouliot said Chicopee and other communities have submitted applications

See **BIKE** page 3

Chicopee marks Sri Lankan New Year in flag-raising

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - Residents, community members and local and state elected officials gathered outside City Hall on April 19 to raise the Sri Lankan flag for the Sri Lankan New Year.

The Sri Lankan New Year tradition is celebrated in April and is also called the Sinhala, Tamil and Sri Lankan New Year.

Mayor John Vieau said the celebration is "a cherished tradition for our Sri Lankan community" that "symbolizes renewal and unity."

"It's a beautiful example of

how our diverse backgrounds contribute to the strength of our city. In Chicopee, we are proud to be a mosaic of cultures. Each community, each individual brings unique perspectives that are all vital to our city's growth and our prosperity," Vieau said.

Vieau stressed the importance of the power in diversity.

"It is our shared commitment to inclusivity that makes Chicopee a dynamic and inviting place to live for everyone," Vieau said.

Malintha Fernando thanked everyone for their support in bringing the Sri Lankan culture to the city where her parents, Welisarage and Deepthi, have



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Dinithi Fernando cranks the lever to raise the Sri Lankan Flag during the Sri Lankan Flag Raising ceremony in Chicopee.

raised their family in the past 25 years.

Fernando added the flag-raising would mean a lot to

her late brother, Kaween.

"Even though he's not here right now, I know that he's watching us today and smiling," Fernando said.

Vieau then presented the proclamation to Deepthi Fernando, co-owner of Island Spice, as he declared April 19 the Sri Lankan New Year.

"Sri Lankan New Year is a time for families and communities to come together, to reflect on the past year and to welcome the new year with hope, joy and a renewed spirit," Vieau said. "Whereas, the traditions are customs associated with the Sri Lankan New Year such as light-

See **SRI LANKAN** page 8

South Fairview Sewer Separation, Water Replacement Project underway

Also, information on road closures and project details

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - The South Fairview Sewer and Water Replacement Project is officially underway in Chicopee.

The two-and-a-half-year, \$19,066,932 project will replace sewer, water and drain for the South Fairview neighborhood, having begun this past fall/winter with water main installation done on James Street.

The project is scheduled for completion in Fall 2025, followed by residual restoration in Spring 2026.

Quinn Lonczak, project supervisor at Chicopee Water Pollution Control, was excited to see the project moving.

"Things have gone well so far and our contractor has been successful in meeting their own schedule. Currently, our contractor is installing a lot of water mains throughout the project area. This allows us to decommission the old mains and place a sewer or drain in the area previously occupied," Lonczak said.

Lonczak explained the project is "a major utility replacement and installation" project, elaborating on what the contractors are doing.

"We are replacing water mains, installing new sanitary sewers and, also, installing storm drains. After installations are completed and tested, we will, also, reconstruct the roadways that were impacted. We will make traffic and pedestrian signal

improvements at the James and Montcalm and Britton and Montcalm intersections," Lonczak said.

Lonczak said during the duration, there are road closures on James Street from Montcalm Street to Old James Street from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. every work day.

"The detour in place takes vehicles onto Britton Street at this time. Once our crews finish installing the sewer on James Street, it will reopen. After that, no main road will be fully closed again until paving takes place," Lonczak said. "Main roads will have alternating one-way traffic during further construction, and smaller roads will be closed to thru traffic with access for residents. Detours will be minor, with police details assisting motorists. We ask that travelers give themselves some extra time during the James Street closure."

Lonczak shared how residents in the South Fairview neighborhood regularly experience sewer backups, utilizing shut-off valves in their basements to curb the issue.

"This area is notorious for backups, which is why we are working here. After the project, affected property owners will never experience a rain-related backup again!" Lonczak said.

He elaborated on how the improvements will help residents, including reducing or eliminating combined sewer overflow volumes to the Connecticut River.

"There will be improved drainage in some roadways and residents can also expect brand new roadways after the project. New pipelines also means they can expect a more reliable water, sewer, and drain system that will hopefully not be subject to

fail for many, many years," Lonczak said.

Upon completion, Lonczak said the city will determine the next neighborhood to do a sewer separation project.

"There are many neighborhoods still requiring separation by the city's consent decree with the EPA," Lonczak said.

Lonczak wants the community to know "their sewer and water fees are being spent well- -directly on a project impacting their daily lives."

"You may not see water and sewer mains, but they play a huge role in everyone's daily life and are essential to public health. We ask that residents be patient and pay attention closely to notices left on their doors and try to keep up with updates coming from the city. I also ask that people take extra care when driving near construction areas. The people working are members of the community and we want everyone to go home safely every day," Lonczak said.

Lonczak encourages residents to be patient as the project goes on and the team is available if they have questions or concerns.

"This is a massive construction project and it is going to be dirty, loud and disruptive. This is a price of progress and new infrastructure. We are doing our best to give folks the best possible system we can," Lonczak said. "At the end of the day, the workers, including myself, are just regular people trying our best. Be patient with us and let us know if you have an issue. We can most likely resolve it quickly and get you back on track with your normal routine."

Fatal Chicopee shooting on Montgomery Street under investigation

CHICOPEE - On Thursday, April 18 at 6:30 p.m. officers from the Chicopee Police Department responded to a report of an attempted armed robbery on the 1200 block of Montgomery Street with a report of shots fired.

On scene, responding officers discovered two adult males, one of whom was suffering from a gunshot wound. Initial reports suggest the wounded male attempted to rob the store when gun shots were fired. He was taken to Baystate Medical Center where he later passed away. The decedent has been identified as Robert Papalardo, 53, of South Hadley.

This is an ongoing investigation being conducted by members of the Chicopee Police Department, Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit assigned to the Hampden District Attorney's Office, and the Hampden District Attorney's Office's Murder Unit.

Hampden District Attorney Anthony Gulluni extends his sympathies to Mr. Papalardo's family.

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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 May 2024.

LEGO Zone will be held in the community room on Thursday May 2 and May 30 at 4 p.m. It is an hour of open building time with a big pile of LEGO bricks for ages 6 and up.

The Library's All Ages Playgroup will be held in the children's room each week on Saturday from 1 to 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 Tuesday, May 7 at 4 p.m., the library will host a Kids Room Craft. We'll be making seed bombs from construction paper pulp and wildflower seeds that participants can plant in their gardens. These also make a great Mother's Day gift. Kids and teens are welcome to attend.

Storytime will be held in the children's program room on Wednesdays, May 8 and 22 at 10:30 a.m. 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, May 10 and 24 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!

Camp Ani-May, three weeks of Anime fun for grades 3-5, will be held on Tuesday afternoons from 4 to 5 p.m., May 14, 21 and 28. Registration is required.

Kids ages 6-9 are invited to come to the Maker Zone for projects, crafts, and experiments focused on Science Technology Engineering and Math. Maker Zone will be held on Thursday, May 16 at 4 p.m. in the children's program room. This month's project is fabric looms.

The library will host two programs just for middle and high school students in May.

The second annual Paper Horse Derby will be held after school in the Teen Space on Thursday, May 2, beginning around 2:30 p.m. Stop by the Teen Space after school to cut out and create your own tiny paper horse! These little friends will then compete in their own Kentucky Derby to see who made the fastest one. Best part? No skill is required and they'll race entirely on their own! All brought to you by the power of PHYSICS!

The Teen Anime Club will be held on Thursday, May 23 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. This month's theme is Koinobori Day. Have you ever seen large, koi fish windsocks and wondered what they were for? Join us as we learn a little about these iconic decorations and then get to make our own colorful koi!

For more information about the Chicopee Public Library, go to www.chicopee-publiclibrary.org

City of Chicopee request for community feedback on the Open Space and Recreation Plan

2024 – 2031 Update & Willimansett Brownfields Area-Wide Plan

CHICOPEE - The Planning Processes for the 2024 Update to the City of Chicopee's Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) and development of the Willimansett Brownfields Area-Wide Plan (AWP) are looking for community feedback from residents, business owners and community stakeholders regarding the final drafts of the plans before official release and adoption. The city sees this as an opportunity to inform and receive feedback from the community on the city's current and future Open Space & Recreational goals, as well as the adaptive reuse and mitigation of the industrial remnants of the city's past. Both plans provide an in-depth look at the city's ambition to retain and expand its Open Space and Recreation opportunities, through modernization and equity, as well as the possibilities of how a network of open space amenities can mesh with the revitalization of neighborhoods left underutilized and disadvantaged by historic industrial development specific to the Willimansett neighborhood.

The 2024 Update to the City of Chicopee's OSRP, spearheaded by the partnership between the city's Departments of Parks & Recreation and Planning & Development, began just before the COVID-19 Pandemic, which heavily influenced the findings and priorities identified throughout the planning process. The importance of Open Space and Recreation were highlighted during this generationally unique period, where the reliance on open, green spaces was put at the forefront of Public Health. Using information gathered from public engagement opportunities, the Plan was able to highlight key goals related to

- Open Space Safety;
- Multimodal Accessibility to Open Space;
- Conservation of Environmental and Agricultural Resources;
- Environmental Resiliency; and
- Community-Administration Partnerships for Resource Stewardship.

At the same time, the Willimansett Brownfields Area-Wide Plan (AWP), which has its roots in the city's longstanding efforts to recover and revitalize its former industrial sites, most notably its collection of former mills, serves as a basis for the redevelopment of the city's most historically vulnerable neighborhood to environmental and economic stress. When paired with the goals in the OSRP, this Plan is intended to provide a blueprint for future developers and resident stakeholders to become active participants in the vision for Willimansett's

future, as identified and complimented in the recently published pilot Comprehensive Plan, Envision Our Chicopee: 2040. Some unique elements to this plan include:

- Cultural Preservation;
- Multimodal Accessibility to Roads Network and Open Space;
- Activation of the Riverfront as a destination;
- Updated and Increased Housing Opportunities; and
- Dismantling and mitigating historically inequitable Planning and Administrative initiatives.

Both Plans aim to provide equal and fair amenities to all stakeholders throughout the city, while working to advance practices to meet their moment in the 21st Century. Notably, both plans work together to continue the push to provide an accessible transportation network to the different public nodes in the city, especially the Connecticut Riverwalk. Acknowledgement of the trail as a key artery to the city and its neighbors is only the beginning to further its activation and utilization as a tool to help the city continue to grow and flourish with various economic and social opportunities providing the opportunity to ensure the city is a great place to "Live, Work, and Play". Produced as a result of the partnership between the city's Planning Department, its Planning team, from Weston and Sampson, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Willimansett AWP is a vision brought forward by the Community through various involvement opportunities, ongoing environmental assessment and cleanup projects in the neighborhood, and the desire to bolster the vision presented and overwhelmingly agreed upon in Envision Our Chicopee: 2040.

