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Lorraine's Soup Kitchen receives \$50K earmark

Lorraine's Soup Kitchen & Pantry received a \$50,000 earmark from the state on May 4 to continue its mission of combatting food insecurity and feeding families in Chicopee

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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CHICOPEE - Lorraine's Soup Kitchen & Pantry received a \$50,000 earmark from the state on May 4 to continue its fight against food insecurity.

Executive Director Kim Caisse and members of her staff, volunteers and the Board of Directors were joined by Mayor John Vieau, State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), Ward 1 City Councilor Abigail Arriaga and State Rep. Pat Duffy (D-Holyoke) for the announcement.

Arriaga explained everyone was there to support Lorraine's Soup Kitchen "for all of their hard work that they're doing, and really, to highlight a need that not only exists in Massachusetts, but primarily here in Western Massachusetts in Chicopee."

"My constituents, our constituents, our folks, our country, they're going hungry. Lorraine's Soup Kitchen has seen their numbers increase—actually, double—in the past 12 months and this earmark to help Lorraine's continue to feed our most vulnerable and encourage them to come out," Arriaga

said. "We don't want no one going to sleep hungry and we understand that the need is larger than we're actually reporting right now. Folks are coming to organizations such as Lorraine's to obtain some nutritional food."

Arriaga added the earmark was made possible through herself, Duffy, the state and State Rep. Mike Finn (D-West Springfield), State Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield), State Sen. John Velis (D-Westfield) and State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow).

"This is on behalf of the Chicopee delegation to

ensure our most vulnerable have something to eat and help Lorraine's Soup Kitchen continue their hard work mission, so we thank you for your work. We really are impacting many, many individuals and I simply want to be here with you all to celebrate this earmark and congratulations on your hard work," Arriaga said.

Duffy said how it's "so great and gratifying to be part of the Chicopee delegation and to support a place like Lorraine's."

See **LORRAINE'S** page 3

Resolution to support state auditor sent to Comms. Committee

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE - The City Council approved in a 9-4 vote to send a resolution supporting the Massachusetts State Auditor's efforts to audit the state legislature to the Communications Committee on May 5.

The order was co-presented by Vice President/Ward 6 Councilor Sam Shumsky, President/Councilor-at-Large Frank Laflamme and Ward 5 Councilor Joe Pasternak III.

This resolution comes as State Auditor Diana DiZoglio has been working on getting access to financial records to conduct a state audit after 72% of voters voted in support of auditing the state legislature in 2024.

In February, DiZoglio filed a lawsuit against House Speaker Ronald Mariano, Senate President Karen Spilka and House and Senate clerks to enforce the voter-approved audit after she was told to drop the original case and refile a narrower lawsuit to target specific financial records.

A motion to strike the lawsuit was also presented by the Supreme Judicial Court on May 6.

On May 12, it was announced that Attorney General Andrea Campbell gave DiZoglio authority to secure an attorney and sue the legislature over access to the financial records following

a Supreme Judicial Court order.

Shumsky emphasized that this "is not directed at any of our state legislatures" and the resolution is something "that many cities and towns have discussed and talked about throughout the Commonwealth."

"70% of Chicopee, as a whole, their population voted for it. Not one ward went under 65% in the election in favor of this. It is my opinion that I think that it is for transparency and public records purposes. That's all I really have to say right now," Shumsky said.

Councilor-at-Large Joel McAuliffe called this "a great opportunity from both political persuasions to come together in the name of good government," and planned to vote yes.

"The question before us is simple. Should the Massachusetts Legislature be held to the same basic standards of accountability as every city, town, school district and public agency in the Commonwealth? When the voters were asked this question at the state ballot—they were asked if the state auditor should have the authority to audit the legislature—they said yes overwhelmingly, over 70% statewide, and here in Chicopee, about 60% said yes," McAuliffe said. "That is a clear mandate from the people of this city and the people of this

See **CITY COUNCIL** page 6

CHS student earns Eagle Scout Award

Isabel Vershon is a member of Troop 124, Westfield

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - The City Council recognized an outstanding local teen at the beginning of its meeting on the evening of May 5.

Isabel Vershon, a Chicopee High School student, was honored after earning the Eagle Scout Award as a member of Troop 124 in Westfield. For any Girl Scout or Boy Scout, attaining the Eagle Scout merit badge is a monumental achievement.

Just reaching the Eagle Scout rank requires many years of hard work, effort and determination. To get to that point, a scout must earn at least 21 merit badges, including more than a dozen specific ones.

They also must serve in a leadership position for six months and oversee the planning and development of a major service project to be considered for the distinction.

Vershon represented everything that it means to be an Eagle Scout in the process of making a mark.

Last Tuesday, the City Council commended Vershon's consistent demonstration of excellence, perseverance and commitment to service.

Vershon's Eagle Project at Chicopee High School involved organizing and executing the painting of a mural celebrating the school

community. The artwork specifically highlights the high school's prestigious Air Force Jr. ROTC program.

During the City Council meeting, it was expressed by the board that Vershon's contributions will be meaningful for many years to come.

Beyond scouting, Vershon has earned a strong reputation in the classroom as a high performer. The honors student has found success in the Health Science Academy.

Vershon also attended the EMT Academy at night and has served the community while working with the Parks & Recreation Department.

After the list of accomplishments was read aloud, Vershon was welcomed to the podium, where members of the council thanked her for showcasing the best the city has to offer.

Mayor John Vieau, a graduate of Chicopee High School, was excited to see a fellow Pacer put both talent and passion to great use for the betterment of the community.

Vieau made it clear that Vershon has made a big difference in many people's

See **EAGLE SCOUT** page 5



Mayor John Vieau with Isabel Vershon after receiving a certificate of recognition.



Jeffrey Sattler, long-time Rotarian and senior relationship manager, poses for the perfect photo.

Rotary Club of Chicopee hosts Celebrity Bartender Fundraiser

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - Last week, the community stopped by the View Street Tavern on May 6 as the Chicopee Rotary Club hosted its first-ever Celebrity Bartender Fundraiser, raising over \$13,000 as a result.

The funds will now be utilized and dispersed to local community non-profit organizations.

Meet Your Lineup

The star-studded roster of celebrity bartenders consisted of John Arthur

(Rotary Club Public Relations, Personnel Recruiter), Lou Arasate (Membership Chairman), Joe Peters, (Retired Plastics Manufacturing) Gene LaPierre (Entrepreneur, Retired), Kirk Burnham, Sr. (Vice President, Polish National Credit Union), Jason Ouellete (Chicopee Concrete Service, Inc.), Fred Borys (Rotary Club President), Mike Vogel (VP Sales Manager, Westfield Bank.), Kat Lockridge, (Entrepreneur, Retired), Scott Channell (Rotary Club Vice President and General Manager, National Vinyl LLC), Karen Kirby

(Broker/Owner, HB Real Estate), Robert McNamara (McNamara Waste Services, LLC.), Mayor John Vieau, Jeffrey Sattler (Senior Relationship Manager, Liberty Bank), Kate Riley (Vice President/Realtor, Riley Home Realty), and Chelsea Parker (Rotary Club Secretary, Director of Chicopee Outpatient Services, River Valley Counseling Center).

The top five bartenders from the evening were Sattler, \$2,522, Channell, \$2,273.50, Lockridge,

See **BARTENDERS** page 5

IN THE CITY

City Council holds court on Chapter 90 funding

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – If it hasn't been done already, the Chicopee City Council will soon send a fiery resolution to Boston.

Its destination is the Massachusetts State Legislature and Massachusetts Department of Transportation, and its goal is to urge both bodies to review and modify the Chapter 90 funding formula.

The resolution from Chicopee specifically advocates for the state to boost its financial support of roadway and infrastructure improvement projects across Western Massachusetts.

