

Chicopee Register

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COMMUNITY

LEDC donates \$5,000 to C3 Unit's Hispanic Heritage Dominoes Tournament



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

From the left, Monica Torres, community and special projects liaison for the City of Chicopee, Capt. Doug Lambert, Andrew Melendez, executive director at the Latino Economic Development Corporation, Ofc. Elly Rodriguez, Sgt. Thomas Gazda and Ricardo Diaz, owner of Faded Barber Lounge, in a group photo.

Also, to support community initiatives

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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CHICOPEE - The Latino Economic Development Corporation has donated \$5,000 to the police department's C3 Unit for the Third Annual Hispanic Heritage Dominoes Tournament and their community initiatives. This year's tournament is actively in the works and slated for Aug. 23.

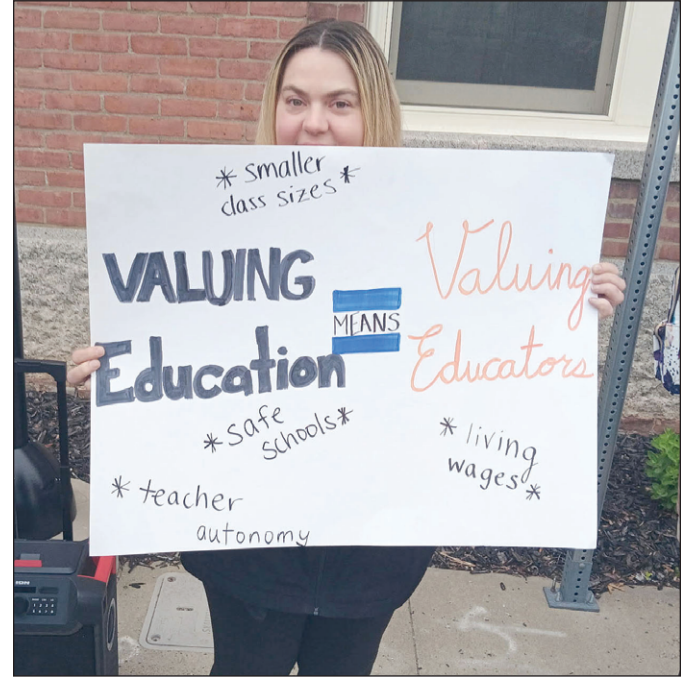
Andrew Melendez, executive director at LEDC, made the announcement outside the Center Street C3 Headquarters on May 28. Melendez emphasized community relationships in his announcement and how "downtown Chicopee is becoming a hub for microbusinesses, for Latino-owned businesses, women-owned businesses, Black-owned businesses, making a difference here in downtown." "As we know, these relationships are strong because if I'm a business owner, I want to have a good rela-

tionship with the C3 and vice-versa. So, economic development, the C3 and getting people together, this is what it's all about," Melendez said. "So, it's my honor to be able to support this and this has really come to building up a connection with economic development and the community coming together. So, thank you so much for your work." Capt. Doug Lambert thanked Melendez for the organization's support. "We love the partnership with everybody in our community and especially every-

body here in the Center. We thank you very much," Lambert said. Ofc. Elly Rodriguez said it's important for the C3 Unit--and the police department--to connect with the community. "Just to engage and build that relationship. People recognize the badge, a lot of people see us in a certain way and the C3, we're out here to show that we'll interact with the community and make sure that they feel comfortable with law enforcement here in the Center. We thank you very much," Lambert said.

See LEDC page 5

COMMUNITY



URLEY PHOTO BY BRENDAN ROONEY

One sign held by a rallygoer talked about valuing education.

School Committee approves FY26 budget

CEA continues rallying around negotiations

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - Contract negotiations between the School Committee and licensed educators remain a hot topic under a heightened lens, which continue to progress as new details emerge since the May 21 meeting. This comes as the School Committee voted on the Chicopee Public School budget for FY26, which passed via a 9-2 margin, on which Mayor John Vieau, who serves as chair of the School Committee, voted no before offering

concerns of stability being brought forth that should be recognized. On that same night, the School Committee also approved a collective bargaining agreement—known as a CBA—with Unit D members - secretaries and clerks. "I have to look at the city as a whole, and it's not something that is easy to do, but I have to confess, when I look at this budget, I've been told this blueprint is sustainable. However, things have changed, and I feel this is a recipe for failure, and this does not make fiscal financial sense to me," Vieau said. "And I'm struggling to say this, but I will publicly, See SCHOOL COMMITTEE page 6

Councilor-at-Large seat to remain open

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - The City Council voted 10-1 to not fill a Councilor-at-Large seat in a special meeting on May 29. The seat became vacant after the passing of Vice President/Councilor-at-Large Robert Zygarowski in March. To pass, the motion would have needed a majority vote. If it had passed, the next steps would have been a vote for opening nominations on June 3, followed by nominations closing on June 17 and the council conducting a vote on the nominees. Since the first vote failed, steps two and three became null and void. Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello explained why she was not in favor of this. "There aren't that many more months left in regards to filling this position. It will save money for the taxpayer. We've already functioned for several months without the position being filled," Costello said. "So, if it was more than a year, I would say yes. That's a different topic. But because it's only going to be literally just several months, we can leave the position vacant, save the taxpayer money. It would be different if we couldn't function, but we have functioned without this position. So, at this point, I'm not in favor of filling the position for those stated reasons." President/Councilor-at-Large Frank Laflamme

clarified this item "will not go to on a ballot" and the council will vote on it that night. "I just want to be clear. This does not go on a ballot. It's not going to cost the taxpayer. The City Council has the approval to fill or not fill this position," Laflamme said. Ward 2 Councilor Shane Brooks was in favor of filling the position. "I think we should fill the position. I think that's what Councilor Zygarowski would have wanted. He would have wanted additional representation for those individuals in which he met with on a daily basis across the city," Brooks said. "Having four at-large members is essential to our function. Currently now, if everybody attends a meeting, we could end up in six to six deadlocks and that is not something that is in the best interest of the city as a deadlock City Council. Whether it's in the affirmative or the negative, I think that we should fill the position." Brooks next noted the number of months left in the year. "There are still--if we were to vote to fill it tonight--there are still seven months. Unfortunately, Councilor Zygarowski passed away at the end of March. So, we've been a month and a half, almost two full months without a 13th member," Brooks said. "I think it's incumbent upon us to honor the leg-

See CITY COUNCIL page 6



TURLEY PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

Troop 1849 at their Bottle and Can Drive on May 31.

Boy Scout Troop 1849 hosts Bottle and Can Drive

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - On May 31 at the Moose Family Center, Boy Scout Troop 1849 hosted a Bottle and Can Drive event. The drive allowed them to both fundraise for future events and activities, as well as help the community and Earth by recycling. Outside the Moose Family Center, the Boy Scouts unloaded bags of cans and bottles and began both sorting them and taking inventory. Troop leaders directed them and helped to make the process smoother and faster. Many community members drove over throughout the course of the event to contribute to the Bottle and Can Drive. Rafe Demers, who is one of the troop leaders, shared his journey of becoming

troop leader, what he enjoys about leading the troop and what kinds of contributions the troop makes to the community. "My son joined this troop, and I just kind of worked my way in. Part of the program is fundraising. Fundraising for camping trips and for any activities that we do. So, this is one of the many fundraisers that we do," Demers said. Demers then shared examples of the activities the troop does. "We do a monthly outdoor activity. Typically, it's camping. We'll do a camping weekend. We employ what we call the control method, where the scouts are the ones that are running the program. So, it starts with a senior patrol leader, and it just kind of works its way down to separate patrols and leaders in each patrol. So, when we camp, they are responsible for planning their meals, cooking their meals, setting up camp, breaking camp down and the

council, so Western Mass Council has a farm that they work with for maple products, for maple syrup and they do pancakes. So, we also have a fundraiser with that," Demers said. Demers then shared examples of the activities the troop does. "We do a monthly outdoor activity. Typically, it's camping. We'll do a camping weekend. We employ what we call the control method, where the scouts are the ones that are running the program. So, it starts with a senior patrol leader, and it just kind of works its way down to separate patrols and leaders in each patrol. So, when we camp, they are responsible for planning their meals, cooking their meals, setting up camp, breaking camp down and the

See BOTTLE AND CAN DRIVE page 6

Home rule petition for mayoral term finalized

Next are state review and ballot vote

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - The City Council unanimously approved to finalize a home rule petition for changing the elected term for mayor from two years to four years. For the finalization by the council, three amendments were on the floor: a title for the petition, changing language that said state election to municipal election and the exact start date for the four-year term changing from January 1, 2026 to January 1, 2028. After the amendments were approved, the council then approved the petition itself, which will now go to the state representatives' office for review. The item will, also, be on the ballot again for the upcoming 2025 municipal election. On the title amendment, President/Councilor-at-Large Frank Laflamme explained it was brought to the council's attention that the petition needed one, which has since been added. "As you can see it says 'Being enacted that by the

See MAYORAL TERM page 9

IN THE CITY

Style & Grace Hair Studio holds grand reopening in Chicopee

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - Style & Grace Hair Studio held a grand re-opening at 104 Lauzier Terrace in Chicopee on May 28.

The Style & Grace Hair Studio was originally established in 2018 and is primarily a barbershop and they are working towards doing salon work and barber work soon.

Style & Grace Hair Studio is open Mondays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are encouraged.

Mayor John Vieau thanked owner Ruben Camacho, his wife, Alyssa, and their staff for investing in the city and shared his best wishes.

"I think this is a fantastic location for you and I wish you many years of success. Chicopee's behind you," Vieau said.

Camacho thanked everyone for coming out for the grand re-opening.

"This is a first step. I've never done this, but I'm excited to be here with all you guys and to be here for many years," Camacho said.

Pastor Eli Serrano, Camacho's pastor at Restoration City Church, provided a blessing and these words.

"Today's a big deal. I think any time anyone takes a bold step to invest in their business, the Bible teaches us over and over again not to despise humble beginnings. Today's a new beginning for this barber shop, for Ruben and his family and just on behalf of our team and my wife and I who's here, our church Restoration City, we want to congratulate you," Serrano said.

After Serrano's blessing, Lamari Jackson, legislative director for State Sen. Adam



The red ribbon is cut for the grand reopening of Style & Grace Hair Studio.

URLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS



The staff at Style & Grace Hair Studio pose for a group photo.

Gomez (D-Springfield), presented a citation on behalf of the Massachusetts State Senate.

"As a small business owner himself, he takes pride in small businesses that we have in our community. He loves you guys, he wants to support you guys--all small

businesses for that matter--as much as he can," Jackson said.

After the red ribbon was cut, Camacho explained he found the new location after a friend showed it to him.

"It's a busy area, I enjoy the area, I enjoy the community here," Camacho

bershop used to be a place where young boys could just talk to men who aren't just people in their family. People who were comfortable and just learning just how to communicate and step out of their comfort zone," Camacho said. "Some people, a barbershop was their first job. For me, a barbershop was my first job sweeping the barbershop. So, I'm just trying to bring that community feel back to the barbershop."

On the business name, Camacho credited God.

"Honestly, I feel like my business was given to me by the Grace of God," Camacho said. "This is His business, I just steward it. That's what it is."

As he shared earlier, Camacho's first job was in a barbershop, explaining at 13 years old at Christmastime he got his first pair of scissors and learned from his uncle and the other guys who cut hair.

"I just kept on going. I feel like a barber is who I am and what I do," Camacho said.



Ruben Camacho, owner of Style & Grace Hair Studio cuts Mayor John Vieau's hair.

The community support meant a lot to Camacho and his team.

"It means a lot. It was great to see all the support, my brothers and sisters in Christ are here, I had collaborating barbershops that we worked together with doing community events, they came that meant a lot to see them show up. My pastor was here he made time to show up," Camacho said. "A lot of these guys here, they own their own businesses, so to see them take time out of their own schedule to come here. It means a lot to me."

Camacho's message for the community was this.

"If there's anything that you love man, just follow your passion. Don't do it for the money, do it for the passion and it'll take you far," Camacho said.

To learn more, call 413-331-0250 and check out their Facebook and Instagram pages or visit www.saghs.biz.

Chicopee's Pride Events

CHICOPEE - The city will mark Pride Month in June with two upcoming events.

Pride Flag Raising

Where: City Commons across from City Hall

When- Friday, June 13 at 3 p.m.

Chicopee Pride Festival

Where: Szot Park, Chicopee MA

When: Saturday, June 14 from Noon to 5 pm.

Handicap accessible and Free Admission

The Chicopee Queer Consortium is pleased to announce Pride Flag Raising and the Fifth Annual Chicopee Pride Festival. These events seek to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community while recognizing the cruelty and struggles that they still endure.

Notable speakers Rep Shirley Arriaga and Chicopee Planning & Development Dir. Lee Pouliot will share their support during the flag raising event on June 13. In addition, local businesses Horseshoes & Handgrenades will be hosting a Pride flash tattoo event during the celebration and afterwards there

will be a tea dance at the Munich Haus in downtown Chicopee.

The Fifth Annual Pride Festival will once again be held at Szot Park on June 14. The Pride Committee has lined up exciting entertainment from high-energy Drag Queens and Kings, live musicians, poets and so much more. Chicopee Mayor Vieau and State Senator Adam Gomez will be on hand to speak and show their support as well. We expect, given the variety of vendors, artists, crafters, non-profit organizations and more...attendees will have a great experience.

The Chicopee Queer Consortium and the Chicopee Pride Committee would like to thank the following City of Chicopee departments for their continued support: Chicopee Police and Fire Departments, Parks & Rec Department, Licensing Commission, Planning Department, City Clerk and Mayor's Office for their continued support. We would also like to thank the Mass Cultural Council and the Chicopee Cultural Council for support-

ing us for all these years.

About Us: Chicopee Queer Consortium {CQC}

The Chicopee Queer Consortium (CQC) is a non-profit organization whose main focus is to engage with and actively promote the LGBTQ+ community within the great City of Chicopee and surrounding areas. While celebrating diversity, the CQC also actively advocates for LGBTQ+ rights, understanding the journey toward equality is ongoing. Collective efforts are essential for dismantling discrimination and fostering acceptance. The CQC's commitment to LGBTQ+ people in our community, is an effort that extends far beyond a Pride Flag Raising and Pride Festival.

Chicopee Queer Consortium 413-209-2441 Chicopee-qcq@Chicopeeqc.com

Chicopee Pride Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61551222358525>

Chicopee Queer Consortium Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61576680075488>

Suspect charged with arson for Chicopee house fire

12 residents displaced, but no injuries reported

CHICOPEE- A Chicopee woman has been charged with arson for allegedly setting the three-alarm fire that displaced a dozen residents early Sunday morning, said Chicopee Fire Chief Daniel Stamborski, Chicopee Police Chief Patrick Major, and State Fire Marshal Jon Davine.

Michelle Hall, 40, was arrested late Sunday for arson of a dwelling in the course of a joint investigation by State Police fire investigators assigned to the State Fire Marshal's office, the Chicopee Police Department,

and the Chicopee Fire Department.

The Chicopee Fire Department responded to 26 Belcher Street shortly after 3:30 am on June 1 for a report of a residential structure fire. On arrival, they found the three-story, multi-family home well involved and immediately made entry to locate occupants and attack the fire. All residents were able to escape safely and firefighters rescued two pets that morning; a third was rescued from the structure yesterday after neighbors reported seeing it in a third-floor window.

The fire went to three alarms and firefighters battled it for more than two hours before it was extin-

guished. The building sustained significant fire, smoke, and water damage.

Local and state fire investigators determined that the fire began in a second-floor bathroom. Based on evidence at the scene, witness interviews, and additional evidence, they determined that the fire had been intentionally set. Throughout the day, the ongoing investigation by Chicopee and State Police led to Hall, who had allegedly been involved in an altercation at the home prior to the fire.

A warrant was issued for her arrest, and she was placed under arrest Sunday evening. Her case will be prosecuted by the Hampden County District Attorney's office.

Friends of RiverMills hosting car wash fundraiser

CHICOPEE - The Friends of RiverMills Senior Center will be having their first-ever fundraising car wash here at the RiverMills Senior Center on June 14.

This event will run from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We will be having the National Honor Society students from Chicopee High

School donating their time to wash cars. There is no set price and we are asking for donations with a suggested donation of \$10 and above.

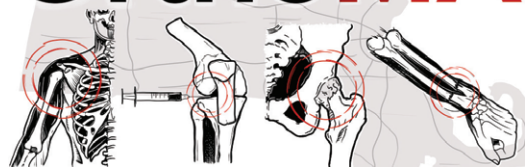
Remember, ALL MON- EY RAISED will go to the Friends of RiverMills Senior Center, to be distributed to the center to give our seniors more activities, events and

FUN at their Center. Let's make this first car wash one for the ages!

NOTE: In case the weather frowns upon us, the new date will be June 28.

We would like to thank the Home Depot in Chicopee for donating the buckets, sponges and car wash soap for this event!

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IN THE CITY

Mayor John Vieau announces proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2026

City and School Budgets created with long term fiscal responsibility, sustainability, and taxpayers in mind

"Despite extraordinary challenges, many beyond our control, I am grateful to be able for the fifth year in a row, to still provide, with City Council approval, a \$3 million tax break to the residents of Chicopee." -Mayor John Vieau

CHICOPEE - On Monday, June 2, 2025, Mayor John Vieau announced that his proposed FY '26 budget for the City of Chicopee has been sent to the City Council to review and finalize. The total FY '26 budget reflects a 6% increase from last year's budget.

The General Fund's, largest driver in the FY '26 Budget, is the Human Resources Budget with an increase of \$3,473,949.34 primarily due to rising Health

Insurance costs. Other significant increases in the General Fund are driven by the Police Budget with an increase of \$3,373,410.34 largely due to technology and collective bargaining.

"This budget not only reflects our prioritization of public safety and education but also our commitment to the city's financial future," said Mayor Vieau, "Chicopee and many other municipalities are coming off the cliff of having budgets boosted by Covid-19 related ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) and ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) funds. We cannot sustain the level of spending we saw in the post Covid years, and this budget is the first step in reconfiguring our spending."

The FY '26 School Budget reflects the Minimum Net School Spending Require-

ment of \$123,652,910.27 and the cost of the lease for the School Administration Building of \$280,200.00 which is separate from the Net School Spending equation, and the additional funding coming from the Stabilization Fund for Educational Purposes of \$7,668,342.00. "I commend our School Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware for his difficult task of being creative about how to still deliver top tier education to our students while also dealing with the reality that ESSER funds are gone. Dr. Ware, myself and our mutual finance teams also recognize that the current Federal Administration has taken and may continue to take away funding that we have relied on in the past," said Mayor Vieau.

"The City has dipped into reserve accounts it has built thanks to responsible past fiscal practices as an im-

mediate stop gap to fill the holes left by ESSER funding. However, those reserves are limited and are running low. The city aims to course correct the balance sheet in the wake of unpredictable future Federal and State reimbursements and funding. Our goal is to improve the resilience of Chicopee Public Schools to any ensuing shortages in funding," said Vieau.

"As a city and school district, we received much-needed funding during and immediately after the COVID-19 pandemic to cover pandemic related expenses and expand services for our students and staff. We all know that funding ended last year. We are expecting even more cuts from the federal government directly, and in our state funding. As a result, we are facing a period of unprecedented uncertainty. With this in mind, we must look to the

future and strive to become as sustainable as possible as a school district" added Dr. Marcus Ware, Superintendent of Chicopee Public Schools.

The FY26 Water and Sewer Budgets, which are self-supporting departments funded by their own User Fees, reflect an increase of \$530,887.56 and an increase of \$530,656.08, respectively.

"Despite so many challenges beyond our control, like the crushing burden of increasing medical and health care costs, for the 5th year in a row, the mayor and the city council will be able to allocate \$3 million for a tax break to all residents of Chicopee. Being able to give this tax break is important to me as a Mayor of a City where many people are having difficulties making ends meet", said Vieau.

He continued; "We can't

simply raise taxes to solve every problem, like some other communities might be able to. Chicopee is not a wealthy city-we're a hardworking community that has to make every dollar count. That's why I'm proud that with these City and School Budgets, we have taken meaningful steps and have produced a responsible budget to protect the taxpayers while supporting essential services. For Chicopee to continue to grow and thrive, we must focus on long-term sustainability-and this decision is grounded in that principle. We need to make choices that benefit our community not just today, but well into the future. I look forward to working closely with the City Council to finalize the Fiscal Year 2026 budget, and to ensure we continue building a stronger, more sustainable Chicopee together."