The Planning Department will release these two (2) plans for public comment for a period of 30 days, which will begin today Friday, April 5 at 8:00 AM. The 2024 – 2031 OSRP can be accessed via the Planning Department's GIS Page for "Parks and Open Space" (<https://arcg.is/HG11T>), or via QR code provided on this release; concurrently, the Willimansett Brownfields AWP can be accessed via its website (<https://arcg.is/0S01j0>) or the correlated QR code. Respondents can email, write, or even stop by the Planning Department (274 Front Street, 4th Floor Annex, Chicopee, MA 01013) to discuss any questions, comments, or concerns, all contact being listed on the Planning Department's page on the city website (<https://www.chicopeema.gov/365/Planning-Department>). Additionally, respondents may call the Planning Department at (413) 594-1515.

BIKE from page 1

to the Massachusetts Gaming Commission "asking to use a portion of our allotted funds from the Mitigation Fund to fund year one operations."

"They are not anticipated to announce those awards probably until the end of May or June, so we're hoping that we can have this appropriation passed so that if Northampton needs the money to advance the contract and get the vendor operating that Chicopee can provide its funds that we would work with the Gaming Commission to reimburse ourselves after that grant is awarded," Pouliot said.

Ward 4 Councilor George Balakier asked about the grant, noting the \$40,000 listed in front of him, which Pouliot clarified was the requested number for the application.

"Do you think there's a good possibility we're going to get some grant money? I know you said May, but I'm wondering what your take is on that?" Balakier said.

Pouliot replied the Gaming Commission pre-allotted funds to communities and based on their award, just over \$300,000, Chicopee had to propose eligible projects under the categories allowed.

The three proposed projects are ValleyBike, a police training program and a transportation project to further develop the plans for the downtown StreetScapes project and traffic circulation.

"So we're confident that those are all eligible based on the criteria the commission established. We have a timing issue here is what we're really trying to solve," Pouliot said.

President/Councilor-at-Large Frank Laflamme asked if the city would be locked in for one year or to see how it goes for a couple of years, which Pouliot said it would be through fiscal year 2026, with an asterisk pertaining to available funding each year.

"But are we committed the next year after that? If the pricing goes up or somehow?" Laflamme said. "How will we know that?"

Pouliot clarified this. "We are only committed if we have funding on hand to support it," Pouliot said.

Councilor-at-Large Tim Wagner expressed concerns as Chicopee and other sur-



A shot of the kiosk system for ValleyBike. TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

rounding communities are not bike-friendly and "there's a not of bike infrastructure."

Wagner added how the last attempt at making bike infrastructure with the bike loops downtown took away parking spaces and had upset many residents.

"What are we doing to make the city a little more bike-friendly? Cos I'd like to see some of that done first before we start investing, according to this, potentially \$1,200 per bike per year," Wagner said.

Pouliot said three bike stations have already been purchased and installed along with the corresponding number of bikes and ValleyBike was "a rather safe program" when it was operating.

"So, we're already financially invested in this," Pouliot said.

Pouliot agreed with Wagner that "we need to do better with bike infrastructure across the city period," adding the Planning Department with DPW and the mayor's office are working on that project for downtown.

"We know from the data that we have that ValleyBike was incredibly successful," Pouliot said.

When Wagner asked if the council could see the data on the trips people took, Pouliot said he could provide that for them.

The motion was later approved 11-0.

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When should we claim Social Security?

Dear Rusty

I am almost 63 and my husband will be 61 soon and we are looking to see when our best time would be to start our Social Security benefits.

We would like to know if one of us qualifies for benefits from a previous marriage from 1984 to 1995. And we are wondering if I can start drawing at age 65, in two years or if it is better that I wait until 67 because my spouse is two years younger than me. Also, if I were to continue working limited hours after 65, what would my earning limit be?

Signed Almost Ready

Dear Almost Ready

The first thing to understand is that Full Retirement Age for both of you is 67. If either of you claim before that, your monthly benefit amount will be permanently reduced and, because you are working, you will be subject to Social Security's "earnings test."

If you claim your benefit at age 65 your monthly payment will be about 87% of what you would get if you claimed at age 67. If your husband claims at age 62, his benefit will be about 70% of his FRA amount.

The only way to get 100% of the benefit you've each earned from a lifetime of working is to claim at your FRA. You can choose to claim at age 65 as long as you're comfortable with the benefit reduction which will occur and as long as your annual work earnings do not significantly exceed the earnings limit for that year. In any case, when each of you claims will not affect the other's retirement benefit amount.

Social Security's "earnings test" for those claiming before FRA sets a limit for how much can be earned before some or all benefits are taken away. The earnings limit for 2024 is \$22,320, but it changes yearly. If you claim early benefits and your work earnings exceed that year's limit, Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit.

They take away by withholding future benefits long enough to recover what you owe for exceeding the limit. If you significantly exceed the annual earnings limit, you may be temporarily ineligible to receive SS benefits until you either earn less or reach your FRA.

The earnings test no longer applies after you reach your FRA. I cannot predict what the earnings limit will be two years from now, but it will be more than the 2024 limit and published at that time. FYI, in the year you turn 67 your pre-FRA earnings limit will be much higher and when you reach your FRA the earnings test no longer applies.

Regarding your previous marriage, you cannot receive spousal benefits from an ex-spouse while you are currently married. But when to claim may also be influenced by whether either you or your current spouse will get a spousal benefit from the other. If the FRA (age 67) benefit amount for one of you is more than twice the other's FRA entitlement, the one with the lower FRA amount will get a "spousal boost" to their own amount when both of you are collecting.

Spouse benefits reach maximum at one's FRA, but each person's personal SS retirement amount will continue to grow if not claimed at FRA. Waiting past FRA to claim allows the SS retirement benefit to grow by 8% per year, up to age 70.

So, with an FRA of 67, claiming at age 70 will yield a payment 24% higher than the FRA amount, 76% more than the age 62 amount and about 37% more than the age 65 amount. But waiting beyond FRA is only smart if financially feasible and life expectancy is at least average about 84 and 87 respectively for a man and woman your current ages. And, as a general rule, if one's spousal benefit at FRA (50% of their partner's FRA entitlement) is highest, then that spouse should claim at FRA to get their maximum benefit.

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Do it now, while the forsythia is blooming

It's funny how nature is sometimes used as a cue to do this or do that.

The term is phenology. When I was first learning about perennials all those years ago at UMass, I remember my instructor saying it was safe to remove winter protection "when the forsythia is blooming."

It is also safe to prune roses and butterfly bush "when the forsythia is blooming." And it's time to sow your peas and plant grass seed, too.

Kinda cool, isn't it, that nature can dictate when it is safe or indeed the best time to accomplish things in the garden?

The forsythia is blooming nicely in my front yard, and I did head out over the weekend to tackle some of the above. My pink "Fairy" rose bush was in dire need of clean up.

There was a wee bit of winter kill that I trimmed back to the next nice node. Shockingly there were still some spent flower clusters left from last year; those were removed as well.

Long arching branches were reigned in – it's not good for roses to be all over the ground where they are more susceptible to fungal issues. Likewise, canes that were crossing each other or branching out at weird angles were remedied too.

I applied a sprinkling of granular organic fertilizer at the base of the plant to support all of the beautiful blooms I'm expecting to have.

My 2-year-old Butterfly Bush (Buddleia) barely suffered any winter kill at all in contrast to last year when it died back all the way to the ground! I'm excited because that means it has a couple of feet head start and earlier blooms to boot!

I had to remove only a couple of inches of dead tips. I applied a balanced fertilizer here too in hopes of many beautiful purple flowers.

Other sections of my perennial beds met with different jobs to be done. Gayfeather (*Liatris spicata*) always looks unkept until new growth ensues.

I try to cut the old stems down a bit further and rake my hands through the dead, grass-like foliage, clipping away what doesn't come free easily. If you look within the plant you'll notice whitish tips of new growth. It won't be long!

I find a lot of satisfaction from cultivating the perennial garden, but it's almost too early to do that. Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) is still weeks away from popping up.

If I haphazardly scratch around in the garden it could be at the plant's expense or at the expense of any self-sown seedlings that germinated. Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) is always a good self-sower, but it's up to you to decide if these tiny plants are worthy of keeping or weeding out.

Same goes for Ballon Flower (*Platycodon*).

Lavender (*Lavandula*) is sometimes slow to wake up too, but this year the plants already look "alive." Many times, you have to search within the plant for signs of fresh silver-green growth, then cut back to that point.

This year, like we saw with the Butterfly Bush, there seems to be very little winter kill. I'm going to leave be for now and not prune anything yet.

I planted Hollyhocks (*Alcea rosea*) near my lamp post last spring and they grew great all summer. I thought it would be neat to have 6-7-foot spires of papery pastel blooms reaching for the sky, reminiscent of the Polish hollyhocks my mom had by the porch when I was a teenager.

Admittedly they don't look all that

See GARDEN page 13



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Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

Campaign news

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

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

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IN THE CITY



Corinne Dumont, community relations manager at Sunshine Village, and Kelly Chmura, manager of the CBDS program at Sunshine Village and in costume as a bag of popcorn, smile for the camera during the Autism Awareness Event at Lincoln Grove Park on April 24.



Alonzo, with firefighter hat on, is in the driver's seat of a fire truck as he enjoys the Autism Awareness Event at Lincoln Grove Park. TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS



From the left, Michelle Kennedy from the Springfield Jewish Community Center, Parker Price, program manager from the Western Mass Expansion of Best Buddies, and Dorothy Linder, Kehillah director of Special Needs Programs at the Springfield Jewish Community Center, smile for a group photo during the Autism Networking Event at Lincoln Grove Park in Chicopee.



Erin Daly, youth services coordinator at Chicopee Public Library, smiles at her table during the Autism Awareness Event at Lincoln Grove Park on April 24.



From the left, Iris Crespo, educator, recruitment and training specialist for Early Educational Care at Valley Opportunity Council, Flor Diaz, WIC communications coordinator at Valley Opportunity Council, and Yolanda Vargas, enrollment specialist at Valley Opportunity Council, pose for a group photo during the Autism Awareness Event at Lincoln Grove Park.