Chapter 90 money is an annual, formula-based state funding program that offers reimbursements to municipalities for capital improvements to public roads, bridges and sidewalks.

Chicopee currently receives \$2.47 million in Chapter 90 funding each year, but many politicians from the western part of the state claim eastern Massachusetts receives an inequitable percentage of the available money.

That – and a conversation with State Auditor Diana DiZoglio – inspired Vice President/Ward 6 Councilor

Sam Shumsky to bring the resolution to the table last Tuesday.

City Council President/Councilor-at-Large Frank Laflamme and Ward 5 Councilor Joseph Pasternak III also supported the item on the agenda.

While most of the board agreed that Chicopee needs more Chapter 90 funding, signing off on the resolution wasn't a unanimous decision.

It was only after an intense conversation that the council voted 10-3 to deliver the document to Boston.

When introducing the resolution, Shumsky said he and DiZoglio recently discussed the outdated Chapter 90 formula, which he said hasn't been comprehensively modernized in decades.

Shumsky said the two agreed it is pivotal to make upgrades and balance the playing field.

"[Some roads in my ward] haven't been touched in probably over 70 years. They're in tough shape, as are a lot of roads in my area and a lot of your roads as well," Shumsky said. "I think this would be greatly beneficial not just to us as councilors and our neighborhoods but also the city of Chicopee as a whole."

Ward 7 Councilor Bill

Courchesne agreed. He said he's been calling for the Chapter 90 formula to be upgraded for a decade and noted that recent small changes haven't resulted in major improvements.

"This year, we received \$2.47 million... The city, last time I asked, needs \$36 million to complete its roads," Courchesne said.

Several councilors explained that the \$36 million sum is what it would cost the city just to repair its existing roads that need improvements, not including new projects.

For several reasons, Councilor-at-Large Joel McAuliffe passionately backed the resolution.

He said he didn't agree with every aspect of it. However, he supports the idea of making more noise about a critical subject.

"We disproportionately are affected negatively by the way Boston does legislating," McAuliffe said. "We have not gotten our fair share here in Chicopee or in Western Massachusetts as a whole. So, I'm glad the council is taking a stand on it."

McAuliffe declared repeatedly that Chicopee has not received its fair share, and Ward 3 Councilor Susan Goff

praised him for voicing that sentiment.

"Chicopee has not gotten their fair share," Goff said. "To say that the taxpayers need to dish out more money, no. Just absolutely not. I think the way that money is spent in this state and misappropriated to certain areas, I just do not agree with it, so I'm voting 'yes' on this."

Ultimately, the three representatives that voted against sending the resolution were Councilor-at-Large Jessica Avery, Ward 1 Councilor Abigail Arriaga and Ward 2 Councilor Shane Brooks.

Avery led the change, as she wholeheartedly opposed the idea of sending the resolution to the state. She spoke at length about why she thought it was a bad idea.

"I want to point out that Chapter 90 is not supposed to cover all of our roads and bridges and funding," Avery said. "While I agree with the intention of the resolution, I think that there has been some misinformation and misunderstanding about how those calculations and appropriations exist and what the obligation of Chicopee itself is and what the obligation of our community is."

Avery said asking for more money is like "robbing

Peter to pay Paul," because Chapter 90 money is derived from tax money. She implied that raising Chapter 90 money might require raising taxes.

"I think that when we talk about taxes, we forget that these are not just a one-way street. These are a two-way street," Avery said. "The data, which is readily and publicly available... demonstrates that Chicopee is actually getting more than we are giving already. I want to make sure that we recognize that tax revenue is coming from communities like us all over."

Avery also criticized the previous iteration of the council for approving a Fiscal Year 2025 budget that only raised property taxes by eight cents per \$1,000.

McAuliffe took instant offense to this, as he called out Avery.

"I think we should fix the damn roads, and no one here should be arguing that we don't pay enough taxes in Chicopee," McAuliffe said. "I would say that this council has done a good job of mitigating what is a lot of pressures externally to allow Chicopee to remain an affordable place to live while balancing our needs and ensuring that we provide the most services to our residents."

McAuliffe reiterated that the eastern part of the state continues to get attention and monetary help that the western side of the state doesn't receive.

"We paid for the Big Dig. We're still paying for it. That was supposed to be only a few years," McAuliffe said. "Ultimately, we have paid our fair share, and we don't get that back here. I just think this is a no-brainer."

While he didn't speak until the end of the conversation, Brooks brought several solid points to the table. He offered a thorough explanation of why he voted against sending the resolution.

"This resolution is fatally flawed. I think the intentionality is well-intentioned, but I don't think that this is going to move the needle. Certainly, we know not this fiscal year," Brooks said. "I think there needs to be some revisions to Chapter 90. We're going to get there; the state will get there, but I think the time for advocacy comes when that change is about to take place."

One can be sure this isn't the last time the council will tackle this tough discussion moving forward.

Historic rifle exhibit at library May 20

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Historical Society will present the installation and unveiling of our Inshaw Rifle in its new exhibit case on permanent loan to the Chicopee Public Library. Ms. Laura Bovee, Director of the Chicopee Public Library, will also speak at the event.

The funds for purchasing this case came in part

from the sale of the Society's book, "Richard B. Inshaw: A Craftsman's Life and Work in Chicopee, Massachusetts" and the sponsor ads that appear in the book, but the chief source of funding came from a generous grant from the American Society of Arms Collectors. The Chicopee Historical Society thanks them most sincerely

for helping to achieve this long-anticipated goal.

The Inshaw Rifle installation event will take place Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Bazan Community Room at the Chicopee Public Library, 449 Front Street. The Inshaw Rifle will be displayed in the local history room. The event is free and open to the public.

Win a trip to Italy while supporting hospice patients in need

CHICOPEE - Local nonprofit Harmony House of Western Massachusetts invites the community to take a chance on winning a trip to Italy for two while supporting its mission and residents.

The nonprofit is selling tickets for \$100 per chance to win a guided trip for two to Italy, with several destinations, including Rome, Capri, and the Amalfi Coast, from October 10-20, 2026.

Only 250 chances will be sold and the prize package-valued at \$9,900-includes airfare, accommodations, transportation, meals, and a curated travel experience, making it a unique opportunity

for community members to help care for their neighbors facing terminal illness. Profits from the raffle will directly support Harmony House's mission of providing a home with compassionate end-of-life care and companionship to hospice patients in need, regardless of their financial status or any other circumstances.

This is the second year Harmony House has hosted the fundraiser. Last year's winners, Jerry and Marilyn, reflected on their experience, sharing, "You buy something like this and assume that it would just be a donation, but this was the trip of a lifetime!"

Great trip, brand new buses, guides were very knowledgeable, and the information session at Figaro's Restaurant before the trip was very informative."

Tickets are available for purchase now through Thursday, June 4, and the drawing will take place via Facebook Live on Friday, June 5. Visit HarmonyHouseWMA.org/ItalyRaffle for purchase options, trip itinerary, and terms and conditions. Tickets are also available for purchase at Figaro's Restaurant in Enfield, Pizza Lino in Chicopee, and the office of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish in Westfield.

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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, teens, and families. The Youth Services Department provides opportunities for entertainment and enrichment that promote literacy and explore creativity. Here is the slate of events for May 2026.

Saturday Playgroup will be held on **Saturdays at 1 p.m.** in May. We'll put out some extra toys in the playspace. It's a great time for families with kids of all ages to meet up and play, no registration required.

Storytime will be held on **Thursdays, May 28 at 10:30 a.m.** Storytime is for children ages 3-5. This program features about 30 minutes of structured circle time, followed by 15-30 minutes of a craft or activity. Circle time will include 2-3 read aloud books, rhymes, songs, and felt boards. Children will be encouraged to ask and answer simple questions and recognize

things like shapes, colors, letters, and numbers. No registration required.