Chicopee Public Library hosts events 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 seeks to provide opportunities for entertainment and enrichment that promote literacy and explore creativity. Here is the slate of events for June 2025, including information about the annual Summer Reading Challenge!

Afterschool Thursdays is a new program series for school age children that the library is hosting this spring. Each Thursday afternoon at 4 p.m. will be a different opportunity for older kids to explore a fun, creative activity. Recommended for ages six and up, teens and tweens welcome. On the first Thursday of each month, the longstanding **Build with LEGO** program will continue. Thursday, June 12 will be an **Easy Sewing Project**, making plush creatures with felt. No registration required.

Little Movers will be held in the children's program room on Fridays June 20 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!

Sensory Play Saturday will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 7. Come let your babies socialize and explore sensory play! We will have our play area set up with some sensory activities and other play opportunities. For babies 0-24 months and their caregivers.

Saturday Playgroup will be held at 1 p.m., on Saturdays in June. The playspace will be open for families with kids of all ages to meet up and play.

Terrific Twos will be on Tuesday, June 10 at 10:30

a.m. This program includes a short storytime and a rotating selection of crafts and activities. No registration is required. This program is just for two-year-olds and their caregivers.

On Wednesday, June 11 at 10:30 a.m. in the community room, the library will have a **Little Kid Dance Party** geared for kids five and under and their caregivers. Older kids are welcome, as well. There will be songs, dancing and big movement!

The library will host a **Meet-up for Homeschooling Families** on Thursday, June 12 at 11 a.m. Homeschooling families can meet each other and hang out. Chicopee's point person for AHM (Advocates for Home Education in MA) will be there. Families and library staff take turns leading different activities. This month will be a readers' theater activity.

The **Summer Reading Kickoff Fantasy Faire** will take place on Monday, June 23 from 3 to 5 p.m. Hear ye! Hear ye! The library will host a Fantasy Faire in the town square (aka the library's back yard) to celebrate the beginning of Summer. Sign up for the Summer Reading Challenge. Undertake a quest to become a knight. Visit with community partners sharing resources. Enjoy the new shade structure. Fantasy/Renaissance Faire attire encouraged.

Outside Musical Storytime will be held on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. during summer reading. A little bit storytime, a little bit dance party. Join us outside on the back patio under the new shade structure (weather permitting) for stories and movement. Geared towards kids ages two through five, older kids welcome.

The library will host

a **Capoeira Martial Arts & Dance Performance** on Wednesday, June 25 at 2 p.m. Mass Capoeira Culture Center will demonstrate this Afro-Brazilian martial art that incorporates fighting, dance, music and acrobatics. The audience will learn some music and movement to play along. Outside weather permitting. This program is supported by a grant from the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Create a **Paper Sculpture** on Thursday, June 26 at 2:30 p.m. The library will provide the supplies, you provide the imagination.

Toddler Time will be held on Mondays at 10:30 a.m. during summer reading. An open ended playtime for Toddlers to socialize and play! For ages 0-2, no registration required. This program will be held outside on the library's backyard patio, weather permitting, or in the Children's Room.

Summer Reading Challenge "Chicopee, Did you read today?" is the question of the season. The Library is challenging everybody to read every day from June 23 - August 15. You can read books or comics, listen to audiobooks, read to someone, or listen to someone read to you. You can read as much or as little as you want. The goal is to spread the joy of reading and learning throughout the community. Sign up for our reading challenge online with Beanstack (look for the link on the library homepage) or visit the library to get started!

For more information about what's going on at the Chicopee Public Library, visit www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org.

CPD hosts Coffee with a Cop at Starbucks



PHOTOS AND CAPTION COURTESY OF CHICOPEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHICOPEE - Thank you to everyone who came out to Starbucks on May 22 and took part in the Coffee with a Cop. We hope to see you again at the next one.

Chicopee Historical Society hosting Annual Business Meeting

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Historical Society will be conducting its annual business meeting on Tuesday, June 17.

This is an opportunity for the public to contribute their ideas and preferences for future presentations.

It is a great time to get involved and volunteer.

The board will also present reports on the projects of the past year, updates on the Inshaw Rifle project, and our lineup for fall presentations for 2025, with a look ahead

to the spring of 2026. Join us Tuesday, June 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bazan Community Room, Chicopee Public Library, 449 Front Street, Chicopee, MA. The event is free and open to the public.

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Victim identified in May 31 Bridge Street homicide

SPRINGFIELD - At approximately 9:20 p.m. on Saturday, May 31, 2025, Springfield Police Officers responded to the area of Pearl Street and Chestnut Street for shots fired.

Officers located an adult male gunshot victim on the 400 block of Bridge Street. He was transported to Baystate where he succumbed to his injuries that evening.

The victim has been identified as Trey Palmer, 27, of Chicopee.

The Springfield Police Homicide Unit under the direction Captain Trent Duda is investigating in conjunction with the Hampden District Attorney's Murder Unit. There

is no ongoing public safety threat.

We encourage anyone with information relevant to this investigation to come forward. The Springfield Police Department Detective Bureau can be reached at 413-787-

6355 or through text a tip - text CRIMES (2-7-4-6-3-7) type SOLVE and your tip.

Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni expresses his sympathies to the victim's family.

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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

GUEST COLUMN



By Ellenor Downer

Yellow bellied sapsucker



A Brimfield resident reported a yellow bellied sapsucker pair in his yard.

He said in an email, "I began seeing a male yellow-bellied sapsucker at a dogwood tree in front of the house. The bird was there every day last week. On Saturday, I saw a female on the same tree. I'll try to find a nest, I did find a sapsucker nest in the Brimfield State Forest a few years ago." He also has a mountain ash in his yard with lots of sapsucker holes.

Yellow-bellied sapsuckers lap up the leaking sap and any trapped insects with its specialized, brush-tipped tongue from holes they makes in a variety of trees especially birch and maples

Like many of the woodpecker family, it has barred black and white feathers with a red cap. The male also has a red throat. They sit still on tree trunks for long intervals while feeding. To find one, listen for their loud mewing calls or stuttered drumming.

Sapsuckers inhabit young deciduous forests. To find a sapsucker's territory, people should keep an eye out for their distinctive, neatly organized rows of sap wells. They cling motionless to trees while calling, birders should look closely at the trees around the for their sharply contrasting black-and-white face stripes and the bright-red patches on their heads.

The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker makes two kinds of holes in trees to harvest sap. Round holes extend deep in the tree and are not enlarged. The sapsucker inserts its bill into the hole to probe for sap. Rectangular holes are shallower and must be maintained continually for the sap to flow. The sapsucker licks the sap from these holes, and eats the cambium of the tree too. New holes usually are made in a line with old holes, or in a new line above the old.

The sap wells made by yellow-bellied sapsuckers attract hummingbirds, which also feed off the sap flowing from the tree. Other birds as well as bats and porcupines also visit sapsucker sap wells. Although a few individuals remain throughout much of the winter in the southern part of the breeding range, most head farther south, going as far south as Panama. Females tend to migrate farther south than do males.

Other birds

The Brimfield resident reports the return of the rose-breasted grosbeak, catbird and great crested flycatcher. His wife saw two great crested flycatcher near the nest box a pair used last year.

Eagle nests

The Brimfield resident also reported a tree with a bald eagle nest at the Stebbins Wildlife Refuge in Longmeadow fell down and the fire department rescued two chicks. They have been placed in the care of a local raptor rehabilitator. The chicks look to be fully grown, but unable to fly. He will care for the birds until they are old enough to release.

In Ludlow there is another eagle nest and there are two chicks in that nest also but they are still very young, their heads are just visible above the rim of the nest.

Solitary sandpiper

The Brimfield resident reported seeing a solitary sandpiper at one of the ponds in Warren. He said he has seen spotted sandpipers there, but this was the first time he saw a solitary sandpiper at that location.

Black bear

Saturday, May 24 I saw a black bear walking down the side of my road about 4:30 p.m. I slowly followed him in my car. He left the road and went up a steep path leading into some woods. At the top of the hill, he turned and looked oward the road. He had a healthy, dark black coat of fur.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing my-backyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

GSHFH accepts repair applications for vets, wants military volunteers

By Brandice J. O'Brien
Marketing and Communications Manager, Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity

WEST SPRINGFIELD - Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) is now accepting applications for limited-income veterans and their families in need of "critical" home repairs. Projects can include interior or exterior work that eases health, life, and safety issues, or eliminates code violations.

These projects are made possible through the Repair Corps program, a joint initiative between Habitat for Humanity International and The Home Depot Foundation. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and are reviewed as funding becomes available.

"If you are—or know—a veteran who could benefit from our services, please encourage them to contact us," said GSHFH Executive Director Aimee Giroux. "While we are not an emergency service provider and our funding is limited, we will do everything we can to help—or connect them with other organizations that can."

The Repair Corps program is available to home-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Volunteers from the 439th Logistics Readiness Squadron at Westover Air Reserve Base in Chicopee help raise the gable of a future Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity home.

owners who have an honorably-discharged veteran living full time at their residence. The veteran doesn't have to be the homeowner. Qualified families must also be willing to accept the program's selection criteria: a need, willingness to partner, and ability to repay through affordable micro-loans.

Applications can be found at habitatspringfield.org/home-preservation. Once on the webpage, click on "Apply

for home preservation."

Greater Springfield Habitat is also looking for veteran and military-connected volunteers to help with construction and to join our event committee, to increase awareness of the veteran program.

"If you'd like to volunteer, we would love to have your support on a project," Aimee said.

For more information, email support@habitatspringfield.org.



How do I apply for Social Security?

Dear Rusty:
I just turned 65 years old in February 2025. I need to sign up for Social Security but don't even know where to start.
Signed: Seeking Assistance

Dear Seeking:
It is fairly easy to sign up for your Social Security benefits, by either calling the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 or your local SS office, to make a telephone appointment to apply, or by completing your application for Social Security benefits online at www.ssa.gov/apply. However, to apply for benefits online you will need to first create your personal "my Social Security" account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Once you have your personal account set up, you can apply directly from that account and also see an estimate of your SS benefits at different ages.