AUTISM from page 1

like, how do I sign up my kid for sports or how can I get involved in something academic? What programs are there out there?" Stolar said. "So, it's important that we start these resources for people and we also want to make it fun and engaging."

Coelho was happy to see families at the event.

"It means a lot. It means that everyone wants to work together in the community and embrace the department and just have a good time," Coelho said.

Erika Carlson, a special education teacher at Chicopee High School, is also a co-advisor for Best Buddies, a program bringing students with and without disabilities together to form friendships in and out of school.

Carlson also coaches the high school's Unify Track Team, sponsored by the Special Olympics and the high school's Athletic Department.

"Every spring, we sponsor a prom for Western Mass Best Buddies. We invite about 12 to 13 chapters across Western Mass to come and this year we had about 215 students across Western Mass, just having a great time," Carlson said. "It was a great time and it forms friendships."

Carlson stressed the importance of raising awareness and teaching acceptance for people with disabilities.

"Especially from a high school teacher's perspective, looking at what my students are going to transition into after graduation," Carlson said. "So, it allows them to connect with service providers in order to get job training skills and options for internships, so they can have a meaningful and successful life and be fully integrated into society."

Stolar said having the event at the playground also makes a difference.

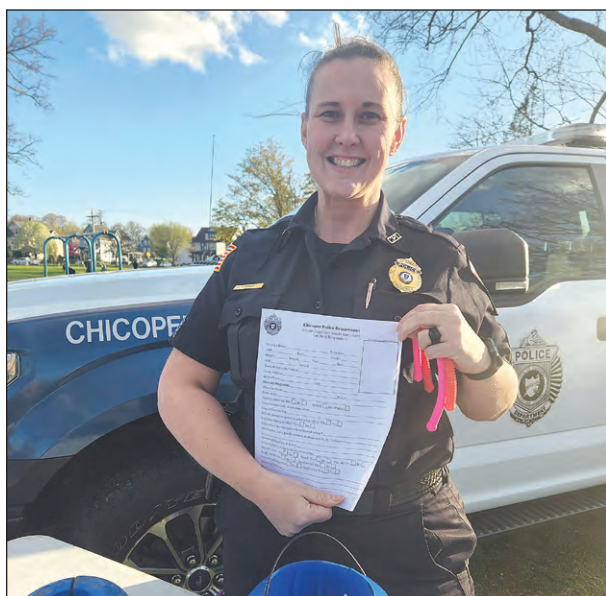
"Everyone here is enjoying and playing at the playground, being part of the community," Stolar said.

Ashley Ziemba, also a special education teacher at Chicopee High School, co-advises Best Buddies with Carlson, hopes families take away that they have support from the community.

"Chicopee is such an inclusive community. I think that's the biggest thing is that we're all here to support and to help each other and that Chicopee in itself is an inclusive community," Ziemba said.

Stolar's message was this, encouraging the community to attend next year.

"Thank you for being our partners in education and in the community," Stolar said.



Chicopee Police Sergeant Missy Lyman holds up a copy of an autism/cognitive needs alert form for first responders and fidget toys during the Autism Awareness Event at Lincoln Grove Park.



Wretha Gutierrez of the Chicopee Galaxy Youth Athletic Association smiles at her community table during the Autism Networking Event at Lincoln Grove Park on April 24.

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Events & announcements schedule

Paper Shredding Event at RiverMills on May 3

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Council on Aging will hold a paper shredding event on Friday, May 3 from 9 a.m. to Noon at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main St.

ProShred will be at RiverMills Center on Friday, May 3 for a paper shredding event. You will enter in line at the intersection of Oak, Grove and Church Street. There will be a police detail directing traffic from the top of Oak Street to the senior center parking lot where the ProShred truck will be. There is no registration, but there may be a wait time depending on the demand of this event.

Mobile Vet Clinic takes place at RiverMills May 21

CHICOPEE -. The Chicopee Council on Aging will hold a Mobile Vet Clinic on Tuesday, May 21 from 9 a.m. to Noon at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main St.

Second Chance Animal Shelter will be at RiverMills on Tuesday, May 21 for a Mobile Vet Clinic. This is a free clinic and services such as wellness exams, yearly vaccines, nail trips and other services will be provided. Walk-in appointments are not available. You must register in advance as space is limited. To schedule an appointment, please call Casey Conroy at 413-534-3698 ext. 118.

RiverMills Center Transportation Services available to seniors

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Council on Aging's Transportation Department provides rides to the senior center, doctor's offices, supermarkets, pharmacies, etc. for Chicopee older adults.

Transportation service is available Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Reservations must be made

at least five business days in advance by calling 413-536-5733.

A \$7,875.00 grant from WestMass Eldercare has allowed the senior center to expand its transportation offerings. Shopping Trips are funded in part by a Title III/Older Americans Act grant from WestMass ElderCare, with support from the Mass. Executive Office of Elder Affairs and the Federal Administration for Community Living. There is no charge for this service, but participants are welcome to make a voluntary, confidential donation for a shopping ride.

To learn more, contact Nicholas Wosko at 413-536-5733 or NWosko@Chicopeema.gov.

Holyoke Chicopee Family and Community Program presents 'Dads and Kids'

CHICOPEE - Drop in for a free family program "Dads and Kids" at Sztela Early Childhood Center at 66 Macek Drive, as dads, grandfathers, uncles and male caregivers and children ages two to five spend time together playing and learning with Learn in Motion.

Learn in Motion gets kids active, socializing and practicing important life skills such as listening, following directions, sharing, taking turns, teamwork and overcoming challenges.

Learn in Motion gets kids moving, learning and having a ball!

The program will occur on Saturdays March 23 and 30 and April 6 and 20 from 1 - 2 p.m. at the Sztela Early Childhood Center.

Join for one or more Saturdays. For more information, contact Christine at 413-536-0363 x 4536 or email zaskeyc@headstart.org. All are welcome! Children may attend with any adult.

The program is sponsored by the Holyoke Chicopee Coordinated Family & Community Engagement grant from the state's Department of Early Education and Care.

Books, stories & art Visual art inspired by books with Enchanted Circle

CHICOPEE - Through the Holyoke-Chicopee Family & Community Program, which coordinates services and engages families, join "Books, stories & art: Visual art inspired by books with Enchanted Circle".

Enchanted Circle will lead these hands-on sessions with fun art and literacy projects for families with children ages three to five years old.

Tuesdays during March and April from 10:30 a.m. to Noon

Informal playtime at 10:30 a.m.

At the RiverMills Assisted Living at 7 River Mills Drive, Chicopee

Register with Christine at zaskeyc@headstart.org or 413-536-0363 x 4536.

VOC kicks off 2024 Tax Assistance Program

Offering free tax preparations to eligible residents

CHICOPEE - Valley Opportunity Council, which manages the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program providing free tax preparation to those of low- and moderate-income, began its 2024 tax preparations on Monday, Jan. 29.

VITA in-person tax preparation appointments are available from Jan. 29 through May 15 at 35 Mt. Carmel Ave., Chicopee, 300 High St., Holyoke and new this year, 20 Lathrop St. in West Springfield.

To schedule an appointment, call 413-612-0206. Those eligible for the VITA program must live in Massachusetts with an income of up to \$60,000. Appointments are available on weekdays, evenings and Sundays.

Certified volunteer tax professionals help qualified individuals prepare and file basic state and federal tax returns and prior year returns. VOC also offers free electronic filing (e-filing) of tax returns, allowing for individuals to receive their refunds much quicker than paper filings.

The core mission and goal of VITA is to assist low- to moderate-income taxpayers in satisfying their tax responsibilities and minimize financial hardships, in turn saving taxpayers thousands of dollars in filing fees.

In 2023, VOC helped 743 individuals file their state and federal tax returns through the VITA program. VOC has been providing the VITA program for 25 years in the communities of Chicopee, Holyoke, and more recently, Westfield.

VOC is the largest and most diverse Community Action Agency in Western Massachusetts with an annual budget of \$45 million. With this Federal designation, VOC has established a powerful network of support and collaborative services intended to encourage community members to actively achieve self-sufficiency for themselves and their families. VOC employs over 250 staff members and has 150 local vendors, providing a significant economic investment in the community.

Chicopee Comp Class of 1974 plans 50th Reunion

CHICOPEE - It's the time to renew friendships and share memories with high school classmates. The Chicopee Comprehensive High School Class of 1974 will be holding its 50th reunion on Sept. 13 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 460 Granby Rd. in Chicopee. The reunion party will begin at 5:00 p.m. with cocktails and dinner. Committee members are planning details for the festivities and also working hard to track down classmates and reach out to as many as possible. If you think you have contact information for long-lost friends, please send it to Linda Parlengas at lparlengas@hotmail.com; Mona Marciel Friberg at tinkert245@aol.com, or Lynn Provost Larrabee at penrose43@comcast.net. We will be sending out details soon and would like to include everyone. Information can also be shared on Facebook at Chicopee Comp Class of 1974 Reunion Page or at Classmates.com.

Elms College 5th Annual Rev. Hugh Crean Lecture Rescheduled to May 4

CHICOPEE - College of Our Lady of the Elms and the St. Augustine Center for Ethics, Religion, and Culture will present the 5th annual Rev. Hugh Crean Distinguished Lecture in Catholic Thought will be presented on Thursday, May 1 at 4:30 p.m. The lecture will take place in-person in the college's Alumnae Library Theater.

The lecture was originally scheduled for April 4 but was rescheduled due to inclement weather.

RSVPs are still available for this event and information on the lecture is below.

The Distinguished Speaker for this lecture is Dominic Doyle, Ph.D., associate professor of Systematic Theology at the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry (STM). The theme for Doyle's remarks will be "Christian Humanism and the Theology of Hope."

Most recently, Doyle led the STM's "Neuroscience Education for Theological

Training" grant from the Science for Seminaries program sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science / Dialogue on Science, Religion and Ethics.

Doyle is currently working on a book exploring the history of the theological virtues, tentatively titled, "Thematic Variations in Theological Virtue."

The St. Augustine Center for Ethics, Religion, and Culture at Elms (CERC) was launched in October 2020 with support from an anonymous naming gift and several significant contributions. The Center aims to increase engagement and discourse on the most pressing and complex questions related to ethics, religion, and culture in today's society, and to lead the regional community in thoughtful, engaging dialogue.



Dominic Doyle, Ph.D.