Terrific Twos will be held on **Tuesdays, May 26 at 10:30 a.m.** Terrific Twos is for two-year-olds and their caregivers. This program features about 25 minutes of structured circle time, followed by about half an hour of semi-structured playtime. During circle time, we will sing songs, do rhymes, do some big movements, and read 1 book. The book choice rotates between either a read aloud picture book or a group read of a board book. Playtime involves a choice of craft, activity, or play. No registration required.

Make a Frog Craft in the Kids Room on **Tuesday, May 19 at 4 p.m.**

The library **Home-school Meetup** will be on **Friday, May 29 at 11 a.m.** This group meets once a month September - June for homeschooling families with kids of all ages to hang out, do activities and learn

together. This month we're learning about comics and sequential art.

Teens
Join us for **Anime Club on Wednesday, May 20 at 3 p.m.** Ever wonder what you could do with all those wrappers and bits of trash? We'll be celebrating the series Gachiakuta with a fun upcycle craft and a Vital Instrument quiz!

Girls Who Code Workshop Series every other Saturday. May 9 and 23, June 6 and 20, 1 to 3 p.m. in the Computer Lab.

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

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

** Save the date: The Library's annual Summer Reading Program will be starting June 24! We are asking "Chicopee, did you read today?" Read every day, earn raffle chances, and have fun!

Visit the library website for more info about all of the library's events! www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org

Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?

We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm to explore these topics and more.

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

Please contact **Pat James 413-726-8661**.

IN THE CITY

Water and Fire Departments receive key grants

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – During its May 5 meeting, the City Council accepted grants on behalf of both the Chicopee Water Department and Chicopee Fire Department.

First that evening, the board unanimously accepted \$125,290 for the water department. The money stems from the Massachusetts Community Compact Cabinet Information Technology Grant program.

Not long after, the council unanimously accepted \$14,000 from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Pub-

lic Safety for the fire department.

The funding will help both departments meet important needs going forward.

The Water Department will use the money to configure a centralized GIS online platform. This will enable the department to manage its GIS inventory and improve efficiency.

Mayor John Vieau believes the \$125,290 will make a major difference for the water department, which will ultimately benefit community members.

“We’re excited to receive this grant,” Vieau said. “As many of you are aware, your

constituents have received letters that we have to identify pipes for everyone’s house. This will create a GIS online inventory of all the pipes through the water department throughout our community.”

Meanwhile, the \$14,000 that the fire department received may seem small at first glance, but it’s largely essential.

The money from the state will be used to purchase gas meters to equip the city’s fire trucks and vehicles for calls related to gas leaks.

Fire Chief Dan Stamborski was on-hand last Tuesday while Vieau discussed his mayoral orders. Stamborski

also took to the podium to offer more information on the grant coming to his department.

“This is a Department of Fire Services’ grant through the state of Massachusetts, and we’re excited to get this grant,” Stamborski said. “We’re replacing some aging meters; 9 of them in total. [They’ll] go on the trucks and will help us tremendously to get rid of some of the old meters that are starting to fail.”

Stamborski also described how the city will be totally reimbursed once it installs the new equipment on the fire department apparatuses.

“The best part about this grant is that it’s 100% reimbursement; there’s no percentage match from the city, so we’re just looking to get the funds in place so we can order the equipment. Then, we’ll get reimbursed from the state in whole,” Stamborski said.

Vieau was thrilled to see the grant accepted by the council because he knows it will make residents safer. He expressed gratitude to the city employees who landed the funding.

“I want to thank Chief Stamborski and the Fire Department for getting and achieving that grant,” Vieau said.

Ward 4 Councilor George Balakier also weighed in on the importance of the items that the grant money will bring to the fire department.

“Again, this is for the purchase of gas meters pertaining to gas leaks, carbon monoxide, natural gas and propane. These are important tools to have for the fire department,” Balakier said.

For those who were unclear about how the reimbursement process works, Balakier gave a brief but strong explanation.

“This is the kind of grant where we have to spend the money first. Then, we get the grant,” Balakier said.



From the left, Bridget Healy, legislative aide for State Sen. John Velis (D-Westfield), State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), Kim Caisse, executive director of Lorraine’s Soup Kitchen & Pantry, State Rep. Pat Duffy (D-Holyoke) and Ward 1 City Councilor Shirley Arriaga with the \$50,000 earmark.



State Rep. Pat Duffy (D-Holyoke) shares thoughts on supporting Lorraine’s Soup Kitchen & Pantry.

LORRAINE’S from page 1

“What we hear everywhere is people talking about affordability and a place like Lorraine’s is helping people with their most basic needs. Feeding people and you’re feeding people well and we are really grateful,” Duffy said.

Vieau explained how “many people struggle with food insecurity and it is real.”

“In 2026, on America’s 250th anniversary, that shouldn’t be happening, and I’m really grateful that you’re helping supplement because the need is big, it’s real and this place is very special. It serves people with respect and dignity and treats people fairly,” Vieau said.

He added if anyone is in need that “this pantry, this kitchen is here for you.”

“Pantry every day Monday through Friday. Dinner Monday through Friday is available and again, no questions asked. It’s about treating people with respect and dignity, having a great meal and making sure that people aren’t feeling that emptiness in their stomach,” Vieau said. “You can’t be productive when you’re not able to feed

yourself and in this modern age—in this world—especially here in the United States, we have to take care of each other. So, earmarks like this go a long way, grateful for the community to receive it and it is going to make sure that these shelves stay full, especially during the slow periods where donations aren’t coming in and the need is still here in high demand, so thank you to the delegates, thank you Rep. for fighting for Lorraine’s Soup Kitchen & Pantry.”

He then applauded Caisse and the volunteers at Lorraine’s, encouraging the community to volunteer to cook a meal for the dinner service.

“They can always use a hand. It really helps take some of that burden off the kitchen staff when someone comes in and cooks that meal and, again, you can showcase your favorite dish,” Vieau said.

Councilor Arriaga hopes to get more of the community involved in volunteering and spreading the word about how Lorraine’s can help.

“You do so much for the community, so I want to thank you, I appreciate you and, like I said on behalf of the City Council, we’re here,”



From the left, Sgt. Alan Blankenship of the Willimanset C3 Unit, State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), Kim Caisse, executive director of Lorraine’s Soup Kitchen & Pantry, Mayor John Vieau, State Rep. Pat Duffy (D-Holyoke), Ward 1 City Councilor Abigail Arriaga and Sgt. Thomas Gazda of the Chicopee Center C3 Unit in a group photo.

Arriaga said. “If anybody’s looking for volunteer work, please. They’re looking for weekdays, weekends, so we can show up and help them too as well.”

After Caisse expressed her gratitude to Arriaga and the delegation for their continued support, she noted the staple items Lorraine’s is always in need of.

“Rice, pasta, soup, peanut butter, potatoes, canned meat, spaghetti sauces, cereal, beans of all types, canned fruits,” Caisse said. “Right now, I would have to say our immediate need is peanut butter, beans, canned beans and mac and cheese.”

Caisse said receiving the earmark “is amazing.”

“It will help us in so

many of our programs. Our mobile, our pantry distribution, our generous services, so wherever the need is, it’ll impact that,” Caisse said. “We’re very grateful. The community has always been helpful, like I was saying. They always come out. When there’s a need at Lorraine’s, people come out. They always do, so we’re grateful for them.”

Besides food donations, Caisse added Lorraine’s also accepts monetary donations.