You may already be aware that age 65 is not your Social Security Full Retirement Age. Your FRA is when you get 100% of the benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working. By taking benefits at age 65, your monthly amount will

be reduced to about 87% of your FRA amount; a permanent reduction. Born in 1960, your FRA is age 67, which means you will be taking your SS benefit about two years early and also means that if you are still working, you will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test.

The AET limits how much you can earn before some of your benefits are taken away. For 2025, the annual earnings limit is \$23,400 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take back \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit they take benefits back by withholding future payments long enough to recover what you owe.

So, you can apply for your Social Security benefits, as indicated above, either online or by calling SS for an appointment. Just be aware that by applying at age 65 your benefit will be permanently reduced, and you will be subject to Social Security's earnings limit. The earnings limit lasts until you reach your FRA, after which you can earn as much as you like without penalty.

Also, because you are 65, if you wish to enroll in Medicare, please be aware that you

don't need to take your Social Security benefits to enroll in Medicare. You can enroll in Medicare (only) by calling Social Security as explained above or enrolling in Medicare online. Here is a link which explains how to enroll in only Medicare: <https://www.ssa.gov/medicare/sign-up>

I hope this information is helpful, and please know that the AMAC Foundation is always available to answer your questions. If it's easier, you can also speak directly to one of our certified Social Security Advisors by calling us during normal EST business hours at 1-888-750-2622. We cannot submit your SS application for you, but we can answer all questions you have about applying.

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 ssadviser@amacfoundation.org. org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

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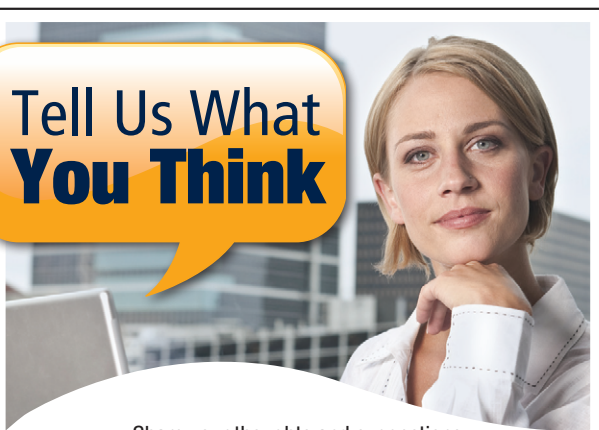
The Chicopee Register welcomes submissions of news in or related to Chicopee and its residents. Our "People News," is filled with submitted engagement announcements, wedding announcements, birth announcements, your new baby or news about your 25th or 50th anniversary celebrations. Please e-mail correspondence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

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.

Pothole cheerleaders...



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IN THE CITY

Events & announcements schedule

West Mass Brass Band concert taking place June 7

CHICOPEE – The West Mass Brass Band concert will be taking place at Aldenville Common on Saturday, June 7, at 2 p.m.

The rain date is June 12 at 7 p.m.

Aldenville Common is located on Grattan Street in Chicopee.

The free concert is a patriotic program celebrating the start of the 1775 American Revolution.

Bring a chair!

The event is made possible through the Chicopee Cultural Council and the Mass Cultural Council.

Holyoke Chicopee Head Start holding Raising A Reader Family Shared Reading Program

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Chicopee Family & Community Program is currently hosting a “Raising A Reader” Family Shared reading program.

The program is for fami-

lies with children from infant to five years old.

Let’s get together for fun activities that develop reading readiness and social emotional skills! Take home a red bag each week with books to borrow.

The program takes place on Wednesdays, 4 to 5 p.m. at HCS Head Start the first and third Wednesday of the month at 41 Commercial St., Holyoke.

Please call or email Shane at ShaneW@headstart.org or 413-310-1632.

This program is funded by the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grant awarded to HCS Head Start by the Department of Early Education and Care.

Chicopee Senior Travel Club is seeking another Travel Planner

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Senior Travel Club is looking for another travel planner to join its team.

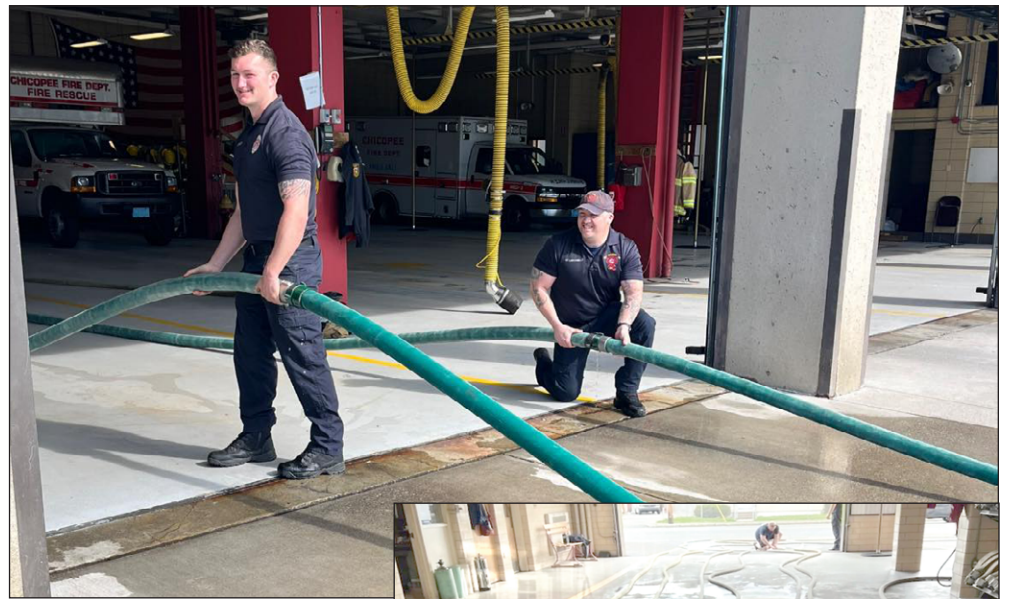
The Travel Club is a volunteer-operated group that

works out of the Chicopee Council on Aging at River-Mills Center, located at 5 West Main St. in Chicopee.

The travel planner works a weekly three-hour shift at the travel desk inside the center and helps people register for trips, provides information on upcoming trips, and accepts and documents payments for trips. Several hours are required at home for planning purposes, including planning trips and working with vendors. Planners attend monthly planners’ meetings and monthly Travel Club open meetings.

The Travel Club is looking for someone with strong computer and organizational skills to prepare flyers and reports, who enjoys working with people, has an open schedule, is comfortable with public speaking, and who loves to travel. Cover letters and resumes may be submitted to Chicopee Senior Travel Club, RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St., Chicopee, MA, 01020.

CFD tests out fire hoses



PHOTOS AND CAPTION COURTESY OF CHICOPEE FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHICOPEE - Every spring our members test thousands of feet of fire hose to ensure that all our hose is safe and effective to use while conducting firefighting operations and while performing regular training.



Suspect held without right to bail in fatal Chicopee shooting Thursday evening

CHICOPEE - The Hampden District Attorney’s Office State Police Detective Unit, Assistant District Attorneys assigned to its Murder Unit, and the Chicopee Police Department are investigating a shooting that occurred Thursday night.

On Thursday, May 29, 2025, at approximately 9 p.m., the Chicopee Police Department contacted the Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit assigned to the Hampden District Attorney’s Office regarding a shooting that had occurred

on 16 Charbonneau Terrace in the city of Chicopee. Upon arrival, responding officers located an injured male with penetrating wounds to his body. Immediate life-saving measures were rendered, and the victim was pronounced deceased on scene.

The victim has been identified as Tre Kingsbury, 21, of West Springfield, Massachusetts.

While on scene, detectives identified an individual involved with the shooting. The suspect has been identified as Jayshawn Kemp-

ton, 17, of Chicopee, Massachusetts. On Friday May 30, 2025, Kempton was arraigned in Chicopee District Court and charged with murder and illegal possession of a firearm. Kempton has been held without the right to bail and his next appearance in court will be June 26, 2025 for pre-trial conference.

This remains an ongoing investigation conducted by the Hampden District Attorney’s Office State Police Detective Unit in conjunction with the Chicopee Police Department.

“Psalm 33” Christian Youth Group presents a free concert sponsored by Blessed Sacrament Church

CHICOPEE - “Psalm 33,” a Christian Contemporary Praise and Worship Ministry, will present a free outdoor concert open to the public on Sunday, June 22, at Blessed Sacrament Church in Westfield.

The concert will be held at 6 p.m. and in the event of

inclement weather, will be held in the Parish Hall. This group is comprised of young people who play at many events across the Diocese of Springfield including the recent youth rally held at Pope Francis Preparatory School in Springfield, a Springfield Thunderbirds game, retreats,

and Faith on Fire each summer.

A free will offering will be taken up to benefit Harmony House of Western Massachusetts, the home for the terminally ill located in Chicopee. Please bring your own chair to enjoy this dynamic gathering of all ages.

LEDC from page 1

ment one step at a time,” Rodriguez said. “Especially the Latino community, it’s just building a bigger and stronger relationship within the city, especially here in the Center. We appreciate all the support that we get, especially that we get from surrounding cities. We’re grateful.”

Melendez, who also supported last year’s Dominoes Tournament, was happy to support it again.

“I think being able to bring people together, because as we know, this is not just for the center of downtown. People all over Chicopee are coming to this Domino Tournament and to other tournaments,” Melendez said. “The small businesses here are community--right?--so being able to support them, showcase their businesses, people that might not know about some of these new businesses. As you can see, just in the past two to three months, there’s another three new businesses in downtown here. So, let’s showcase these businesses, let people come together.”

Melendez added playing dominoes brings people together.

“If you sit at any cookout or any family gathering in any Latino community, there’s going to be someone opening



Andrew Melendez, executive director at the Latino Economic Development Corporation, announces the \$5,000 donation for this year’s Hispanic Heritage Dominoes Tournament and community initiatives supported by the Chicopee C3 Unit.

up a table, putting a domino table down and having some fun,” Melendez said.

He stressed people should know the police department is here to support them and the community too.