The founding executive director of the CERC is noted bioethicist Peter A. DePergola II, Ph.D., Th.D.c, MTS, HEC-C, Shaughnessy Family Chair for the Study of the Humanities and associate professor of Bioethics and Medical Humanities at Elms.

The annual Rev. Hugh Crean Distinguished Lecture was established through an endowment made by B. John (Jack) and Colette Dill to honor the legacy of Rev. Hugh Crean, recognizing Crean's academic work at Elms College and his pastoral ministry throughout the Diocese of Springfield and the entire region.

To register for the in-person lecture, visit: <https://www.elms.edu/events/st-augustine-rev-hugh-crean-distinguished-lecture/>.

Holy Mother of the Rosary hosting 2024 Fill a Bag Tag Sale

CHICOPEE - Holy Mother of the Rosary Church will hold a Fill a Bag Tag Sale on Friday, April 26th and Saturday, April 27 from 9 a.m. to 3 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.

To learn more, contact Fr. Pawel Lukaszewicz at 413-592-2032.

City Council rejects non-binding ballot question on appointed positions

Discussion stirs debate among councilors

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE - City Council debated and later voted down on April 19 the consideration of a non-binding ballot question around appointed positions.

The non-binding ballot question centered on if the city collector of taxes, city assessor of taxes and city treasurer positions should become appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the City Council based on professional qualifications as opposed to election positions every two or four years.

If approved, the question would appear on the ballot during the regular municipal election in November 2025.

Currently, the City Charter has the terms of office for city treasurer and collector of taxes at four years, with city assessor of taxes at four years or two years depending on vote share.

Councilor-at-Large Tim Wagner explained he attended a conference through the Massachusetts Municipal Association where whether some city positions should be appointed or elected was a huge topic.

"It's increasingly common to see treasurers, assessors, collectors, hired based on professional qualifications, even in big cities because the electorate people just start running for these positions and it's hard to find people to fill them," Wagner said. "And the people who are filling them are making errors that, you know, are having a big impact on cities and towns. So, they're moving toward professionally hired, experienced, people."

Wagner added how municipalities that go the direction of appointed need to have a plan in place and prepare for a lengthy transition.

"We've been blessed in Chicopee so far with a slew of great elected officials, but I wonder about when they step away what we're going to do," Wagner said. "I think it's something that's worth at least getting the public's perspective on given that it's increasingly common even in big cities."

Ward 6 Councilor Samuel Shumsky expressed concerns about the "voice from the people" getting taken away along with concerns about having the mayor and council appointing "the people who oversee these departments."

Shumsky said one thing that came to mind was "the lengthy history Chicopee has with some of its leaders not being the most honest individuals."

"Hypothetically, questions came to mind where if you're appointed by a mayor or the council, say if a mayor wants to help a friend out. He can go to his assessor and say, 'Can you lower the property tax on this piece of land?' Or he can take the parcel (and say) 'Can you give it some type of other payment plan?'" Shumsky said. "Just stuff like that comes to mind and I'm just not comfortable with taking away this voice from the people because I do believe that at the end of the day, this is for the people."

Ward 4 Councilor George Balakier wondered about the city clerk position "because that's also an important position in terms of city business," asking Wagner about this item.

Wagner said city clerks are "one of the less common offices you'll see appointed rather than elected in mid-sized towns and mid-sized cities."

Responding to Shumsky's questions, he clarified that he gets "there's an important quality in having the voters elect people, but at what point does popularity trump competency and should that be allowed to happen?"

"Again, we've had a slew of pretty good elected officials, what happens when these people retire, right? That's my concern," Wagner said. "I'd like to start future planning and if the voters are open to it, I'd like to see us moving toward a more professional city government."

Ward 5 Councilor Frederick Krampits also expressed concerns, liking the positions as elected to keep a balance of power.

Krampits' biggest concern, however, was how he didn't see a demand for the positions becoming appointed.

"I like the idea of the public being able to vote for people. It keeps a balance of power and if there's really that much interest in this, then folks can go out and do a petition drive and get it put on the ballot as a non-binding referendum," Krampits said.

Ward 8 Councilor Gary Labrie said when he read the order, he didn't recall discussing with anyone in his 11 years as city councilor about this, reiterating he didn't want to take voters' rights away from picking people who run city hall.

"I'm just not ready to change the system right now. I don't see that it's broken. We haven't had any problems

and the people we have here are great. I know some of them may retire, but I just can't do it tonight," Labrie said. "I just have never spoken to anybody about it. Nobody's ever brought it up, nobody's ever asked me, so it's my first time I'm even thinking about that. So, I'm not ready to send it out to even the voters to see what they think because I can't wrap my head around the whole thing yet."

Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello expressed surprise, recalling how she'd heard discussions about this before.

"This, to me, isn't something that's new. It's nothing against the people that are in office now. Everybody agrees that things are going very well," Costello said.

Costello agreed with Wagner on wondering what the future may hold when people eventually retire and discussing it.

"I know of one person that said to me they can't run for an office and they're qualified, but they don't have the money. To run for office, it takes money. You have to raise money and for people that are unknown, that's very hard to do," Costello said.

Ward 3 Councilor Susan Goff agreed running in an election costs a lot and reminded the council how "it's not giving the mayor the authority to appoint his best friend."

"Because it comes to the City Council, also, to go over the applications and pick the best-qualified person," Goff said.

The conversation turned heated when President/Councilor-at-Large Frank Laflamme told Wagner how the both of them would not be where they are today if it wasn't for their fathers and their help.

"But after two years, they could have voted me out if I didn't do a good job," Laflamme said. "So to say people know people, well I'm going to tell you something. When I was looking to hire for places I have, I go and ask people, Do you know somebody I trust to fill those positions? I've always done it that way...Everybody does that. That's the right thing to do."

After saying he would vote no, Laflamme said he's spoken with many people who want the positions to stay elected.

He stressed the importance of letting the voters decide.

"At this moment, I agree with Councilor Labrie and several others. This is not the time I'm willing to look at it, but I will be continuously doing my homework and seeing what the people want," Laflamme said.

Wagner's final thoughts were this.

"All this talk of democracy, let's ask the people. It's a non-binding question. It's got no effect. It's going to be a year and a half out from now. If they don't want it, they don't want it. Why not ask them?" Wagner said.

The motion to receive the order and send it to the Rules Committee for a public hearing was defeated 7-4.

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Official statement from the Mayor's Office of Chicopee on Eileen Monaghan case

CHICOPEE – The Mayor's Office released the following statement on April 18 after the murder of resident Eileen Monaghan on April 14.

"We are profoundly saddened by the tragic loss of Eileen Monaghan, a cherished member of our Chicopee community. Eileen was not only a dedicated public servant but also a beloved figure. Her passing is a great tragedy for us all, and we are all in mourning.

Recent articles stated that Mayor Vieau or Chief Stamborski have been evasive in responding to requests for comment or documents relative to Jason Chapdelaine's employment history are completely untrue. As most journalists and media outlets recognize, the city is subject to state law in what is legally permissible to disclose from a personnel file about an employee.

Any suggestion that city officials would not be forthcoming with any in-

formation that could legally be disclosed is disingenuous and disrespectful of the grief that many of us are feeling right now. Many of us knew Eileen personally and the insinuation that city officials that worked with Eileen would be doing anything other than seeking justice for her is just cheap sensationalism worthy of a published apology.

With regard to Mr. Jason Chapdelaine's employment history we can provide that he was hired on May 30, 1997, was discharged on June 28, 2001, and re-instated through the Civil Service process on February 9, 2004. The remaining information in his personnel file is of a personal and private nature and cannot be disclosed by law.

Thank you for your cooperation and sensitivity during this difficult time.

Office of the Mayor, City of Chicopee"

Quality time



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHICOPEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHICOPEE – Ofc. Jusino of the Willimansett C3 Unit visited the Valley Opportunity Council on April 19 to spend some time with the children reading to them and playing with dinosaurs.



Malintha Fernando shares her reflections on the Sri Lankan community during the Sri Lankan Flag Raising ceremony in Chicopee on April 19.



State Sen. Jacob Oliveira (D-Ludlow) reflects on the colors and symbols of the Sri Lankan flag during the Sri Lankan Flag Raising ceremony in Chicopee.



Mayor John Vieau provides remarks on diversity and recognizing all cultures in Chicopee during the Sri Lankan Flag Raising ceremony in Chicopee on April; 19.



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TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Deepthi Fernando, co-owner of Island Spice Restaurant in Chicopee, shakes hands with Mayor John Vieau as she accepts the mayor's proclamation during the Sri Lankan Flag Raising ceremony on April 19.

SRI LANKAN from page 1

ing the hearth, preparing traditional foods and exchanging gifts. Promoting unity, harmony and cultural understanding among all people."

State Sen. Jacob Oliveira (D-Ludlow) stressed the importance of the country's independence, which they gained in 1948 from Great Britain, while reflecting on the colors and symbols adorning the flag.

"Reading about it earlier today, it really shows the patchworks that exist within Sri Lanka itself. Every bit of the lion from its hands to its crown to its beard, everything has a symbol within Sri Lanka," Oliveira said. "Including the edges of it with the different leaves--the four leaves--to symbolize the Buddhist population that exists and (is) very strong in Sri Lanka and then the green and orange stripe that represents some of the larger minority populations and the yellow band around the end that represents all the rest of (the) minority populations."

Oliveira added raising the Sri Lankan flag "represents what Chicopee is trying to do here today" to recognize the patch-

work of the city.

Dinithi Fernando then raised the Sri Lankan flag to complete the ceremony, as attendees enjoyed delicacies from Island Spice.

Deepthi Fernando said seeing the Sri Lankan flag being raised in Chicopee was very important to her.

"It's special. They make us (feel) very special in Chicopee (and as) one family," Fernando said. "I'm glad that we came here and (express) thanks to everybody and thanks to the mayor and the offices."

For Malintha Fernando, she was excited to see the Sri Lankan culture represented in the city she and her family grew up in.

Her late brother, she added, always wanted to see the flag raised in Chicopee.

"He was a big supporter of Chicopee as well," Fernando said.

Fernando wants the community to know their support means a lot to her and her family, thanking them.

"We just feel very included here and we know that we chose Chicopee as the right place we grew up in," Fernando said.



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Colts lose leads, fall to Monson



Kayla Williams pitches for Chicopee Comp softball last week against Monson.