“Without the community and volunteers, we wouldn’t be here. So it’s a huge impact. The state funding that we got is huge; it’s not typical. So, Shirley and them and Senator Gomez, they’ve been looking out for us the last few years and we’re so grateful for that,

Scholarships for Class of 2026 High School graduates

CHICOPEE - St. Stanislaus School has two scholarships available for High School Seniors that will be attending college. One scholarship is for students that graduated from

and attended, St. Stanislaus School for at least six years. The other scholarship is for students that belonged to the Junior Youth Ministry for a minimum of one year. Applications are available at

the School Office (Mon-Fri 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) and at the Parish Office (Mon-Fri 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.). Applications can also be emailed out by contacting: cconklin@saintstansschool.org.

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OPINION

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

I'm still working; why didn't I get a higher Social Security benefit?

Dear Rusty:
I began collecting benefits at age 72 and am now 78.

Since that time, I have continued to work and have contributed over \$40,000 to Social Security over the last six years. At the time of my retirement, I was informed that the Social Security Administration would review my contributions annually and replace lower-earning years from my 35-year record with my current higher-earning years.

Despite my current annual income exceeding \$100,000, I have not seen an increase in my benefit amount over the past six years. I recently met with an SSA representative, who confirmed that my benefits are being reviewed annually but did not provide specific details or evidence of these adjustments. Could you please advise me on how to formally verify that my benefits are being accurately reviewed and updated to reflect my continued contributions?

Signed: Collecting and Still Working

Dear Collecting:

For information, your contributions from Federal Insurance Contributions Act payroll taxes to Social Security over the last six years are not what determines if you get an increase to your monthly SS benefit.

Although you contributed to SS since you started receiving SS benefits, those contributions do not affect your monthly SS benefit. Your monthly SS benefit is based only the highest inflation-adjusted 35 years of earnings over your lifetime. And for your monthly benefit to change, your current earnings each year would need to replace at least one of those 35 historical, inflation-adjusted year earnings.

We regularly hear from those who do benefit from SSA's regular review of work earnings after they start receiving monthly SS benefits, and our Advisory staff includes two individuals with a combined 70 years of service with the Social Security Administration. Thus, we are comfortable saying that SSA does, in fact, review your earnings annually to see if your monthly SS payment should be higher.

From a process standpoint, SSA receives your annual earnings information from the IRS (i.e., directly from your annual tax return) by mid-year annually, after which SSA evaluates your recent earnings to see if an increase in your monthly SS benefit is warranted. If so, that increase is automatically applied, usually around October each year and you are paid the extra amount retroactively to the beginning of the year.

What you may not realize is that your lifetime

earnings (your historical earnings) are adjusted for inflation. This is a good thing, because that means your current monthly SS benefit is calculated using today's dollar values for your past earnings, rather than the actual money amounts you originally earned and received.

For example, \$50,000 of 1990 earnings would be worth about \$125,000 today. Which also means that those 1990 earnings would only yield a higher current Social Security benefit if your recent earnings were more than \$125,000. And this is true for all 35 years of lifetime earnings used to calculate your current monthly Social Security benefit.

The best way for you to ensure that you are getting the right monthly benefit amount is to first obtain your lifetime earnings history from Social Security. This is most easily obtained through your online "my Social Security" account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. If you don't have an online account set up, you can also request an "Earnings Statement" by calling Social Security at 1.800.772.1213 (or call your local SS field office to request it). Next, I suggest you use Social Security's "Online Benefits Calculator" explained and available at this link: <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/AnyopiaApplet.html>

If, after this, you believe you should be getting a higher monthly SS benefit because of your recent earnings, you can again contact SSA and tell them you believe they did not properly adjust your current SS benefit for your most recent earnings. Following that, you can submit a "Request for Reconsideration" (form SSA-561) which will result in a full separate review of your case by an independent SSA person, followed (some months later) by a formal written determination on your assertion. If you received a letter from SSA because of your previous meeting with them, include a copy of that letter with your "Request for Reconsideration."

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

This summer...



Rhubarb, a perennial fruit worth growing

Recently I was chatting with a coworker who has a dozen varieties of rhubarb.

Yes, rhubarb. He asked if I wanted a division or two.

Although I love all things old, and this fruit (yes, fruit) is considered about as old-fashioned as they come, I politely declined. Rhubarb and I don't particularly get along.

But, that doesn't mean I'll knock anyone who can eat it and not visit the bathroom. All the more power to them.

Read on for some rhubarb trivia that just may earn you a prize on your next cruise.

Back in the day when everyone made time for baking, or baked out of necessity, rhubarb was indispensable in the garden. Today, most folks figure they can buy what they need when they long to make a strawberry-rhubarb pie or some preserves.

I say, "Why buy it, when it is so easy to grow?" And, as an added bonus, it may just out live you!

Rhubarb was featured on a cooking show and a lengthy discussion evolved between the celebrity cooks about whether it was a fruit or a vegetable. I never did hear the resolution, but did a little research of my own.

Apparently, rhubarb is a vegetable but after a court decision in 1947 it is legally a fruit and was not subject to taxation of the time.

The best time for planting rhubarb is early through mid-spring. If you are lucky enough to know someone with an established patch, it is very likely they will give you all of the divisions you need and then some.

You can also purchase roots or small potted plants

from local nurseries. For an average family of four, plan on two or three divisions.

Rhubarb will do best in a spot in the yard that is in full sun or light shade. Most gardeners locate it separately from or at one end of the

pend on the size of the divisions you have and how big their roots are.

Plant them at the same depth they were growing in your friend's garden or in the pot you bought them in. If you are planting roots, go by the buds – they should be planted about two inches below the soil surface.

During the first growing season our emphasis should be on root building. For that reason be sure that you water well and keep weeds at

bay.

Do not pick stalks until the following spring, but do break off any flower buds that form. Once your patch has established itself there is no stopping it! All you'll need to do to maintain it is provide a topdressing of compost or rotted manure each spring and weed as needed.

Of course, you will also want to pick as much as you can! No knife is needed: simply hold the stem near the base and give it a quick pull along with a gentle twist.

Use only the stem since the foliage is known to be toxic.

The patch will need dividing every 5-10 years; the perfect time to offer up divisions to your friends!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 34 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



by Roberta McQuaid

main

vegetable garden.

Since we are dealing with a perennial plant, think carefully about where you site it- you may have to live with your decision for decades! Amend the soil with lots of organic matter prior to planting; the richer the better. Finished compost or aged manure fit the bill just fine, and since rhubarb prefers slightly acidic soil, you'll want to hold the lime.

If you are getting divisions from a friend's garden, ask for some from the outer portion of the patch – these roots will be the least fibrous and most eager to thrive. Keep as much soil as possible around them during transport to prevent dehydration.

If you can't transplant them the same day dig a quick hole somewhere else in the garden and "heel them in." Your other alternative would be to pot up the divisions.

In either case, water well until you can plant them attentively.

When it's time for your plants to make their way to a permanent spot, dig holes two to three feet apart. The depth of the holes will de-

'Cough CPR' is a social media myth

A popular social media post that first surfaced in the '90s is popping up again. It says that regular and vigorous coughing can keep you alive if you have a heart attack while you're by yourself.

The theory is that the coughing can change the pressure on your heart to keep it beating until you can get to help. Sounds reasonable, right? There's one little problem, though: It's not true. It may even be dangerous. More on that later.

I can see why there may be some confusion.

A patient may be told to cough when there's a sudden abnormal heartbeat (arrhythmia) during a medical procedure, such as in a cardiac catheterization lab. Dr. Manash Patel of the Duke University School of Medicine told the American Heart Association. "I think people believe that coughing is changing, somehow, the heart's squeeze. But coughing has not been shown to do that," he said.



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

It seems to me that people are also confused about what a heart attack is and what cardiac arrest is. A heart attack is the result of a build-up of plaque in the coronary arteries, disrupting the blood flow to the heart and potentially damaging it. Johns Hopkins details the symptoms:

A feeling of heaviness, tightness, pressure, aching, burning, numbness, fullness, or squeezing. The pain can either last for several minutes, go away, or come back repeatedly.