“As a business owner and as a community member, they’re here to serve you and to be a part of your community. So, not just when times are bad, but times to build relationships and that’s why I appreciate the force here that’s really making that initiative,” Melendez said.

On the C3 Unit, Melendez noted how they talk to business owners and join neighborhood meetings.

“They signed up to be a part of this squad. This is not just something you’re assigned for. People sign up and say, ‘No, I want to be a C3 officer. I want to support this community.’ This is unique,” Melendez said. “Starting in Springfield and Chicopee and Holyoke, they’ve made a focus as a model for the state that this is community policing, this is at its best. Having a station downtown where somebody could just knock

on the door and say, ‘Hey, I have a question.’ This is the beauty of it.”

Rodriguez is looking forward to this year’s Dominoes Tournament.

“It should be a great time like we had last year. It was a good turnout. Hopefully, this year is bigger and better,” Rodriguez said.

Sgt. Thomas Gazda also expressed his gratitude to Melendez for the donation.

“I think it’s great. These



Ofc. Elly Rodriguez talks about this year’s Hispanic Heritage Dominoes Tournament.



Sgt. Thomas Gazda reflects on the C3 Unit in Chicopee Center.

funds go a long way in helping support our activities at the event and without this kind of funding, these events probably wouldn’t be possible,” Gazda said. “So, we thank all of our resources throughout the city, throughout the state, in helping us achieve our goals down here in the center.”

Melendez’s message was this.

“This announcement’s for them. This community

of Chicopee has embraced everyone from Polish to the Irish to the Jewish and now to the Puerto Ricans and to the Black community. This event is for them,” Melendez said. “If you’re Latino or non-Puerto Rican or just want to learn about the culture, this is for you and this investment is for the city of Chicopee.”

Gazda’s message on the upcoming event was this.

“Come out and play!” Gazda said. Photos:

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IN THE CITY

SCHOOL COMMITTEE from page 1

I just don't want to be at the point down the road where we are unable to make ends meet, and where we're going to have to start laying teachers and cutting off services."

The budget—which yielded mixed reactions among the School Committee—was approved for \$132,851,452 million. Some members noted that taxes would have to be raised, along with the feeling that the School Committee wishes they could have received more, but came to the consensus that approving the budget is a step in the right direction.

"Were seeing at the federal level a lot of cuts that filter down and effect our own budget, but it is my hope is that the residents of Chicopee see the federal changes, after which are made to get value out of government spending, more than what they are paying in taxes." At-Large Representative Dr. Mark McCarthy said. "The transparent thing to say is we were going to have raise taxes if we were going to if we don't get support from another source. But I would like this to be a bigger number even if we are where the state minimum is, which is my problem with it, but I'm going to vote for this because I want to fund our schools to be the best they can be and if this is the budget that our school thinks it needs to succeed I'm in favor of it."

Offering similar sentiments was Ward 5 Representative Grace Schofield, who also voted in favor of the budget.

"We listened to the teachers, listened to the staff, and much like Dr. (McCarthy) I would like this to be a little bit more, but I understand their are restrictions and we can't do what everyone wants, but approving this budget is a step in the right direction," Schofield said.

Following a similar tone in nature to Vieau's thoughts was Vice Chair and Ward 7 Representative Donald Lamothe, offering down-the-line concerns.

"If you look at this budget, it's \$1.5 million dollars above minimum foundation.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY BRENDAN ROONEY

Chicopee Education Association members and supporters hold another rally outside Chicopee City Hall ahead of the May 21 School Committee meeting.

It's something we have done in the past, but hasn't been done in a few years since. However when you look at our budget were taking over \$7.6 million from the reserve fund just to fund this year," Lamothe said. "So, next year we're going to need that same amount, and with the remaining \$1.5, we will have just enough to fund next year, but it's going to be pretty tight. But it's the third year that's going to be the bearer. Because money isn't as affluent as people would like to think. However, I will vote for this because we're trying to do the best we can for our teachers and students."

Now that the budget has been approved, the next step to follow will be for the budget to go to the desk of the City Council, where the next round of voting will transpire to ratify it. During the council's June 3 meeting, members of the Chicopee Education Association, along with supporters, also continued to rally outside City Hall as negotiations progress.

City Budget Announcement

On Monday, June 2, Vieau also announced his proposed city budget for FY26, which revealed that he feels this budget, despite raising concerns, "reflects" the Minimum Net School Spending Requirement of \$123,652,910.27 and the cost of the lease for the School Administration Building of \$280,200.00, which is separate from the Net School Spending equation and the additional funding coming

from the Stabilization Fund for Educational Purposes of \$7,668,342.00.

Vieau also acknowledged the uncertainty that could arise years from now due to the reality that ESSER funds are gone, along with the cuts that continue to emerge at the federal level, trickling down to the city level.

"The City has dipped into reserve accounts it has built thanks to responsible past fiscal practices as an immediate stopgap to fill the holes left by ESSER funding," Vieau said. "However, those reserves are limited and are running low. The city aims to course correct the balance sheet in the wake of unpredictable future Federal and State reimbursements and funding. Our goal is to improve the resilience of Chicopee Public Schools to any ensuing shortages in funding."

In addition, during the May 21 meeting, Vieau said that the notion of raising taxes is 'inevitable' while passing along to the CEA that he wants Chicopee teachers to get fair wages, but feels the city can do a little bit better.

"There is a significant amount of capital needs, which stands at \$12 million, and there is no funding available," Vieau said. "We need new tracks, we need HVAC upgrades, and I feel it's time we start looking at the entire district and finding creative ways to be frugal with how we spend."

Vieau then addressed the rising concern that the

impending fear of a \$12 million dollar operating shortfall, which, as data and projections show, would be set to take effect in 2028, due to the growing rate of the City's contribution on a 10% climb.

"This isn't sustainable," Vieau said. "And when you use your entire savings account for your operating budget, that doesn't work, it works this year, but happens next year, but I'm worried about 2028, and not to mention, we're going to be building a new Barry Elementary, and the debt service will fall on the taxpayers."

Finally, Vieau offered ample praise to the continued work of Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware for navigating this tricky slope, while always going above and beyond for the structural leadership of the Chicopee public school system.

"I commend our School Superintendent, Dr. Ware, for his difficult task of being creative about how to still deliver top-tier education to our students while also dealing with the reality that ESSER funds are gone," Vieau said. "Dr. Ware, myself and our mutual finance teams also recognize that the current Federal Administration has taken and may continue to take away funding that we have relied on in the past."

CEA Updates

Providing an update on how negotiations are progressing was Ben Eisen, president of the CEA, and a Chicopee



TURLEY PHOTOS BY BRENDAN ROONEY

Chicopee Education Association members and supporters holding signs during the May 21 rally.

educator, who shared that the CEA has been rallying for a new contract since November 2024, along with the three key platforms being high priority that need to be addressed.

"Our main approach is to get them (the School Committee) to agree to a joint health and safety committee where all parties will be able to have equal say to brainstorm solutions to problems, along with the ability to prevent them," Eisen said.

Eisen said the CEA is also looking for an opportunity to be tied into stability, maintaining an affordable and living wage, while stressing the need for Unit E - Paraprofessionals and educational support personnel being included as well.

"We are pushing for them to be able to afford to live on a single job, because some are taking home in the range of 200 dollars every week, and some do make it work on that number, but others have additional jobs to stay afloat in the economy along with multiple children which is a major obstacle to make it on that number as well," Eisen said.

The final proposal from the CEA is to keep staff among the ranks of Chicopee schools, which entails working conditions that need to be addressed, along with ensuring that all professionals, and those who are new to Chicopee—regardless of tenure—would be treated with the highest respect among peers.

Eisen also shared that the School Committee con-

firmed to the CEA that would utilizing an additional \$1.25 million to help fund various proposals until the end of the school year, which he felt was a good sign, and he was proud of the outreach and support from all members who continue to show up to the meetings.

"That last-minute rally was centered around the purpose to have our members see the School Committee as a whole," Eisen said. "Because our negotiations tend to just be three representatives from the Bargaining Subcommittee, and only two of our members are there. But I was pleased with who showed, and especially all those who spoke very well in terms of being able to articulate our story."

Eisen also shared that this year, a high number of educators left Chicopee schools due to the difference in quality of pay, viable working conditions and growth due to the constant opening of positions always being available. But, still felt that he believes in the direction and identity of the Chicopee Public School System.

"I have not given up on Chicopee because of the core and foundation we have here," Eisen said. "And another thing that brings me joy is seeing former students returning in various roles at my school or another, it shows that when they were here, they saw the sense of unity among the staff, and felt they wanted to be a part of this circle of growth and keep it going."

CITY COUNCIL from page 1

cy of Councilor Zygarowski to fill that seat and have the full representation of the City Council available for every resident and every voter in the city of Chicopee."

Ward 1 Councilor Abigail Arriaga referenced 2025 being an election year for

why she was not in favor of filling the seat.

"Personally, I think that being an election year, if it wasn't it might be different. I think that people that are truly interested in filling that role should get out there, campaign, earn the voters' support and let the voters bring it to the polls and choose who they would like to fill that.

I think that that's the better choice is to listen to the residents in that aspect," Arriaga said.

Arriaga echoed Costello's points on the number of months left and the council functioning well currently.

"It is seven months, but seven months will go by fast. I think that we represent the city quite well. As long as the councilors are answering their constituents and we're doing all we can to help everybody, I think there's plenty of us that can help all the residents in our full capacity. There are still 12 of us," Arriaga said. "I just think it would be unfair to put somebody in that position and kind of give them that step ahead of everybody else. Let it be a fair campaign this summer and let the voters vote."

Ward 6 Councilor Samuel Shumsky also agreed with Arriaga and Costello's points, later elaborating with the Chicopee Register after the meeting about his vote and how Zygarowski is greatly missed.

"His presence on the council and who he was as a person would never be matched and he'll be greatly missed," Shumsky said. "The reason I voted no--there's a few of them--one of which was because there's six months left of this term and the meeting that was going to

be set to appoint a new member would have been in the middle of June and we have budget hearings coming up at the last week of June."

Shumsky explained on learning the city budget or how city finances work, "You're going to need more than a week."

"This job--in this role--takes more than one term to really understand and fully comprehend because of how much material and how much knowledge of the inner workings of the city and building relationships to get stuff done, it takes longer than six months," Shumsky said.