CHICOPEE – Last Wednesday afternoon, Monson softball erased a deficit with a three-run sixth inning to defeat host Chicopee Comprehensive 7-5. The Mustangs got three hits each from Carlee Meacham and Molly Szado. Szado also drove in three runs. Mia Matthieu also had three RBI. Szado pitched a complete game allowing five runs on eight hits. She walked five and struck out nine. Comp got two hits from Ariana Chagnon and three hits from Arianna Bird. Kayla Williams went seven innings allowing seven runs on 14 hits. She walked five and struck out an impressive 13 hitters.



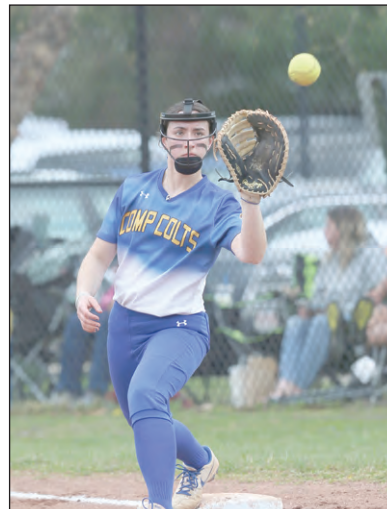
Marissa Vasquez swings and fouls off a pitch.



Millie Fidalgo makes a catch in right.



Alexis Wojick makes a throw to first.



Marley Makowski catches the out at first base.

Pacers edged by Lions

CHICOPEE – Last Tuesday afternoon, Chicopee and Ludlow softball fought it out for seven innings with the Lions narrowly coming out on top 11-10. The Pacers also fell to Palmer 13-11 last Friday. The Pacers are 0-5 on the season and look for their first win on Monday, April 29 at Hoosac Valley at 4:30 p.m.



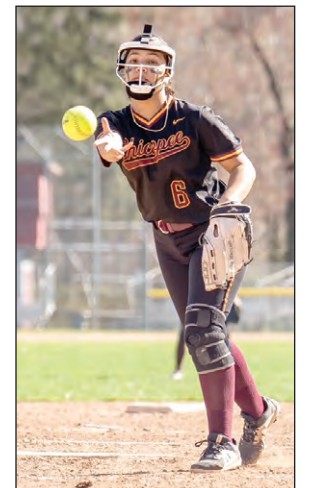
Jaylaine Nieves gets ready at the plate.



Nevaeh Santiago keeps the ball from going to the outfield.



Julianna Renfer crosses home plate for the Pacers.



Jeneida Torres delivers the ball to the plate.

Colts put up big number against Granby

CHICOPEE – Last Monday afternoon, Chicopee Comprehensive girls lacrosse defeated Granby 18-12. The Colts are now 3-4 this season. With the big 18-goal output, three Colts, Molly Girouard, Olivia Warren, and Alexandria Sullivan had four goals each. Alexa Harber added three goals in the win.



Molly Girouard picks up a ground ball.



Alexandria Sullivan sprints up the field.



Allison Wenzell looks to make a save.

Gaudette wins Willie Marshall Award

SPRINGFIELD – The American Hockey League announced today that Springfield Thunderbirds forward Adam Gaudette is the 2023-24 recipient of the Willie Marshall Award, given to the league's leading goal scorer.

Gaudette scored a league-best 44 goals in 67 games for the Thunderbirds, surpassing his previous career high of 27 goals set last season and tied for the fourth-most by a Springfield skater in 80 seasons of AHL hockey in the city. He becomes the first Thunderbirds skater ever to claim the award and the first Springfield AHL skater to lead the league in goal-scoring since Michel Picard of the 1990-91 Springfield Indi-

ans. Gaudette added 27 assists to finish third in the AHL scoring race with 71 points and was voted to the AHL's First All-Star Team this season, marking the first time a Thunderbirds player earned such recognition. The sixth-year pro from Braintree, Mass., has 77 goals and 57 assists in 138 AHL games, along with 27 goals and 43 assists in 220 career games in the NHL. Gaudette was originally a fifth-round pick by Vancouver in the 2015 NHL Draft and joined the St. Louis Blues organization via trade from Toronto on Feb. 17, 2023.

The AHL's goal-scoring

See **THUNDERBIRDS** page 8

SPORTS

Registration now open to take part in Bay State Games

WOBURN – Registration for the 42nd annual Bay State Summer Games is now open. The 2024 Summer Games will include thirty sports with competitions from May 11 – July 27 at venues throughout eastern and central Massachusetts including Game On in Fitchburg, Boston Sports Institute in Wellesley, Union Point Sports Complex in Weymouth, and North Star Ice Sports in Westborough. Bay State Games participants range in age from 5 to over age 75 and represent more than 300 Massachusetts communities as well as surrounding New England States in some sports. From grassroots participants to accomplished amateur athletes, the Bay State Games provide opportunities for the athlete in all of us.

Seven high school showcase sports will take place for a variety

of sports, including baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, soccer, softball, and volleyball. Athletes currently in grade 8-11 who live or go to school in Massachusetts are eligible to attend regional tryouts during the month of June. These tryouts will determine teams representing the various regions of the Commonwealth that will compete against each other in July. Check each sport page for specific eligibility requirements.

The Summer Games include a wide variety of individual sports including swimming, track & field, figure skating, pickleball, wrestling, weightlifting, badminton, and more. These sports are open to a wide range of ages and skill levels from youth participants to masters-aged athletes. Adaptive sport divisions in archery, swimming, and track &

field are offered, as well. Bay State Games also organizes tournaments for pre-existing teams in rugby, and 6v6 field hockey.

Returning in 2024, Table Tennis will take place on June 1 at PingPod in Boston after a 5-year hiatus from the Summer Games sport lineup. New venues include Babson College, which will host the Girls Basketball Showcase, and NorthStar Ice Sports, which will host Figure Skating and the Girls Ice Hockey Showcase. Game On in Fitchburg will serve as a hub venue for eight sports. Bay State Games expects 1,500 athletes and their families to attend competitions at Game On during the second week of July.

For questions, email info@baystategames.org or call 781-932-6555.

USA Basketball holding 3v3 competitions

SPRINGFIELD – USA Basketball announced today that it will host two FIBA 3x3 pro circuit competitions in Springfield, beginning with a Quest (April 22-23), which is a FIBA 3x3 Men's World Tour Qualifier, and followed by the FIBA 3x3 Springfield Women's Series (April 23-24). Both events will be held at the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame and admission is free with the purchase of a Hall of Fame museum ticket.

The Quest will feature up to 12 teams with, at minimum, one team bid on the line into the FIBA 3x3 World Tour Edmonton Masters (July 6-7). The event will be the first FIBA 3x3 competition hosted by USA Basketball since

the 2023 FIBA 3x3 Colorado Challenger.

The Springfield Women's Series, the opening event on the 2024 FIBA 3x3 Women's Series, will include eight teams in the field with the top finishers improving their allocation opportunities for future stops along the way to the Women's Series Final. The Springfield Women's Series marks the first FIBA 3x3 Women's Series event hosted in the United States since the Series' inception in 2019.

The Springfield Women's Series will be streamed live at [YouTube.com/FIBA3x3](https://www.youtube.com/FIBA3x3).

Participating teams had several pathways into the FIBA 3x3 Men's World Tour Quest and

FIBA 3x3 Springfield Women's Series, including automatic allocation, wildcard berth from the host or qualification from a previous FIBA 3x3 event. The field for both competitions will include professional 3x3 teams from the United States and around the world.

Different than 5-on-5, 3x3 is played on a half-court with a 10-minute game clock and 12-second shot clock. Play is continuous, as teams "clear" the ball behind the 2-point line following a made basket, defensive rebound or steal. The first team to score 21 points via 1-point field goals or 2-pointers behind the arc is victorious; or if time expires then the team leading wins.

THUNDERBIRDS from page 1

ing award was established in 2004 to honor Willie Marshall, the AHL's all-time leader in goals, assists, points, and games played; past winners include Mike Cam-

malleri (2005), Alexandre Giroux (2009, '10), Tyler Johnson (2013), Frank Vatrano (2016), Carter Verhaeghe (2019) and Stefan Noesen (2022). Other previous yearly goal-scoring leaders include Bryan Hextall (1937), Lou Trudel

(1942, '45), Fred Glover (1951), Dunc Fisher (1958), Jimmy Anderson (1961, '64), Yvon Lambert (1973), Gordie Clark (1980), Paul Gardner (1985, '86), Jody Gage (1988) and Brad Smyth (1996, 2001).

Council of Independent Colleges President to speak at Elms College's 93rd Commencement May 18

CHICOPEE - Elms College announced that Marjorie Hass, Ph.D., president of the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC), will deliver the commencement address for the Class of 2024 and receive an honorary degree. Since 2021, Hass has been president of the Washington, D.C.-based CIC, an organization representing more than 700 colleges across the United States, including Elms College. Hass' career at independent colleges has encompassed a wide range of roles, including professor, provost, and president. Before joining CIC, she was president of Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee, from 2017 to 2021, and president of Austin College in Sherman, Texas, from 2009 to 2017. Hass is inspired by CIC's impact on hundreds of member institutions and the more than two million students they serve. With a focus on sustainability and innovation, she is committed to ensuring CIC remains a valuable resource to help independent colleges and universities live out their unique missions vibrantly and fully. She is the author of A Leadership Guide for Women in Higher Education. Hass is currently a member of the Board of Trustees at Brandeis University and has also served as a board member of the Association of American Colleges & Universities and as former chair of the board of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. She earned bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in philosophy from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS: Honorary degrees will also be awarded to Johnella E. Butler '68, Ed.D., professor emerita of comparative women's studies at Spelman College, and Rev. John J. Unni, pastor at St. Cecilia Parish in Boston.