- Pains in the torso/upper body, including the arms, left shoulder, back, neck, jaw, or stomach

- Difficulty breathing/feeling out of breath
- Sweating or "cold sweats"
- A sense of fullness, indigestion or choking
- Nausea or vomiting
- Lightheadedness, dizziness, feeling like you might faint
- Unexplained tiredness, weakness,

extreme weakness (like you can't do easy tasks), or severe anxiety reacting to symptoms

Rapid or irregular heartbeat

To those I would add feelings of indigestion (especially in women) or just a general feeling that "something's not right."

In cardiac arrest, the heart suddenly stops beating, and the patient won't be conscious to cough – or do anything else. It's a major medical emergency. If you're

See **YOUR HEALTH** page 6

Chicopee Register

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Send letters to:

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24 Water Street,
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The deadline for submissions is Tuesday at noon.

WE CARE ABOUT YOUR NEWS!

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

Election letters to the editor

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

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

Campaign news

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

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

Support the local businesses that support your local newspaper.
Let them know you saw their ad in the
Chicopee Register

IN THE CITY

Join us for interactive STEM activities

CHICOPEE – Join us for exciting and interactive STEM activities designed to ignite curiosity, creativity and critical thinking in children 2.9 to five years old and their families.

Explore, experiment and discover the wonders of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math through hands-on experiences!

Location: Szetela School, 66 Macek Drive, Chicopee
Time: 4 to 5 p.m.

Dates: Every Wednesday through June 3

Children must attend with an adult.

The programs are offered by the Holyoke Chicopee Family and Community Program.

Funded by the Coordinating Family & Community Engagement Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

To register, contact Shane at 413-310-1632.

Events offered at RiverMills Senior Center

Nutrition Counseling

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Council on Aging will now offer one-on-one nutrition counseling the second Tuesday of each month beginning May 11 at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street.

Certified Nutrition Coach Rosemary Santinello will be at RiverMills for 1-on-1 Nutrition Counseling appointments the second Tuesday of every month, beginning May 11. You will go over your dietary goals and will discuss some other health factors such

as cholesterol, hypertension and other health related issues to then come up with a nutrition plan that caters to your specific needs. The cost is \$30 and you must register in advance by stopping by RiverMills or calling 534-3698.

Springfest

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Council on Aging will host a Spring Festival on Tuesday, May 19 at 11:30 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street.

Join your friends at RiverMills for Spring Fest! Enjoy your congregated meal inside or on the patio, then step outside for some spring celebrations, including fun games, crafts, some local vendors, bake sale and sunshine! This is a lunch event and you must register for lunch as you normally would to participate. The cost is \$5 as it includes the congregated meal and crafts and games. Rain Date: May 20.

Breakfast on Friday, May 22 at 8:30 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street.

Military Appreciation Breakfast

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Council on Aging will host a Military Appreciation

May is National Military Appreciation Month. To show our appreciation and to say "Thank You" for your service, RiverMills invites military members to enjoy a breakfast with fellow service members and friends. Active and retired military eat free. All other guests are welcome to join for \$5. You must register in advance.

EAGLE SCOUT from page 1

lives.

"It's a milestone accomplishment; I'm so proud of you," Vieau said. "It's not easy to become an Eagle Scout. If it's okay with the council, I have this wonderful certificate of recognition that I'd like to read... Never lose your Chicopee pride, or your Pacers pride."

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE PISE

A group shot of the entire Chicopee City Council with Isabel Vershon.



BARTENDERS from page 1

\$1,396, Borys, \$1,360.50, and Kirby, \$930.00.

Reflecting on the evening, Borys, who was also celebrating his 73rd birthday with a plethora of family and friends in attendance, explained he couldn't be happier with the turnout, recognizing that many braved the rain and showed up for the community in the name of a good cause.

"The turnout is more than we expected, and looking around, we couldn't be happier, and this night was truly special across all fronts," Borys said. "I also want to say we are very thankful for those who have already donated, and I want to give a ton of credit to our Fundraising Committee, who work very hard to organize this event, and lastly just a huge thank you to the View Street Tavern, who continue to go the extra mile always for us, and I feel the View Street Tavern is one of Chicopee's best kept secrets."

Echoing and bestowing similar praise was Sattler.

"This event tonight has helped create three major factors for us. One, it gets the name of the Rotary Club of Chicopee out into the marketplace for people to know what we do. It's a way to get all the people in the marketplace to come together and network, and it allows us to collect money to give back to our community," Sattler said. "So, it's really a home run from our standpoint because having all the people here together, meeting each other,



John Arthur, personnel recruiter and member of the Rotary Club who also oversees public relations, prepares a drink as he is mentored by one of the View Street Tavern bartenders.

and hopefully they'll be able to do some business with each other, and maybe even join the club."

Sattler also shared that he and his fellow Rotarians carry immense pride in being part of the organization.

"I'm very proud of being a Rotarian, because we help and assist in terms of businesses, but are also predicated on cultivating honesty and integrity, which in turn creates strong relationships within the community, and that's what makes you successful in business," Sattler said.

The night also highlighted new Rotarians to the organization, stepping into the limelight, for example, such as Lockridge, who shared that she saw a few friends from the Natick Rotary division, and having moved to Chicopee, she felt a sense of connection and the element of fundraising in full effect.

"I feel being part of the Rotary Club, I have started to understand this is truly a community, and a family," Lockridge said. "I started noticing when I started meeting people and making connections both within the Rotary Club and outside of the Rotary Club as you're working and giving that money away to really good causes."

Lastly, the Rotary Club shared that they are continuing to open their ranks to new potential members, something Membership Chairman Lou Arasate touched upon.

"As Membership Chairman of the Rotary, I would like to thank all the Corporate Donors and to everyone who attended our fundraiser, and with the great team effort of our Rotary Members attending, we all walked away feeling it was a very successful event," Arasate said. "If anyone has an interest in looking



Karen Kirby, Broker/Owner, HB Real Estate, standing in unison and receiving support from the entire HB Real Estate family.

into the Chicopee Rotary Club, please feel free to contact Lou at 413-454-4874 or email inquires to Laraste@aol.com.

To note the Rotary Club of Chicopee has donated over \$250,000 to local charities and non-profits, including: Lorraine's Soup Kitchen, Boys and Girls Club of Chicopee, RiverMills Senior Center, For The Love of Good Foundation, Chicopee High/Chicopee Comp Music Programs, Boy Scouts Troop #1849 of Chicopee, Scholarships, USO of the Pioneer Valley, Sunshine Village, and more.

The club meets the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 5 p.m. at the View Street Tavern.



Scott Channell, Rotary Club Vice President and General Manager at National Vinyl LLC, partaking in the excitement of everyone at the bar.

The Jack Rome Memorial 5K & Fun Walk 2026

THANK YOU to our incredible sponsors, volunteers, vendors, food trucks, patrons, runners, and walkers for making this event possible. We are especially grateful to Gary Rome Hyundai, Western Mass News, and the Richard & Barbara Whitcomb Foundation for their generous support. Your dedication to the TJO animals and to our community is what makes this event such a meaningful success.

With your support, together we raised over \$58K!

Not all superheroes wear capes. Some wear sneakers. Some have paws.



To Benefit The Foundation for TJO Animals



IN THE CITY

Enjoy an evening of inspirational music

SOUTH HADLEY - Join Music Director and Chicopee Native, Ania Binczewski along with her music students for an afternoon of piano music. The event is free to the public. A free-will offering will benefit the South Hadley food pantry: Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Inc. There will be a brief intermission with refreshments. Parking on-site is free and plentiful. When: May 17 2 to 4 p.m. Where: Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 319 Granby Road, South Hadley To learn more, call 413-533-1925 or visit www.oursaviorssouthhadley.org.