He also noted how there are two meetings during the summer and several from that time through November before the election.

"You also have the fact that papers are due in August and by nominating someone who is going to be filling the seat could potentially give them an incumbent advantage. It takes away from the people deciding who they want their representative to be," Shumsky said.

Shumsky said Zygarowski's shoes "will be hard to fill."

"Let's just say they'll never be filled, if it makes sense," Shumsky said. "He's sorely missed."



TURLEY PHOTO BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

Troop 1849 protecting the environment and supporting their troop on May 31 at their bottle and can drive.

BOTTLE AND CAN DRIVE from page 1

program. And the program could be anything that we planned for that weekend, it could be a hike, it could be fishing," Demers said.

When asked if the troop takes protecting the environment into consideration when planning events and activities, Demers said this.

"So, there's an outdoor code throughout Boy Scouts and the last point of that code is being conservation minded. So yeah, I mean we certainly want to make sure that we are doing our part to recycle. Again, it's a fundraiser, so it's killing two birds with one stone," Demers said. "But we also really employ those tenants of the outdoor code. There's also one called leave no trace. Leave no trace really focuses on being in the outdoors and making sure that we're able to enjoy it but

we're not putting too much of an impact on it. We do clean up events."

Demers emphasized the Boy Scouts also creates community.

"The community is a lot of people that are more than willing to give their time and their resources and their expertise when it comes to mentoring the youth and mentoring each other," Demers said.

The troop leaders who devote their time and money to the troop do so out of the good of their hearts, with their help and guidance the troop was able to collect lots of bottles and cans, doing their part for the environment and fundraising to support their troop. The leaders mentor the Boy Scouts with great kindness that allows them to learn survival skills and foster friendships with their peers.

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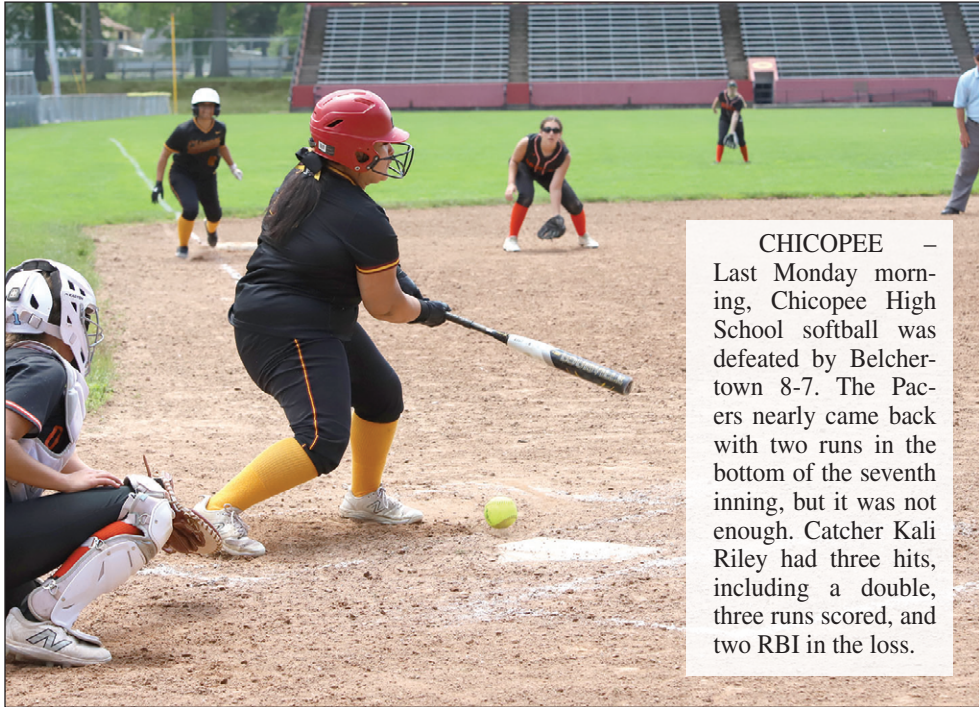
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Pacers lose on Memorial Day



CHICOPEE – Last Monday morning, Chicopee High School softball was defeated by Belcher-town 8-7. The Pacers nearly came back with two runs in the bottom of the seventh inning, but it was not enough. Catcher Kali Riley had three hits, including a double, three runs scored, and two RBI in the loss.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELL

Gabriela Espinosa Cornier swings and hits a grounder.



Pitcher Jordyn Kazroid delivers to the plate.



Jeneida Torres heads for third.



Lorraine Olbrych fires a throw from short to first base.



Catcher Kali Riley fires down to second.

Blue Sox pitching fans 15 batters

Defeat defending champion Gulls on opening night

HOLYOKE - The Valley Blue Sox, managed for the first time by 2018 NECBL Best Starting Pitcher award winner Endy Morales, defeated the defending two-time champion Newport Gulls to open their season on Tuesday 1-0.

In a pitcher's duel, the Blue Sox staff retired 15 Newport batters via strikeout.

"You set the tone with that," said Morales of his team's performance on the mound. "It's kind of what we needed. Sure, it'd be great if the offense came out and was hitting and scoring a bunch of runs. But at the end of the day, we all know pitching is what gets it done ... I feel like the guys came out and just commanded their best stuff."

Returning Blue Sox All-Star Gregory Shaw earned the win, throwing five innings and fanning six batters. Ethan Slowik struck out the side in the sixth, while Jack Potteiger and Jack Geiser took care of the seventh and eighth, striking out three total batters.

The ninth inning belonged to Andrew Wertz, who struck out the side to secure the win and the save.

The lone run, which ended up being the winner for Valley, came in the bottom of the third inning. After the bases were loaded on an error by Gulls' third baseman Petey Craska, Chris Walsh brought in Valley's winning run on a

weak ground ball that resulted in a double play.

Valley's Andrew Loikits went 1-2 with a BB, while Clay Burdette stole the lone base of the game. For Newport, Shane Williams, Andreus Lewis and Randy Seymour picked up base hits. Pitchers Drew DeLucia, Finbar O'Brien and Blake Julius were calm on the mound, striking out 11 Valley batters and only allowing one run.

Tuesday's win for the Blue Sox represented redemption, as they knocked off a Newport team that swept them in the NECBL playoffs a season prior. However, Morales is more concerned with his team this season.

"I think when you're writing the story of the Blue Sox, obviously we lost to [Newport] last year in the playoffs, and [tonight] is to open up the season. That does feel good. But at the end of the day, it was less about the opponent and more about us."

Morales also mentioned that the team is looking forward, not back.

"In the grand scheme of things, their roster is going to look a little bit different, but I still feel confident about what we did ... when they do get more of their guys that are coming in, obviously that roster is going to look different, but we'll find out next week-end."

In the short term, Morales is focused on the task at hand. "Tomorrow's the most important one," he said.

T-Birds announce home opener for 10th season

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds announced six guaranteed home game dates at the MassMutual Center for the 2025-26 season. The franchise will kick off its 10th Anniversary celebration on Saturday, Oct. 11 for Opening Night. Additionally, the following dates will be on the home ice schedule next season:

- Friday, Nov. 7
- Saturday, Dec. 6
- Saturday, Jan. 10
- Saturday, Feb. 21
- Saturday, March 7

Promotional information and opponents for these nights, as well as the rest of the 2025-26 season

schedule, will be unveiled later this summer. Stay tuned for more information on what promises to be a historic 10th year for the Thunderbirds franchise.

The 2024-25 regular season may be over, but the Thunderbirds' front office staff and Boomer will remain as active as ever in the Springfield community throughout the late Spring and Summer.

For more information on upcoming events, stay tuned to the T-Birds on social media @ThunderbirdsAHL, or visit the Community Tab on www.SpringfieldThunderbirds.com.

Hall series coming to TD Garden

BOSTON – Position Sports, in partnership with the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame, announced that projected preseason Top 10 teams UConn and BYU will meet in the Hall of Fame Series Boston event on Saturday, Nov. 15, at TD Garden. This marks just the second meeting between the programs, with the Huskies defeating the Cougars in the first matchup during the opening round of the 2003 NCAA Tournament.

"We're thrilled to establish TD Garden as our newest Hall of Fame Series venue, creating a basketball showcase in the heart of New England, just a short journey from our home in Springfield," said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball

Hall of Fame. "The matchup between UConn and BYU brings together one of the sport's premier programs and one of its most exciting up-and-coming teams, led by a local talent in AJ Dybantsa. This event not only highlights elite college basketball but also reinforces our ongoing relationship with the Boston Celtics and our shared commitment to celebrating the game's rich history in the region."

This will be UConn's second appearance in the Hall of Fame Series, following a win over Gonzaga at Madison Square Garden last December. The Huskies are led by two-time National Champion Alex Karaban, who hails from Southbor-

See **HALL SERIES** page 8

After pair of big wins, Pioneers draw in home opener

By **Tim Peterson**
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Putting the ball into the back of the net wasn't a major issue for the Western Mass. Pioneers in their first two regular season matches.

The Pioneers, who out-scored Boston City and the Albany Rush, 15-0, on the road, played a 1-1 draw against the Seacoast United Phantoms in the home opener at historic Lusitano Stadium on May 23.

"I thought it was a very good game tonight," said longtime Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. "Seacoast won the championship last year and they're a very good team again this year. They defended very well against us. We did play much better during the second half than we did in the first half."

The Pioneers first home match was played on a miserable night weatherwise.

Eleven different players scored a goal in the Pioneers'



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGFOTOS.COM
Cameron Hall, Pioneers goalie, sends a free kick away.

first two road matches.

Israel Neto led the way offensively with three goals. Matt Cence and Robbie Lyons both scored two goals. The other goals for the Pioneers were scored by Oskar Kaufmann, Aiden Kelly, Austin Bush, Jose Suarez, Jose Bustamante, Gustavo

Barbosa, and Mamadi Jiana, who's a former member of the Chicopee boys' soccer team.

The Phantoms (0-1-1), who are the defending USL League Two National champions, had won the previous three matchups between the two rivals held at Lusitano



Santiago Blasco Gomez balances the ball.

Stadium.