Butler has had a distinguished career as a teacher, author, and higher education administrator since graduating from Elms with a bachelor of arts degree in English Literature. She is on the faculty of the Executive Leadership Academy and affiliate faculty with the Center for the Studies of Higher Education at the University of California at Berkeley. Since 2020, she has been professor emerita of comparative women's studies at Spelman University. She also served as provost and vice president of academic affairs at Spelman from 2005-2014. Prior to Spelman, she has been a tenured faculty member at Smith College and the University of Washington. In 1981, she became the first Black woman in the history of Smith College to be granted tenure. She earned her master's degree in English from Johns Hopkins University and her doctorate in Afro-American Literature and Multicultural Studies from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

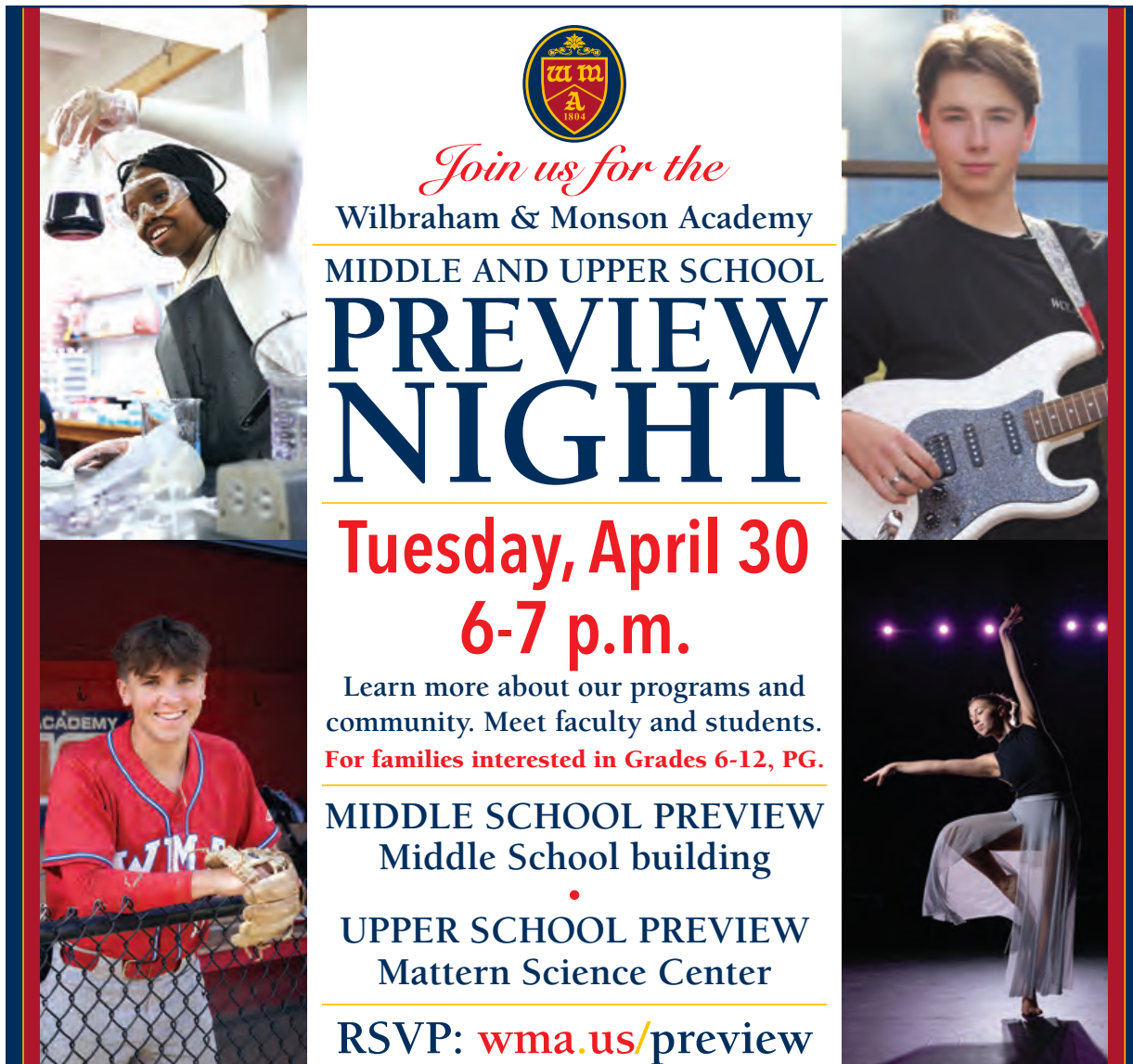
For the past 20 years, Father Unni has been pastor at St. Cecilia Parish in Boston. During his time at St. Cecilia's, he has focused his ministry on education, health, and spiritual growth, especially for the poor and marginalized. In 2017, he was appointed an assistant chaplain for the Boston Fire Department until 2022 when Mayor Michelle Wu named him chief chaplain. As a fire department chaplain, he has provided spiritual and emotional support to firefighters and their families, especially after experiencing grief or heightened stress. Father Unni currently serves on the Board of Directors for Saint Cecilia House, a residence for seniors of limited income in Boston, along with Health Equity International/St. Boniface Hospital and Build Health International, organizations dedicated to providing essential health services to the people of southern Haiti, especially the most vulnerable. He attended St. John's Seminary in Brighton, where he earned a master of divinity degree and was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Boston in June 1992.


The College of Our Lady of the Elms' 93rd commencement exercises take place on Saturday, May 18, 2024 at 10 a.m. with the academic procession to start at 9:30 a.m. at the MassMutual Center, 1277 Main St., Springfield, MA 01103.

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Chicopee Register




Join us for the
Wilbraham & Monson Academy
MIDDLE AND UPPER SCHOOL
PREVIEW NIGHT
Tuesday, April 30
6-7 p.m.
 Learn more about our programs and community. Meet faculty and students.
For families interested in Grades 6-12, PG.
MIDDLE SCHOOL PREVIEW
 Middle School building
UPPER SCHOOL PREVIEW
 Mattern Science Center
RSVP: wma.us/preview

Madalyn LaRoche hired before graduation by Grace Christian School

GREENVILLE, S.C. - Madalyn LaRoche, a senior pursuing a bachelor's degree in biblical counseling from Bob Jones University, was hired before graduation as a fourth grade teacher at Grace Christian School in Bennington, Vermont.

LaRoche is a resident of Chicopee.

Located in Greenville, South Carolina, Bob Jones University provides an outstanding regionally accredited Christian liberal arts education purposely designed to inspire a lifelong pursuit of learning, loving and leading.

BJU offers over 100 undergraduate and graduate programs in religion, education, fine arts and communication, arts and science, health professions, and business.

BJU has over 3,000 students from nearly every state and more than 40 countries. We are committed to the truth of Scripture and to pursuing excellence in all we do.

US Rep. Neal tours MiraVista newly renovated adolescent unit

HOLYOKE – During his Feb. 27 tour of the newly-renovated adolescent unit at MiraVista Behavioral Health Center, U.S. Rep. Richard E. Neal called this age group a population that can be treated successfully, and the recently reopened unit “clearly a step in the right direction” for patients and family members.

Studies have long highlighted the importance of early intervention in the form of evidence-based treatment, particularly with youth who have experienced significant increases in mental health disorders even before the isolation of the coronavirus pandemic, for better long-term outcomes.

Neal was joined on the tour by Juan C. Anderson-Burgos, Holyoke City Council member who also serves as Legislative Aide to State Representative Patricia A. Duffy, and a number of the psychiatric hospital's executives including Dr. Negar Beheshti, its Chief Medical Officer who is certified in both general psychiatry and child and adolescent psychiatry, and Hospital Administrator, Shelley Zimmerman.

As chair of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, Neal has a long history in securing federal funding for legislation that increases access to much-needed mental health care for those of all ages and backgrounds both in his home district and nationally.

“We invited Congressman Neal to visit MiraVista to see the updating that has been done to our hospital building that dates to the 1950s, particularly with the recent renovations to our 16-bed adolescent unit to enhance delivery of individualized care to our youngest patients in crisis, and to meet our dedicated staff,” said Kimberley Lee, MiraVista's Chief of Creative Strategy and Development. “His support for greater access to behavioral health services is well-known as is his support for providers of that care.”

She added, “We wanted the Congressman to see what is being done at MiraVista to help ease the demand for inpatient psychiatric beds for both adults and those 13 to 17, as well as access to outpatient substance use services that include Medication Assisted Treatment and counseling.”

The visit marked Neal's first visit since it was sold by Trinity Health in late 2020 and reopened in Spring 2021 under a new name and management as a provider of psychiatric care for adults and adolescents and substance use services.

The veteran Democratic Congressman has co-sponsored or voted for proposed legislation to authorize funding to increase access to mental health care treatment to reduce gun violence; prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, or religion in the provision of child welfare programs and services by entities receiving federal funding; and provide continued support for programs that seek to prevent and respond to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

He was also instrumental in adding Opioid Treatment Programs and Intensive Outpatient Therapy to Medicare coverage, removing significant barriers to treatment.

A member of the Ways and Means committee since 1993, Neal was elected its chair in 2019.



HCC celebrates grand opening of Scholarship Resource Center

HOLYOKE - Feroza Sherzai holds the distinction of being the first Holyoke Community College student to apply for a scholarship through the school's new Scholarship Resource Center.

Sherzai, a Holyoke resident, arrived at the center on Wednesday, Jan. 31, just as the open house celebrating its grand opening got underway. She sat right down at one of the center's three computer workstations.

“This is a very good opportunity for students,” said Sherzai, a student in HCC's Academic English as a Second Language program. “I came here to fill out the application. I had a lot of questions.”

On hand to answer those questions was Laura Freeman, manager of stewardship and donor relations for HCC and coordinator of the center.

“She was very good,” Sherzai said. “She was very patient with me.”

The Scholarship Resource Center is the first of its kind among community colleges in Massachusetts. Its purpose: to make it easier for students to apply for scholarships available through the HCC Foundation.

“We're here 9 to 5, Monday through Friday, to help with all things scholarship related,” Freeman said. “It's great to have this very warm, inviting and inclusive space where students can come and get the assistance they need.”

Scholarship season for the 2024-2025 academic year opened on Monday, Jan. 29, and continues through Sunday, March 3.

Each year, the HCC Foundation awards hundreds of scholarships worth about \$350,000 to more than 300 incoming, current, and transferring HCC students. Students must be currently enrolled at HCC or have been accepted for the upcoming academic year to be eligible.

The center saw a steady stream of students throughout the four-hour open house, which culminated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at noon led by President George Timmons.

“This is such an exciting time for HCC,” he said, “and we're excited to continue to provide services that remove barriers to education. What a great way to start your academic career and journey than here in this wonderful, new, lovely space. Not only is it functional, but it's also social.”

Among the other students who came to the open house to apply for a scholarship was first-year student Sunrise Iaim Smith of Chicopee.

“I read that HCC had created a new facility where we can get support in applying and be able to ask questions during the application process,” Smith said. “I figured that's a nice support to have. It's not always easy navigating financial aid or understanding expectations when you're filling out an application. Just having people who know the process there to support you makes it feel a little better, especially since it's

my first time.”