St. Joan of Arc Open House

CHICOPEE - The Pre-K, Three and Four and Kindergarten St. Joan of Arc School Open House will take place on Wednesday, June 10, by appointment only. The times are 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 5 p.m. St. Joan of Arc School is located at 587 Grattan Street, Chicopee, MA. To learn more, call 413-533-1475 or visit sjachicopee.org.

YOUR HEALTH from page 4

lucky, bystanders will start hands-only CPR or use an AED (automatic external defibrillator) after calling 911. Someone who has cardiac arrest when there's no help nearby has a poor chance of survival.

So the question remains: What should you do if you feel a heart attack coming on and you're alone, or, say, driving home from work?

First, because a heart attack can be a prelude to cardiac arrest, immediately call 911 before you call anyone else. Don't attempt to drive if heart attack symptoms arise. Pull off the road and call 911.

You might be told to stay on the line with the emergency dispatcher, but if you have a second line, call someone to be with you in case your heart attack turns into cardiac arrest.

Next, unlock the door so first responders can get to you. If you're able to take aspirin, chew two 81-milligram children's aspirin or one regular aspirin. Aspirin will help keep your platelets from clotting, and chewing them will get the medication into your bloodstream faster.

People with cardiac issues often are prescribed

nitroglycerin. If you have some around, place one under your tongue.

Then, and this is a tough one, do your best to stay calm and quiet. Avoid exertion. Take deep, steady breaths. Count slowly to 100 (one Mississippi, two Mississippi...). Sit upright with your back supported, or you can lie on the floor or bed with your legs elevated.

Don't eat or drink anything. You don't want to risk aspiration if you lose consciousness, and if you need an immediate procedure, such as a catheterization, your stomach should be as empty as possible.

And don't cough. Johns Hopkins advises: "This probably won't work, and worse still, attempting this technique may put you in more danger. Attempting this procedure on your own can cause you to accidentally work against the rhythm of your heart and make it harder to get oxygen into your blood rather than easier."

I've said it before and I'll say it again: Dr. Facebook is not the best source of medical advice. Stick with authoritative sources like WebMD, university hospitals and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (cdc.gov). And don't believe everything you read.

CITY COUNCIL from page 1

Commonwealth. When people speak that clearly, government should listen."

McAuliffe shared his personal lived experience working in the Massachusetts State Senate for nearly six years and he saw "how that building works, or for lack of better terms, doesn't work," noting an "institution with enormous power and too few guardrails."

"Too often, decisions are made behind closed doors. Power is concentrated in the hands of a few and the public is left to trust the process it cannot see. That's what this audit means," McAuliffe said. "Let's be clear. This audit is not just about checking receipts or balancing the books. A state audit can examine operations internal controls, compliance, effectiveness and whether public authority is being used responsibly. It can ask whether the systems inside government are working the way they should. From my experience, those systems need scrutiny."

After citing in 2022 how legislative staff fought for the right to collectively bargain and organize, seek better wages and improve working conditions and how last month legislation to give legislative staff a right to organize "was quietly sent to a study without a recorded vote and died in committee," he stressed, "This is not just a labor issue. This is not just an audit issue. It is a transparency issue. It is an accountability issue. It is a culture issue."

"The state would never allow us here in Chicopee to operate that way. Cities and towns are expected to follow rules, submit to audits, answer questions, follow public records law and justify decisions in public. So, why is there one standard for municipalities and another standard for Beacon Hill? This resolution is not about partisanship or attacking any one individual. It's about basic democratic principles. Public power belongs to the public. If you spend money, make public decisions and write rules for everyone else, you should be willing to live by those rules yourself," McAuliffe said. "Chicopee supporters supported this audit, Massachusetts voters supported this audit and tonight I believe this council should stand with them."

Ward 2 Councilor Shane Brooks said he would vote no on this as "this is fatally flawed."

"I think Mr. McAuliffe hit the nail on the head. This will be litigated before the Supreme Judicial Court tomorrow. Any vote would be rendered moot if we took a vote in the affirmative and the court felt differently or the court took a vote in the negative and the court felt differently. There are provisions within this audit that is not based on finance or fiduciary in nature such as having some sort of purview over committee assignments," Brooks said. "I'm not sure how I can get home on that. I don't understand fully what the financial implications on committee assignments within the state are."

Brooks added there was an independent audit proposed by the House, but it was turned down by the state auditor "because the auditor wanted to do it herself."

"But we do have an independent audit every single year, so I'm not sure where that disconnect comes into play. I think that at the very least, this needs to be postponed until we know the outcome of the SJC because it doesn't make any sense to have it printed on the paper if it's not going to be worth the paper it's printed on because the SJC could come up with a completely different opinion about what this audit really means and I think that has to come to fruition," Brooks said. "And I think this was rushed a little bit. I think if we had waited until the second meeting in May understanding that this was going to go before the SJC, I think it would have been palatable for folks because we would have known what the SJC was going to weigh in and if there was going to be an appellate process. But as it stands right now, I can't in good conscience vote in the affirmative for this because knowing that there is a court case that will occur roughly by 10 a.m. tomorrow morning. It just doesn't make sense to me."

Ward 7 Councilor Bill Courchesne noted how "to say I was surprised to see this come through would be an understatement because it's only been a few months since I last asked, do the same exact thing and I was advised to not do it because we might upset the state delegation."

"So, I'm hoping that while

my resolution was shot down, but this one was brought forward that maybe the state delegation has changed their mind or, at least, we're not afraid we're going to upset them. So, I will support it even though I do agree with the fact that it's a little too late and we probably should have waited, but it's something that I spoke with Diana myself about too," Courchesne said. "So, I'm always going to support her if it's not just the issue at hand."

After Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello agreed with McAuliffe and Brooks that the issue was also about the upcoming trial that next morning, Councilor-at-Large Jessica Avery noted how on Jan. 5, "all of us took an oath to uphold the Constitution and the separation of powers" and recognizing constitutional law herself through classes she took, she said "even what we're seeing now with the judiciary to have a legislative branch engage in this way might very well be in the face of our oath."

"It's similar to the issues that I brought up with the insurance contracting where it says right in our charter we cannot be involved in certain negotiations," Avery said.

She also noted how the city is looking to hire its next auditor and "we get our own audits," and there are still questions about "where our funds went for deceased folks in Chicopee."

"And so, for us to come forward and say that we need to do all these audits and a lot of folks are still asking me where is this money, where did this insurance money go, why did this happen, is really concerning for me because again, as Councilor McAuliffe said, we should all have the same set of standards and I don't think that this does that. I think it goes in the face of it," Avery said.

She also shared her lived experience for over five years at the State House when she dealt with sexual harassment, the day the House voted down then-Representative DiZoglio's legislation and when rapists were arrested by the state police in that building.

"I think that what we're talking about here is remarkably detrimental to survivors and is going to be really something that is going to come up and if we are not trauma-informed about this, we are going to cause extreme harm to people. We, as a council, have an obligation to do and protect our constituents and I think that, again, we are trying to move in the right direction, but as my colleague said, we have audits, we have independent audits," Avery said. "I think that we really need to understand the ramifications of this from a constitutional and a real perspective of people who have

been on the ground."

After McAuliffe responded to Avery's thoughts and reiterated his earlier points, Ward 8 Councilor Doug Girouard said he agreed with Brooks and thought acting on this that evening "would be kind of micromanaging what the courts decide to do."

"And I'm not sure if the city of Chicopee—if it's in our jurisdiction—to be micromanaging the state and asking them and telling them how they conduct business. I'm not saying that we need to look into this in the future, but this evening—tonight—I don't think I can support this. Tomorrow, this is going to the courts. I'm concerned about the future funding coming into the city of Chicopee regarding this issue and I will be voting no on this tonight," Girouard said.