The home team had an opportunity to take an early lead, but a breakaway opportunity by Kaufmann in the second minute of the match was saved by Seacoast goalie Jahn Tobias.

With 15 minutes remaining in the first half, Tobias made a diving save on another shot attempt from Kaufmann.

Down at the other end of the field, Western Mass. goalie Cameron Hall also made a couple of key saves, which kept the contest scoreless until the second half.

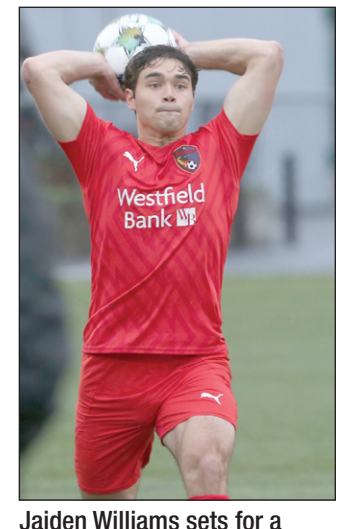
The Phantoms also had nine corner kicks during the first 45 minutes.

Early in the second half, the referee awarded the Phantoms a penalty kick following a foul inside the box.

Hall, who posted shut-



Oskar Kaufmann grabs a quick stop.



Jaiden Williams sets for a throw-in.

See **PIONEERS** page 8

IN THE CITY

CCHS honors first responders



CHICOPEE – On May 16, the Chicopee Police Department and Chicopee Fire Department participated in a Flag Raising Ceremony held by the Key Club at Chicopee Comprehensive High School. This ceremony was to honor all first responders and nurses. In addition to the flag raising, there was a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem performed by one of the students, a wonderful musical selection by the school band, a wreath placed and a speech given by the school principal. This was a special way to end National Police Week and honor all those who serve our community.

PHOTOS AND CAPTION COURTESY OF CHICOPEE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Elms College's Dr. Tyra Good named one of Massachusetts' leading higher education leaders

CHICOPEE - Elms College is proud to announce that Dr. Tyra Good, founding Executive Director of the Center for Equity in Urban Education (CEUE) and Associate Professor of Education, has been named one of MassLive's 8 Leading Higher Education Leaders in Massachusetts.

At Elms College, Dr. Good leads the CEUE, which is dedicated to increasing both the number and diversity of qualified and licensed educators and school leaders through culturally responsive practices. The center offers bachelor's and master's degree completion pathways for full-time non-licensed educators, as well as professional development opportunities

for educators across the region.

Additionally, Dr. Good's work of creating equitable university, school, family, and community partnerships led to the innovative framework approach for the creation of the Western Massachusetts Literacy Collaborative (WMLC). This is a partnership between Elms College, Springfield Public Schools, and other institutions aimed at improving literacy outcomes for K-12 students.

Dr. Tyra Good reflected on this announcement, "It is a distinct honor to be recognized among Massachusetts' leading higher education leaders. This acknowledgement reflects the collective work of Elms

College's Center for Equity in Urban Education to prepare diverse educators and ensure all students have access to equitable, high-quality literacy instruction through strong educational partnerships."

The list recognizes dynamic leaders across the Commonwealth who are shaping the future of higher education and addressing some of the most pressing challenges facing the field of higher education. Selected through extensive research and interviews by MassLive's higher education reporting team, these leaders are making significant strides in ensuring education remains a catalyst for opportunity and equity in a rapidly changing landscape.

Declutter with Caring Transitions

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will offer host "Declutter with Caring Transitions" on Monday, June 9 at 10 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St.

Caring Transitions of Hampden County provides senior relocations and downsizing services to families in Western Mass. During this program, you will learn exactly what Caring Transitions does, from assisting

with packing, unpacking, re-locating, clean outs, etc.

Caring Transitions aims to eliminate the stress out of transitions and decluttering. Space is limited and you must register in advance at RiverMills Center.

PIONEERS from page 7

outs in the first two matches, made a diving save on the shot taken by Taig Healy. The ball was deflected away by Hall, but Healy was in the right spot to knock home the rebound shot giving the visiting team a 1-0 advantage.

The Pioneers scored the equalizer a little more than ten minutes later.

The scoring play began with Suarez sending a crossing pass from the left side of the penalty area to Kaufmann, who fired a shot into the lower right corner of the net.

Neither team was able to score another goal during the last 30 minutes of regulation.

The second meeting of the regular season between



Israel Neto looks to clear the ball away.

the two squads is scheduled to take place on June 25th.

The Pioneers played a road match against the Boston Bolts on June 3 before

returning home three nights later to face NEFC, who's competing at the USL-League Two level for the first time this season.

HALL SERIES from page 7

ough, Mass. BYU, featuring Brockton, Mass., product and consensus No. 1 incoming recruit A.J. Dybansta, is also set to participate in the Hall of Fame Series Las Vegas event on Opening Night, Nov. 3.

"Bringing the Hall of Fame Series to Boston for the first time is an exciting milestone, especially just down the road from the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield," said Melissa Meacham-Grossman, President of Position Sports. "UConn's championship leg-

acy and BYU's emerging star power—highlighted by Massachusetts' own A.J. Dybansta—set the stage for a memorable night at TD Garden, in a city where the game's history runs deep, thanks to the tradition of the Boston Celtics and the legacy of their many Hall of Famers."

Further details regarding ticketing, game times, broadcast details, and media credentials for the event will be shared at a later date.

The Hall of Fame Series, owned and operated by Position Sports, is a premier

collection of multi-game, singular events that feature top collegiate basketball programs in high-profile non-conference matchups played both domestically and abroad. Past stops have included the following cities: Baltimore (2024), Charlotte (2023), Las Vegas (2023-24), New York (2024), Phoenix (2023-24), San Antonio (2023), and Toronto (2023).

For more Hall of Fame Series information and updates, please visit HOFSeries.com or follow @HOFSeries on all social platforms.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Marsh plant	32. Exclamation of satisfaction	10. Low spirits	36. Affected by injury
6. Southern constellation ("The Peacock")	34. African nation	11. Approves food	37. Geological time
10. Fogginess	35. Slow-moving animal	12. Monetary unit of Iran and Oman	39. Stationary part of a motor
14. Home to Fools' Day	37. Oh, goodness!	13. Mary __, cosmetics	42. Brings together
15. Absence of the sense of pain	38. A team's best pitcher	16. Expressed in pithy maxims	43. Of sound mind
17. Popular November holiday	39. Cleanser	18. Relaxing spaces	44. Personal computer
19. Consume food	40. Radioactivity units	22. The NFL's big game	46. Without (French)
20. Buddy	41. Expectorated matter	23. Proof of payment (abbr.)	47. A bank might give you one
21. Long-haired goat-antelope	1. Satisfy	24. Starchy preparation of dried orchid tubers	48. Agricultural testing organization
22. Japanese honorific	2. European health advocate	25. Indicates near	49. A small island
23. Actor Malek	3. Expression of annoyance	27. Minneapolis suburb	50. Type of gene
24. One point south of southeast	4. Strong liquor	28. Herring-like fish	51. Murres
26. Illegal acts	5. Large red deer	29. Doctors' group	52. Card game
29. As fast as can be done	6. Holder of less common religious beliefs	30. Pouches	53. A measure of human health
31. Prevents harm to young	7. West Indian shrub	31. Bread dipping in sauce	54. Australian airline (abbr.)
	8. Family of proteins	33. Commercials	55. One point south of due west
	9. Wealthy, influential business leader	35. A reminder of past events	56. Affirmative

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IN THE CITY

MAYORIAL TERM from page 1

State House and representative and General Court assembly by the authorization of the same as follows," Laflamme said. "The other part has not changed; what was voted on the other day."

On the second part of section one, Laflamme said it was brought up by Ward 7 Councilor William Courchesne "to be more clear on the timing" for when the four-year term would begin.

This was reviewed after Courchesne shared this concern on May 20, which led the council to vote to send the petition back to the Rules Committee.

"So, I'd like to see it be at the next annual municipal election in the city of Chicopee to be held in 2027 and as such election is every fourth year thereafter. The mayor shall be elected by the qualified voters of the city voting in their representatives," Laflamme said. "The mayor shall be elected by ballot and shall hold office for four years for the first Monday in January following the election as which they were elected and until a successor is elected and qualified."

The final change pertained to section four.

"This act shall take effect upon acceptance by the majority of the qualified vote for the city of Chicopee, present and voted therein as--we have to put in municipal now because last time it was a state--we are in the municipal

election in this current year," Laflamme said.

Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello asked a clarification question before the vote.

"I just want to make sure that this is clear that the next annual municipal election that this will take place is in 2027?" Costello said.

Attorney Tim Riley confirmed this was correct.

"There's three changes. One is to the title. Two, there was a question from Councilor Courchesne about the mayor or who's running for a term now. Would that mean if he won the election in November and this passed the ballot in November, would he get a four-year term? And that's not how it works," Riley said. "So, there's going to be two elections. One is the municipal election coming in November, which would approve this and the second is it won't take effect until the election of 2027, which means whoever becomes mayor in 2027 in that election starts that term in 2028. That would be a four-year term."

When Ward 3 Councilor Susan Goff asked what happens if this does not pass when voted on in the upcoming 2025 election, Laflamme replied it will stay as a two-year term.

"If the voters don't want it, it goes back to the two-year term. It stays where it is, absolutely," Laflamme said. "But, it does go on the ballot. They have the last say."



CPD takes part in Rise and Shine Fitness Club

PHOTOS AND CAPTION COURTESY OF CHICOPEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHICOPEE – May 30 was the last day of the Stefanik's Rise and Shine Fitness Club. Thank you for allowing our C3 Willimansett Team to be part of this fun club. We hope to be back next year with some new exercises.



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IN THE CITY

Father's Day Breakfast at RiverMills Center

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will offer a Father's Day Breakfast on Friday, June 13, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St.

Come and celebrate Father's Day at RiverMills Center with a delicious breakfast. The cost of this event is \$5. Space is limited and you must register in advance at RiverMills Center.

The Importance of Mental Health at RiverMills Center

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will host River Valley Counseling Center on Tuesday, June 10 at 10 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St.

Join Program Director Chelsea Parker LICSW of the Chicopee CCBHC Program of the River Valley Counseling Center's Chicopee Clinic as they present on mental health issues on the rise, warning signs, resources available and why we all need someone to talk to. Although this is a free workshop, you must register in advance.