The Scholarship Resource Center is located on the first floor of the Donahue Building. The center is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Students in need of assistance can drop in any time during office hours or schedule an appointment to meet with center staff.

Applicants only need to fill out a single online form to be automatically matched with the scholarships they are most qualified to receive. There are scholarships for new students, current students, and students transferring to other institutions, scholarships based on financial need, scholarships for students in specific majors, scholarships for residents of certain communities, and scholarships that recognize academic achievement.

For more information or for assistance, please contact the Scholarship Resource Center at scholarships@hcc.edu or visit the center in Donahue 158.

To view scholarship opportunities and begin the application process, please go to: www.hcc.edu/scholarships.

CORRESPONDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Turley Publications seeks **Experienced Writers/Journalists** to produce news and/or feature stories of local interest for various towns and cities.

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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.

Nazier Grandison pleads guilty to manslaughter in Chicopee fatal accident

Sentenced to 3-4 years in state prison; Commonwealth sought 6-9 years

SPRINGFIELD - On Tuesday, April 16, Nazier Grandison, 24, of Springfield, pled guilty to manslaughter for his responsibility in the tragic death of Mr. Nickolas Weichel, 34, of Chicopee. The change of plea hearing comes before his scheduled trial on April 22. At the change of plea hearing the Commonwealth recommended a sentence of 6-9 years in state prison, the trial judge ended up sentencing him to 3-4 years.



Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni stated, "Given the defendant's gross recklessness and its tragic outcome, my office pursued the charge of manslaughter for this conduct and sought a stringent punishment. But, no matter the conclusion of this criminal case, Mr. Weichel's family will never be made whole and will forever grieve his loss. I thank the detectives from the Chicopee Police Department and Massachusetts State Police troopers assigned to my office, along with Assistant District Attorney and Chief of the Motor Vehicle Homicide Unit James Forsyth for their thorough and professional investigation and prosecution of this case."

On October 8, 2022, the Chicopee Police Department responded to the 400 block of Springfield Street in Chicopee for a report of pedestrian being struck by a motor vehicle. When officers arrived they discovered a male victim who was deceased.

The deceased has been previously identified as Mr. Nickolas Weichel, 34, of Chicopee.

Mr. Weichel appears to have been walking to his car when he was struck by a motor vehicle operating in the wrong lane, at speeds exceeding 70 mph. The posted speed limit on this stretch of Springfield Street is 30 mph.

Assistant District Attorney James Forsyth represented the Commonwealth in this case.

Vieau serves up meatloaf at RiverMills



PHOTOS AND CAPTION COURTESY OF CHICOPEE MAYOR'S OFFICE

CHICOPEE - Mayor John Vieau had a heartwarming afternoon at RiverMills Senior Center Chicopee serving up his famous meatloaf to 185 cherished seniors! From meatloaf to mashed potatoes and corn, it was a delicious feast for all.

Cookie Haven also served up its selection of cookies as dessert for the occasion.

Rachel Dionne of Polish National Credit Union joins Providence Ministries Board

CHICOPEE - Polish National Credit Union (PNCU) proudly announces that Rachel Dionne, AVP and Credit Risk Officer, has joined the Board of Directors of Providence Ministries.

PNCU, a full-service community credit union, is committed to meeting community needs and fostering growth. The organization emphasizes community engagement through corporate leadership and volunteerism.

"We encourage our team members to actively participate in community and volunteer activities," says Mike Sugrue, executive vice president. "Currently, our employees are engaged with around forty local organizations through board or committee roles. Rachel's decision to join the Providence Ministries Board is commendable, and we are excited for the board to benefit from her insights."

Rachel Dionne, who resides in Southampton, MA with her husband, Todd, is dedicated to

community service. Her volunteer work includes over half a decade on the Board of Trustees for Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School, membership on the school's Finance Committee, involvement in a Youth Ministry Group, service on the Town of Southampton Finance Committee and as an Eucharistic Minister at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Church in Westfield. She now adds the Providence Ministries Board membership to her list of contributions.

Providence Ministries, a non-profit organization serving the greater Holyoke, MA region since 1980, offers life-sustaining and transformative programs to those in need. Sr. Margaret McCleary, SP, founded Providence Ministries, which includes McCleary Manor, Broderick House, Loreto House, Kate's Kitchen, Margaret's Pantry



Rachel Dionne

and St. Jude's Clothing Store. They are affiliated with and sponsored by the Sisters of Providence.

"I am thrilled to join the Board of Directors for Providence Ministries," says Rachel Dionne. "Their impactful work in providing essential needs like food, clothing, and shelter, as well as sober housing for men in recovery, is inspiring. I look forward to contributing to the mission."

With nearly 35 years of experience in accounting and finance, Dionne joined PNCU in 2017. In her role, she analyzes complex commercial financial information, oversees commercial lending policies, and manages loan administration, loan servicing, and credit teams.

Dionne is a two-time graduate of American International College (AIC) in Springfield, MA, with degrees in Accounting and Non-profit Management.

Pioneer Valley Quilt Guild plans next quilt show

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM - The Pioneer Valley Quilt Guild is hosting a quilt show from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 4 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 5 at the Elks #61 Lodge at 440 Tiffany St., Springfield.

At this show there will be a variety of quilts and quilted items made by Guild members available for purchase.

"There will be a few things on the display that aren't quilts, per se, but are made by the quilting method," PVQG Member Elaine Conway said. "We have an upholstered chair, a Christmas tree skirt and even a ghost figurine that goes with a story about quilts."

They anticipate that the display will be roughly 82 items in the main room of the Elks.

There will also be an 8 foot quilted balloon on display for all to see. This quilt was created by Herbert Menzel in 2012.

"He and 30 people made 24 panels, 12 on the top, 12 on the bottom, and it gets set up at the quilt guild," Conway said.

"It's very unique," Co-Chair of the Quilt Show John Roy said.

In addition to these items, there will be eight vendors, a quilt appraiser, raffle baskets and a food vendor.

"The vendors will primarily be vending quilting supplies and machines but there will also be a vendor from Thirty-One Bags," Conway said.

Also, there will be a section showing some of the guild's community relations and the donations they have made, for any interested in learning more about the guild's contribution to the community.

There will also be handmade non-quilt items for sale at the PVQG Boutique.

Additionally, PVQG Member Loretta Forsihe has volunteered her quilt "Chronicles", which won Best in Show at the Big E in 2022, to be raffled off during the show.

This quilt was inspired by a



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The Pioneer Valley Quilt Guild will have a variety of quilts made by their members available for purchase at their quilt show on May 4 and 5.



This quilt titled "Chronicles" and made by Pioneer Valley Quilt Guild Member Loretta Forsihe will be raffled off at their quilt show on May 4 and 5.

quilt made hundreds of years ago by women taken from Africa to be enslaved in Australia.

"On the way over [to Australia] they gave them needles and fabric and these women sat and sewed a quilt in this pattern," Co-Chair of the Quilt Show Janet Foy said. "This quilt is the pattern of that original quilt."

The original quilt is hanging in the Australia Quilting Museum, according to Foy.

Admission for the show is \$10 and proceeds go toward the guild. The admission is good for both days of the show.

"The money we raise from the quilt show goes to community service projects, we make blankets for A-Okay for Families, we make cardiac and cancer pillows for people to use to support themselves," Foy said. "A lot of what we make is donated."

Those in attendance of the show are also welcome to get more information about the guild and to sign up to join.

The guild meets at the Elks at 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month.

"Anyone is welcome to come," Foy said.

While the guild does not offer quilting lessons, there are members located in many nearby towns who would be willing to give new quilters some advice.

"It's not a sewing class but if you went in there and said, 'I'd like to learn to quilt and I live in Springfield,' Elaine lives in Springfield, she might ask you to come over and she'll help you," Foy said.

The guild will also invite in speakers who teach them new quilting skills.

Currently, PVQG has 60 members and they look forward to hopefully seeing those numbers increase following the upcoming show.

fabulous right at the moment. Hollyhocks like it rich, so I fertilized and will also provide some compost to further enhance their growth, and maybe just maybe I will re-live the Hollyhocks of my youth come July.

All in all, I feel pretty good at how the perennial gardens faired through the winter. Next week I have to get those peas in – at least before the forsythia stops blooming!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

BBB Tip: Healthcare scams are after your personal information

Healthcare scams are as varied as just about any con out there, according to the Better Business Bureau. The fraudster often poses as a government authority to persuade you to provide personal information related to your Medicare or Medicaid account for identity theft. In other cases, the con artist is after your health insurance, Medicaid or Medicare information to submit fraudulent medical charges.

How the scam works:

The scam typically starts with an email, text message or phone call that appears to be from a government agency. Con artists use a variety of stories. In one common version, the "agent" tells you that he or she needs to update account information to send a new medical card. In another version, the scammer asks for

your account number in exchange for free equipment or services. A third version involves a threatening robocall purporting to be from HealthCare.gov or the Health Insurance Marketplace. You're told you must buy health insurance or face a fine. Sure enough, you're soon asked to provide personal information. A more recent version has reported Medicare recipients receiving notices that new Medicare cards with microchips will be sent out and further verification is required.

Tips to avoid this scam:

Don't trust a name or number. Con artists use official-sounding names or mask their area codes by spoofing to make you trust them. Don't fall for it.

Hang up and go to official websites. You can enroll or re-enroll in Medi-

care at Medicare.gov or a marketplace health plan at Healthcare.gov.

Never share personally identifiable information with someone who has contacted you unsolicited, whether over the phone, by email, or on social media. This includes banking and credit card information, your birthdate, Social Security or Social Insurance number, and, of course, your health insurance number.

Guard your government-issued numbers. Never offer your Medicare ID number, Social Security number, health plan info, or banking information to anyone you don't know.

Know the signs. Medicare will never contact you via email, text message, or phone, asking you to verify personal information.