Councilor-at-Large Jerry Roy felt DiZoglio "is doing an outstanding job and I think everybody here 100% believes that we should be going along with the 72% of votes that happened in the state of Massachusetts."

"But, I also believe by going beyond our parameters here that we're going to be getting out of our lane. I think the city councilors should stay in their line. Let the legislators do their job and see what happens tomorrow morning," Roy said.

Laflamme emphasized supporting the communication of getting an item out on the agenda for discussion and agreed on many points. However, he also agreed on waiting to hear what the courts decide and see where the state goes with it, suggesting the resolution be sent to the Rules Committee "for a while, hold it and see what that is and pull it out of there and do it right."

"Let's all understand it. I still have questions. I did get calls from state legislators, I'm sure others did and just ask if we had any questions. But, I think she's doing a great job, also, as Councilor Roy said. I've met with her several times and talked to her. I think she's doing a fantastic job, but there's also the questions out there and the courts are the ones going to tell us," Laflamme said.

He added that he heard from residents on this as well.

"It's not that I don't want to get it done, but I think keeping out of politics from both sides and listening to the courts is my answer," Laflamme said.

After a motion to send the resolution to the Rules Committee was presented, Ward 3 Councilor Susan Goff suggested sending it to the Communications Committee instead. Attorney Tim Riley agreed and the motion was amended and voted on to be sent to Communications for further conversations after the trial.

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Perfect Pacers near end of regular season

CHICOPEE – Last week, Chicopee High School softball added two more wins to their perfect regular season. The Pacers defeated SICS 12-0 in five innings. Chicopee scored 10 runs in the bottom of the first inning to pace the victory. Lorraine Olbrych and Raelyn Loud had two hits each. Loud drove in three runs. Loud also pitched five no-hit innings, walking one and striking out 12. Chicopee is now 17-0 and faced Easthampton earlier this week. Chicopee is a lock for both the Western Mass. and State Tournaments. Western Mass. gets underway next week.



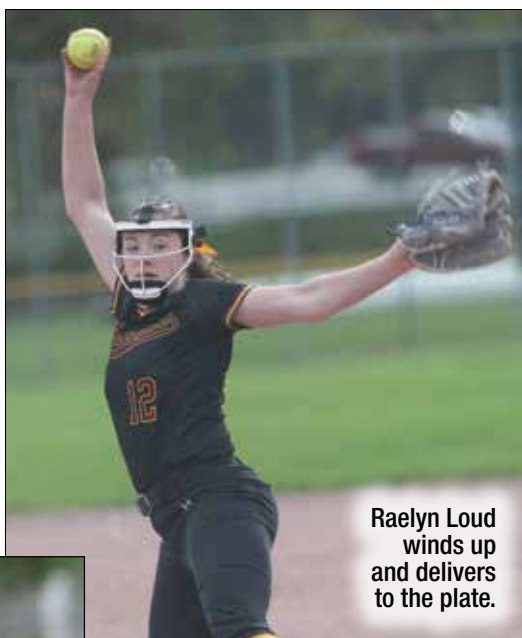
TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Aviah Blankenship makes solid contact.



Lorraine Olbrych reaches out to try and get a force.



Adeline Olbrych hustles for third base.



Raelyn Loud winds up and delivers to the plate.



Jordyn Kazeroid fields a grounder to second.

Pacers fall to Ludlow

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE—The previous two meetings on the baseball diamond between Bi-County North League foes Ludlow and Chicopee High Schools were very close affairs.

Back in the middle of April, the Ludlow Lions squeaked out a one run home win versus the Pacers.

The second meeting between the two squads was very close until the Lions pulled away in the fourth and fifth innings leading to a 16-4 victory at Szoť Park, last Thursday. The game, which was postponed for twenty four hours because of the weather, ended after five innings due to the ten run mercy rule.

“We struggled a little bit offensively early in the game, but we did a very good job of making adjustments in our final two at-bats,” said Ludlow head coach Cam Rivest. “It was nice to see.”

The Lions, who had an 8-5 overall record following the road victory, also celebrated a 9-8 extra inning win against the Pacers at Szoť Park last May.

Ludlow entered the final week of the regular season needing just one more win to clinch a berth in the Division 3 state tournament for the first time since the MIAA changed the postseason format in 2021. The Lions, who ranked 62nd in the latest Division 3 state power rankings, are also hoping to sneak into the Western Mass. Class B tournament, which begins next week.

“We just missed qualifying for the state tournament last year and it was our main goal coming into this season,” Rivest said. “We only need to win one more game to qualify for states. We’re hoping to win our last five games, which will help our strength of schedule. Playing in the state tournament for the first time will be a cool experience for these guys.”

The three seniors listed on the Lions varsity baseball roster are Mason Morace, Alex Spurlock, and Ethan Steigmeyer.

Sophomore lefthander Ray Sargent was the winning pitcher in last Thursday’s contest. He had trouble finding the strike zone at times.

“Ray is only a sophomore and he’s still developing as a pitcher,” Rivest said. “He has the potential to become a very good pitcher. He has a bright future.”

Sargent allowed four runs on four hits. He issued seven walks and recorded five strikeouts.

“I struggled with my control a little bit in today’s game,” said Sargent, who has won his fourth game of the regular season. “My teammates helped me out both defensively and offensively. This is a very big win.”

The last time that the Pacers (5-10) won a game against Ludlow was in 2024

by the score of 10-5.

“We’ve been playing a little bit better recently and this was a good test for us,” said Chicopee head coach Dan Asselin. “I’m disappointed with the result.”

The seniors listed on the Chicopee roster are Alex Samboy, Tyler DePinho, Adrian Ramos, Aidan Nadeau, and Cayden Shaw.

Sophomore righthander Abdiel Aponte pitched well for the home team during the first three innings.

Ludlow managed to take a 1-0 lead with one out in their first at-bats. Morace, who started at shortstop, lined a single into right field before stealing both second and third.

Steigmeyer, who’s the Lions starting catcher, followed with a single that just got over the second baseman’s glove into shallow right field scoring Morace with the game’s first run.

Aponte would then retire the Lions next nine batters in a row. “Abdiel has been throwing the ball well,” Asselin said. “He struggled in the fourth inning. He left a couple of pitches up in the zone and they hit them hard.”

The Pacers loaded the bases in the second inning without the benefit of a base hit. Sophomore catcher Damian Sroka and Nadeau, who started in right field, both drew walks, while Aponte was hit-by-a-pitch. Another walk by Samboy, who started at first base, brought home the tying run. The go-ahead run crossed the plate when sophomore second base Eaven Torruella hit a sacrifice fly to center.

Just like in the previous inning, sophomore third baseman Anthony Bonafilia walked leading off the bottom of the third. He advanced to third when junior shortstop Josh Tomlinson blasted a double to center before scoring on a passed ball.

The Pacers didn’t hold onto the 3-1 lead for very long.

The Lions sent 14 batters to the plate in the fourth inning and nine of them scored.

Freshman DH Rhett Ribeiro scored the tying run on a wild pitch. Spurlock, who started in center field, contributed with a two run double. Steigmeyer also drove home two runs with a single. Freshman right fielder Jake Tatro had an RBI single. A double to left by junior left fielder Jacob Santos scored another run. Santos also capped off the long inning with an infield hit bringing home a run, which gave the visiting team a 10-3 advantage.

The Lions batted around again in the following inning, and they scored six more runs.

Tomlinson, who doubled to right with one out in the fifth inning, scored the Pacers final run on a wild pitch.

The home team couldn’t get the deficit under ten runs, and the ballgame ended two innings early.



Teagan Martel-Moylan tries to frame the pitch.