HCC Foundation awards \$364,400 in scholarships

HOLYOKE - The Holyoke Community College Foundation has awarded \$364,400 in scholarships to students for the 2025-2026 academic year.

This year, the HCC Foundation awarded 410 scholarships to 379 incoming, current, and transferring HCC students. Some students received multiple scholarship awards. Individual awards range from \$500 to \$5,000.

HCC celebrated this year's recipients and donors at a scholarship reception on May 15.

The HCC Foundation is a 501(c)(3) that works to advance the college's mission, vision, and values. Founded in 1968 as the Friends of Holyoke Community College, in response to a devastating fire that forced the college to rebuild on a new campus, the Foundation now manages assets of more than \$20 million, the largest community college foundation endowment in Massachusetts.

An alphabetical list of all scholarship recipients and their awards can also be viewed on the HCC website.

From Chicopee: Mia Almodovar, Chance Almonte, Hector Aponte, Yaritza Arce (two awards), Nichole Bullcock, Kimberly Burke, Agnes Centeno, Allison Charron, Vincenzo Dandridge, Taylor Dunn, Estefany Duron Mejia, Adrian Fernandez, Hannah Flowers, Christopher Fondakowski, Ksenia Fox, Cassidy Gendreau, Jaymen Gill-Suaava, Daudy Guerrero, Megan Harrington, Vincent Herne

(two awards), Kylie Hochrein, Isabella Jones, Briana Liswell, Andres Lopez Pozo (two awards), Corin Loveley, Mennah Mahdy, Janaiah Maldonado, Neala Meade, Isabel Ortiz, Karen Paquette, Morgan Pierog, Renee Pierre, Francheska Ramirez-Rios, Tamisha Rios, Savannah Rushlow, Ashley Ryan, Natalie Sliwa, Nathan Szukala, Sook Yew Tang, Alexa Turgeon (two awards), Brian Valdez, Andrew Williams.

HCC celebrates Class of 2025 nursing graduates

HOLYOKE - Holyoke Community College celebrated the graduation of 53 students from its Associate in Science in Nursing degree program on Thursday, May 22.

The students were recognized during a pinning ceremony in HCC's Leslie Phillips Theater, during which they were formally inducted into the healthcare field as soon-to-be registered nursing professionals. During a traditional pinning ceremony,

new nursing graduates light candles, receive their nursing pin, and recite the Nightingale Pledge.

The graduates, many of whom are already working, will sit for their exams before becoming licensed as registered nurses.

Holyoke Community College Associate of Science in Nursing Degree Graduates for 2025:

C h i c o p e e : Amber Fernandez, Katie Furr, Priscilla Villodas.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, June 25, 2025 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 Chapter 275-52 (B) 3 for the purpose of installing a driveway and storage shed on a vacant lot located at 0 Cherryvale St (Parcel ID 0759-00005). Applicant - Tara & Douglas Furkey, 38 Cherryvale St., Chicopee, MA 01020.

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

The June 25, 2025 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.

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Special Permit application under Chapter 275-36 (C) for the purpose of constructing a duplex behind the rear walls of neighboring residential structures located at 0 Montgomery Street next to 92-94 Montgomery Street (Parcel ID 0230-00033). Applicant-Erik Govoni, 92 Montgomery St., Chicopee, MA 01020

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

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Special Permit application under Chapter 275-53 (B) (14) for the purpose of kennel license for 4 pet French Bulldogs located at 25 Mayflower Ave. Applicant - Brittany Morse, 25 Mayflower Ave., Chicopee, MA 01013.

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

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CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL LICENSE COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The License Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Monday,**

June 16, 2025 at 6:30 PM in the Auditorium, 3rd floor, City Hall, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Application for a Home Occupation License for the purpose of doing a home office for mobile auto detailing business located at 30 Mt. Carmel Ave. Applicant - Kevin Ortiz, 30 Mt. Carmel Ave., Chicopee, MA 01013.

The June 16, 2025 License 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, Chicopee, MA 01013. You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.

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 **June 6th 2025** 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.

2012 Mercedes Benz CLS550 VIN: WDDLJ9BB9CA027957 Tahleek Bethel 125 Temby St. Springfield, MA 01119

1996 Dodge Dakota VIN: 1B7GG23Y2TS565933 Matthew Mcsweeney 10 Gold St., F 1, Westfield, MA 01085

2014 Nissan Pathfinder VIN: 5N1AR2MM8EC714883 Leomarys Garcia-Verdejo 74 Stonia Dr. Chicopee, MA 01013

2008 Toyota Yaris VIN: JTDDBT923181258898 Ann Guerin 16 Washington St., Apt. 110 Westfield, MA 01085

Hawk Motorcyle VIN: LXDPCNPE9M1062971 Jose Mauel Joubert-Cruz 593 S Bridge St., Apt. 41 Holyoke, MA 01040

2008 Ford Fusion VIN: 3FAHP08168R254051 Emily Yanachkov 24 Washington Ave. Natick, MA 01760 05/23, 05/30, 06/06/2025

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 June 13th 2025 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.

2011 Nissan Maxima VIN: 1N4AA5AP4BC857438 Jesenia Rivera 300 Walnut St., Apt. 707 Holyoke, MA 01040

2006 Subaru Forester VIN: JF1SG6569H750291 Shunta Brintley and Phoebe Brintley 911 Main St. Worcester, MA 01610

2000 Honda Accord VIN: JHMCG6690YC035454 Stephen Kuy 559 S Canal St., Apt. 634 Holyoke, MA 01040

2014 GMC Terrain VIN: 2GKFLWEK7E6274507 Wilson Ramon Paulino 22 Hanover St., Apt. B Nashua, NH, 03060 05/30, 06/06, 06/13/2025

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 June 20th 2025 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.

2010 Nissan Sentra VIN: 3N1AB6AP1AL640738 Amy Lynn Wintch 3 Old Chester Rd. Huntington, Ma 01050

2008 Toyota Sienna VIN: 5TDZK23C28S122869 Lisa Jarvis 7 Ludlow Rd. Chicopee, MA 01020

2004 Freightliner Conventional VIN: 1FUJA6CK54DM34178 Ip Express LLC 949 Olive St 2nd Fl Elizabeth, NJ 07201

2009 Honda Odyssey VIN: 5FNRL384X9B036607 Jose Vallecastro 595 E 170th St., 5N Bronx, NY 10456

1995 Honda Accord VIN: 1HGCE6649SA001030 Roxanne Rodriguez 178 Florence Rd., Apt. 3C Florence MA 01062 06/06, 06/13, 06/20/2025

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. HD25P1138EA

Estate of: Harry James Madru Also known as: Buddy James Madru Date of Death: 04/18/2025 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Sharon A Florek of Westfield, 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: **Sharon A Florek of Westfield, 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 06/25/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

assets and expenses of administration.

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

Date: May 28, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 06/06/2025

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. HD25P0992EA

Estate of: John Lawrence Stefanik, Jr. Date of Death: 01/04/2022 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

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

The Petitioner requests that: **Stephen J Stefanik of Southington, CT** 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 06/24/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: May 27, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 06/06/2025

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.
visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

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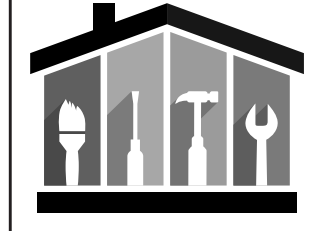
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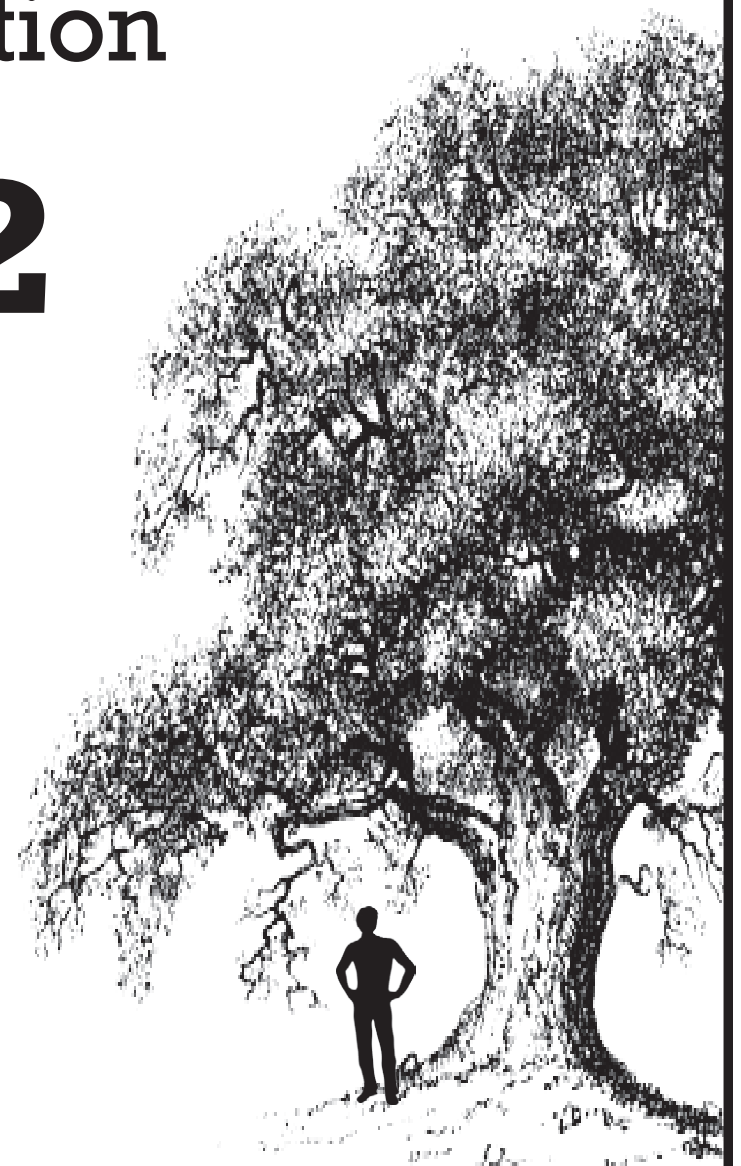
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