PUBLIC NOTICES

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600
Docket No. HD24P0851EA
Estate of:
Stanley M Dachowski, Jr.
Date of Death:
January 24, 2024**

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

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

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
04/26/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600
Docket No. HD24P0142EA
Estate of:
Linda Elizabeth Herbert
Also Known As:
Linda E. Herbert
Date of Death:
December 18, 2023**

**INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Deidre A. Depathy of Feeding Hills, MA**
Petitioner **Dawn M.**

Depathy of Uxbridge, MA
a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
**Deidre A. Depathy of Feeding Hills, MA
Dawn M. Depathy of Uxbridge, MA**
has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
04/26/2024

**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 May 3, 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. .

1999 Honda Accord
VIN: JHMCG5559XC046041
Taylor Geoffroy
411 Canon Circle
Springfield, MA 011182001

Chevrolet Silverado C1500
VIN: 1GCEC14V81Z291403
Carlton Torres
193 Chestnut St #200A
Holyoke, MA 01040

2002 Dodge Stratus
VIN: 1B3EL46X52N340244
Tina Gonzalez
5 Dwight St
Westfield, MA 01085

2003 Lexus LS430
VIN: JTHBN30F730118047
Shelly Wilhelmi
69 New Boston Rd #A
Sturbridge, MA 01566

2004 Dodge Ram 1500
VIN: 1D7HA18D84S515020
Kabul City Auto Rental LLC
130 Springside Dr.
Lutherville Timonium, MD
21093

2005 Buick Lacrosse
VIN: 2G4WC532151280787
Shakema Ali
2638 San Francisco BLVD
Unit A
Orange Park, FL 32065

2006 Nissan Altima
VIN: 1N4AL11E36N412720
Dineishaly Arocho-Santiago
188 Windemere St.
Springfield, MA 01104

2006 Toyota Rav4
VIN: JTMBD31V865027564
Djeddarah Souffrant
67 Clermont St
Albany, NY 12203

2008 Honda Fit
VIN: JHMGD37488S043917
Antonia Torres Torres
9 View St.
Holyoke, MA 01040

2010 Honda Fit
VIN: JHMGE8G2XAC027811
Natiel Brown
119 Ranny St F11
Springfield, MA 01108

2013 Dodge Dart
VIN: 1C3CDFBA2DD233293
Destaney Amaro
1 Downey Rd.
Manchester, CT 06040
04/19, 04/26, 05/03/2024

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Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on May 10, 2024, at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles. .

2003 Honda Accord
VIN: JHMCM56653C084392
Bonnie Santa
78 Alexander St Apt 1
Springfield, MA 01107

2003 Volvo S60
VIN: YV1RS61T232274087
Maryjane Mason
5 Hale Dr.
Windsor, CT 06095

2004 Jeep Wrangler
VIN: 1J4FA49S84P779416
Austin & Andrew O'Toole

3 Celtic Circle
Uxbridge, MA 01569

2005 Nissan Altima
VIN: 1N4AL11D45C337527
James & Linda Gryszkiewicz
82 Saw Mill Park
Southwick, MA 01077

2005 Toyota Prius
VIN: JTDKB20UX50122535
Luis Robles
772 Page Blvd.
Springfield, MA 01104

2006 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCM66316A014709
Christopher Martinez
29 Pelham St.
Springfield, MA 01109

2008 Chevrolet Equinox
VIN: 2CNDL23FX86038211
Madelyn Perez
79 Hanmer St.
Hartford, CT 06114

2009 Nissan Altima
VIN: 1N4AL21E19N450909
Kathrine Vannostrand
Po Box 125
Woronoco, MA 01097

2013 Nissan Murano
VIN:
JN8AZ1MW0DW305133
Derrick Jackson
221 Bay St Apt 206
Springfield, MA 01109

2014 Haulmark
PPT7X14DT2
VIN: 575PB1425ET256425
Brent Borgman
4766 Calle De Nubes
Las Cruces, NM 88012
04/26, 05/03, 05/10/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD22P1274PM**

**Estate of:
Joanne Mary Julian
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
ORDER OF COMPLETE
SETTLEMENT**

A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **William A Julian, Jr. of Granby, MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.
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 05/28/2024.

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 22, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/26/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD24D0051DR
Carmen I Ortiz vs.
Jose L Ortiz
DIVORCE SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION
AND MAILING**

To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown.

The Complaint is on file at the Court.

An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. **SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.**

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon:
**Carmen I Ortiz
108 Front St 1-L
Chicopee, MA 01013**

your answer, if any, on or before **05/31/2024**. If you fail to do so, the court will

proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 5, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/26/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No. HD24P0879EA**

**Estate of:
Irene M. Stanek
Date of Death:
February 22, 2024**
**INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Dorothy S. Joyal of Chicopee, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

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

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
04/26/2024

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23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
25	Base Price \$28.50	26	Base Price \$29.00
27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
35	Base Price \$33.50	36	Base Price \$34.00
37	Base Price \$34.50	38	Base Price \$35.00
39	Base Price \$35.50	40	Base Price \$36.00

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Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
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REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT



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.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for The Chicopee Register, please email chicopeeregister@turley.com.

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Job Connection

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The Town of Worthington (population 1,200) is seeking to fill the position of Building Commissioner / Zoning Enforcement Officer.

Qualifications include:

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- Must be certified as Building Commissioner/Inspector of Buildings by the BBRS or have a prior approval letter from the BOCC or BBRS to obtain certification, as defined in 780 CMR 110.R7.
- Must have a valid Class D Driver's license.

This is a part-time position - 12 hours a week. Pay range: \$33 - \$39 per hour.

Detailed job description can be found here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DURzlpX_U-Ela1ddsuXZQsHiWWoCw_1G/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=111270427003763858270&rtfpof=true&sd=true

and on the Town's website: www.worthington-ma.us. Please mail your letter of interest, resume and references for all related positions held in the past five years to:

Worthington Selectboard, PO Box 247, Worthington, MA 01098

Or send via email to: selectboard@worthington-ma.us

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. No phone calls please.

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Love Mom, Dad, John and Chloe

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Healing from the inside out

Holistic nursing becoming a way of life for nurses at Baystate Health

SPRINGFIELD – Holistic nursing is becoming a way of life for many nurses providing care at Baystate Health, where some patients have been benefiting from a holistic approach to nursing practice.

“The nurses of Baystate Health are dedicated to the co-creation of a caring and healing environment for the health and well-being, care, and comfort of our patients, team members, families, and community,” said Cidalia Vital, RN, program director, Nursing Research and Holistic Nursing at Baystate Health.

“With the challenging and difficult times healthcare has seen over the past three years, nurses are looking to get back to the basics of nursing that includes healing the whole person,” she added.

Yet it is not everyone who is familiar with the term “holistic nursing.”

Holistic nursing is defined as “all nursing practice that has healing the whole person as its goal,” according to the American Holistic Nurses’ Association. Florence Nightingale, who is considered to be the founder of holistic nursing, taught nurses to focus on the principles of holism: unity, wellness and the interrelationship of human

beings and their environment.

“Holistic nursing is not merely something we do. It is also an attitude, a philosophy and a way of being that requires nurses to integrate self-care, self-responsibility, spirituality, and reflection in their lives. This often leads the nurse to greater awareness of the interconnectedness of self, others, nature, spirit and relationship with the global community,” said Vital.

“Baystate Health has spent the last six years on a holistic journey to improve holistic care at the bedside as well as improve staff resilience and promote self-care,” she added.

And their efforts are being recognized.

Baystate Medical Center holistic nurses attending the recent American Holistic Nurses Conference in Orlando, Florida, accepted the Institution Excellence in Holistic Nursing Practice Award. The award recognizes an organization for incorporating holistic nursing practice and demonstrating the core values of holistic nursing.

“Holistic nursing is the artful blend of the art and science of nursing. Thanks to the extraordinary support from the Baystate Health Foundation and our generous donors, Baystate Health now has a total of 1,170 team members trained in holistic modalities. I am proud of our extraordinary nurses and caregivers for their commitment to lifelong learning, nursing

excellence and for creating a healing environment for themselves, each other, and for our patients and their loved ones,” said Joanne Miller, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, Chief Nurse Executive, Baystate Health and Chief Nursing Officer, Baystate Medical Center.

The Baystate Medical Center Nursing Model of Care, founded on Swanson’s Caring Theory, utilizes a holistic approach to promote quality care to nurture the body, mind, and spirit. The journey to incorporating holistic nursing into practice started in 2017 with the training of staff on M technique®. M technique® is a form of gentle touch performed on the hands and feet of recipients using a set sequence of varying pressure and completed in three to five minutes. The “M” in M technique® stands for “mindful” and is appropriate for the most fragile patients, including terminally ill cancer patients, the elderly, critically ill, and surgical patients.

“One of our nurses, Magdalena “Leny” Barranda, RN, has performed M technique® on many of her coworkers. The nurses who received M technique® from Leny reported feeling relaxed, a release of tension, and overall reduction in stress. Additionally, Leny kept a log of patients with whom she provided M technique®, and overwhelmingly, patients reported a decrease in anxiety, a sense of relaxation, and the ability to sleep.

Both our patients and our caregivers, nurses, patient care technicians and operations associates, receive the therapeutic benefits of M technique®,” said Vital.

She noted as an organization, Baystate is striving for all nurses to understand how holistic nursing is a foundational element of their profession. The holistic approach draws on nursing practice, knowledge, and expertise to facilitate healing. Baystate has trained nurses in its holistic model of care, including training on M technique®, aromatherapy, and foundational elements of holistic nursing through the Integrative Healing Arts Academy by the BirchTree Center, and Reiki.

“Holistic nursing is a way of being and many nurses at Baystate may be practicing holistic nursing without even realizing it. We have a dedicated committee of holistic nurses who have further defined for Baystate what it means to be a holistic nurse,” said Vital.

Examples of what defines a holistic nurse include in their words:

“Compassionate presence including authentic presence that describes a staff member who is consciously being in the moment while creating a trusting relationship. Through listening and viewing the patient as a human being instead of an object, we honor the patient’s belief system and enable them to expand their own sense of

faith/hope.”

“From authentic presence, one can provide a caring presence which is caring for another person and it is the essence of our clinical practice. It begins with being fully present in compassion, gentleness and kindness with ourselves, our colleagues and the patients we serve. This method potentiates states of wholeness and aligns mind, body and spirit to promote a healing environment.”

For those interested in learning more about holistic nursing, Baystate Health holistic nurse Caitlyn Waddell, RN, BSN, HN-BC developed a podcast called Elemental Healing (Baystate) on Spotify. The podcast focuses on holistic and self-care practices and ways to incorporate them into work and personal life. Listeners will learn about the many initiatives Baystate is making toward the shift to holistic practice and opportunities to get involved and learn from the holistic community.

Baystate Medical Center’s high quality nursing care has earned it prestigious status for an unprecedented fourth consecutive time achieving Magnet® recognition from the American Nurses Credentialing Center, a distinction that places the hospital’s nursing staff among the finest in the nation.

For more information on Baystate Health, visit baystate-health.org.

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