Jaylen Gonzalez slides into second base.

Ten-run sixth leads hurts Comp in loss

CHICOPEE – Last Thursday afternoon, it was all Chicopee Comprehensive for the first four innings, as they built a 6-1 lead. But Agawam scored three in the fifth to close the gap, and then had a 10-run sixth inning to turn the game around and Agawam would defeat Chicopee Comprehensive 15-9. Cameron Vanderhoof went 3-for-5 with an RBI and three runs scored. Gavin Cruz had two hits and two walks and drove in four runs for the Brownies.

Agawam improved to 5-10 for the season while Comp fell to 6-10.



Tanner Martell fires to first base.

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Julian Laflamme fires home.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No.
HD14P0313PM
In the matter of:
Mary C Houle
of Chicopee, MA
Protected Person/
Disabled Person/Respondent
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF
CONSERVATOR'S
ACCOUNT

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the **Third and Final** account(s) of

Rosemary Murphy of Longmeadow, MA

Patrick J Houle of Framingham, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **06/02/2026**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both.

The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

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

Date: April 28, 2026

Rosemary A. Saccamoni
Register of Probate
05/15/2026

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

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on May 15TH, 2026 at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2000 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCG6578YA073495
Ozzie Rodriguez Rosario
90 McKinstry Ave., Apt. 118
Chicopee, MA 01013

2009 Nissan Altima
VIN: 1N4AL21E69N465759
Robert Michael Curran
220 Pulaski St.
West Warwick, RI 02893

2009 Audi Q5
VIN: WA1KK78RX9A016528
Eric Ferjute
82 Fairview Ave., Apt. 2
West Springfield, MA 01089

2010 Honda Insight EX
VIN: JHMZE2H79AS020306
Jean Wilky Senecharles
80 Parker St., Apt. M
Acton, MA 01720

2006 Lexus RX 400
VIN: JTJHW31U560017130
Guzal Usmanova
5 Hummell Ln.
Southwick, MA 01077

2005 Chevrolet Classic
VIN: 1G1ND52F85M197534
Rolando Colon
158 Narragansett Blvd., Apt. 3
Chicopee, MA 01013

2004 Toyota Camry
VIN: JTDDBE32K940281327
Jeannette Echevarria-Dejesus
6 Dale Ct., Apt. 2R
Chicopee, MA 01013

2013 Kia Sorento
VIN: 5XYKTD424DG323555
Karen Schrggs

18 Andrews Dr.
Jaffrey, NH 03452

2011 Mercedes Benz GLK 350
VIN: WDCGG8HBXBF553828
David Schena And Carol Loeschorn
8 Breezy Point Rd.
Acton, MA 01720

2009 Nissan Altima
VIN: 1N4AL21E69N465759
Robert Michael Curran
220 Pulaski St.
West Warwick, RI 02893
05/01, 05/08, 05/15/2026

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

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on May 22nd, 2026 at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2014 Jeep Cherokee
VIN: 1C4PJMBS0EW156531
Douglas Berton Brown
51 Meadow Brook Rd., Apt. 119
Ellington, CT 06029

2020 Utility Trailer
VIN: 1UYVS2538L2606834
Dkp Transport Inc.
136 Diplomat Court Apt. 1
Beech Grove, IN 46107

2019 Volvo VN VNL
VIN: 4V4NC9EH7KN208273
Preference Connect Llc
22 Elmwood Drive Fl. 2
Elmwood Park, NJ 07407

2008 Jeep Liberty
VIN: 1J8GN28K78W144020
Andel Services LLC
23 S Whitney St., Fl. 2
Hartford, Ct 06106

2008 BMW X5
VIN: 5UXFE43558L008503
Shakira Valentin
24 Hampden St.
Westfield, MA 01085

2014 Ford Focus
VIN: 1FADP3F27EL257207
Sheryl Rios Cruz
167 Fort Pleasant Ave.
Springfield, MA 01108

2006 Kia Sorento
VIN: KNDJD733965576088
Diana Guevara
1387 Bay St.
Springfield, MA 01109

2004 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCM56304A022209
Lyzander Rodriguez

63 Standish St., Fl. 1
Hartford, CT 016114

2016 Nissan Sentra
VIN: 3N1AB7AP4GL677927
Mark Buchanan
60 Charlton St. #403
Southbridge, MA 01550

2001 Mercury Grand Marquis
VIN: 2MEFM75W91X658907
Taha Huggins
111 Edmund St.
Chicopee, MA 01020

2009 Subaru Legacy
VIN: 4S3BL626297216425
Luis Gonzalez Figueroa
350 West St., Lot 8
Ludlow, MA 01056
05/08, 05/15, 05/22/2026

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

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on May 29th, 2026 at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2014 Kia Sorento
VIN: 5XYKWDA7XEG537261
Ana Carmo
42 Stadden St. 2
Providence, RI, 02907

2016 Nissan Sentra
VIN: 3N1AB7AP8GY270793
Ihor Burlaka
49 Katherine St., Apt. L
Westfield, MA 01085

2013 Ram 2500
VIN: 3C6UR5HL0DG546194
Robert Porazzo
50 Atwood Ave.
Middleboro, MA 02346

2008 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCP26818A088856
Richard Boss
255 Pearl St.
Attleboro, MA 02703

2010 Subaru Legacy
VIN: 4S3BMBC65A3234174
Edwin Aganyoh
394 Chicopee St.
Chicopee, MA 01013

2017 Subaru Legacy
vin: 4s3bnac66h3020795
Marcus Shelton
23 Cleveland St.
Feeding Hills, MA 01030

2015 Land Rover Range Rover
VIN: SALWR2VF6FA605211
Alvin Carmona
40 Childs St., Apt. 1
Lynn, Ma 01905

1994 International 4000
VIN: 1HTSDPPN7RH564754
Agape Trucking
46 Berrios Hill Rd.
Windsor, CT 06095

2001 Gmc Sierra 2500

VIN: 1GTHK29U61E294894
Pionner Valley Handyman And
Fence Inc.
17 Stearns Ter.
Chicopee, MA 01013

2008 Dodge Caliber
vin: 1b3hb28b68d646597
Unknown Owner.

2011 Honda Odyssey
VIN: 5FNRL5H67BB077358
Edgar Medina-Rodriguez
47 North Canal St.
Holyoke, MA 01040

2000 Gmc Sierra 1500
VIN: 1GTEK14T7YZ107810
Robert Ruiz
245 Fairview Ave.
Chicopee, MA 01013

2007 Chrysler Pacifica
VIN: 2A8GF68X4R286123
Aluishka Flores Arroyo
1528 Morgan Rd.
West Springfield, MA 01089
05/15, 05/22, 05/29/2026

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD26P1038EA

Estate of:
Kyle Robert Quatacker
Date of Death: 06/20/2025
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Garrett Quatacker of Chicopee, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Garrett Quatacker of Chicopee, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/10/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without

further notice to you.
**UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION UNDER
THE MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE CODE
(MUPC)**

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

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

Date: May 13, 2026
Rosemary A Saccamoni,
Register of Probate

05/15/2026

**CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL
ZONING COMMITTEE
LEGAL NOTICE**

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, **May 27, 2026 at 6:30 PM*** in the Auditorium, 3rd floor, City Hall, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Special Permit application under section 275-54(C) for the purpose of waiving certain dimensional requirements of section 275-54(D) for a proposed residential development consisting of 34 lots and 5 outer lots each with specific dimensional waivers for property located at 326 Chicopee St., as on file in the Chicopee City Council Office. Applicant – Jones Ferry Development, LLC, Erik Szylyuk, P O Box 370273, West Hartford, CT 06137.

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

The May 27, 2026 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. Zoom credentials are available upon request by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>.) You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.
05/08, 05/15/2026

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Chicopee Register
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