

Chicopee Register

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COMMUNITY

Chicopee celebrates Portuguese Heritage Month

First time in the city's history the Portuguese flag was raised

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
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CHICOPEE - Residents gathered outside City Hall on June 9 to raise the Portuguese flag for Portuguese Heritage Month.

Mayor John Vieau presided over the ceremony alongside city employees and City Council members, explaining it is the first time the city raised the Portuguese flag.

Vieau credited John Boyer for making the flag-raising happen.

"He came to us and said, 'We never raise the Portuguese Flag here at City Hall,' and we said, 'Well, let's do it,' and here we are, so I want to thank you John for that," Vieau said.

Vieau reflected on the Portuguese-American community's impact through local businesses Bernardino's and Red Fez Bar & Grill to the many Portuguese families he grew up with, who still live in the city today.

"We're really creating history, and I'm excited about to-



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

A group photo of everyone at the Portuguese Flag Raising ceremony outside City Hall including members and family members from The Portuguese American Club, business owners, Mayor John Vieau, city employees and more.

day and the Portuguese-Americans, you're a huge part of this city, and I wanted you to be recognized," Vieau said.

Vieau presented the proclamation to Brian Mendes, president of The Portuguese American Club.

State Sen. Jacob Oliveira (D-Ludlow) reflected on his heritage as the first Portuguese-American to represent Western Massachusetts in the state legislature, adding the

Portuguese-American community in Chicopee is "strong" and "what makes this community great."

"Whether it's The Portuguese American Club, whether it's the Red Fez, whether it's Bernardino's Bakery, whether it's the numerous Portuguese individuals that contribute back to this community. It is just such a powerful occasion to be here today to raise this Portuguese flag," Oliveira said.

State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee) thanked the community for their contributions "not only here to our great city, but to our Commonwealth and our nation."

"I simply just want to extend that gratitude and support for the community and hope that you all would take the time

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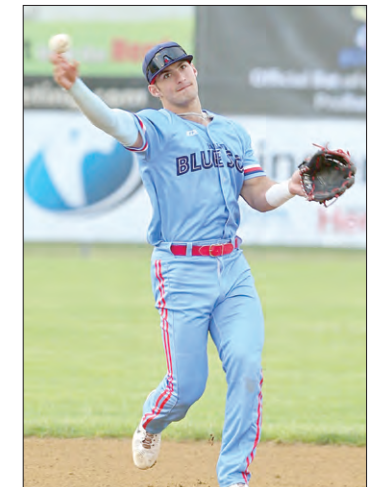
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COMMUNITY

Homegrown firefighters graduate from the academy



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CHICOPEE FIRE DEPARTMENT

(L to R) Nicholas Meuse, Hunter Laroche and Laura Rousseau graduated from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy on June 9.

By Dalton Zbierski
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CHICOPEE - With friends and family in attendance, three Chicopee firefighters graduated from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy as part of Class #S32 on June 9.

The three newest members of the fire department are Hunter Laroche, Nicholas Meuse and Laura Rousseau. All three

are from the city of Chicopee. Nicholas Meuse Meuse, 28, first wanted to become a firefighter in the first-grade after his an encounter with a member of the fire department.

After graduating high school, he spent eight years in the Marine Corps. With his military background, Meuse was encouraged to pursue his

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COMMUNITY



TURLEY PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

City Councilor Delmarina López elaborates and Mayor John Vieau both addressed a report that the city continued paying insurance benefit premiums to employees after they died or resigned.

Report: Chicopee paid benefit premiums to employees after they died or resigned

City Councilor Delmarina López elaborates, Mayor John Vieau responds

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - The City of Chicopee continued paying insurance benefit premiums to employees after they died or resigned.

Ward 3 City Councilor Delmarina López revealed the issue in a press release and announcement at the June 5 City Council meeting.

López explained current employees came forward with information.

"I take these kind of allegations very seriously. This is potentially hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars that have been wasted, including paying for insurance for deceased persons as well as former employees," López said.

López said the city admitted to the issue publicly, but it should have been brought to the City Council and taxpayers' attention before that happened.

"They should have also-

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City Councilor Delmarina López announces run for mayor

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - Ward 3 City Councilor Delmarina López is running for Mayor of Chicopee.

An educator, attorney, City Councilor and small business owner, López explained these endeavors and her experiences working for and civically engaging with government entities will positively contribute to the city.

"I understand how it works. I understand how budgets work. I understand the needs of the community and I represent a part of the community that has oftentimes not been represented. I think underrepresented voices deserve to be heard," López said. "Someone who is not just in tune with what the residents want but takes that with utmost consideration to make sure that we're doing not just what's best for the city but also what's best for the residents that are most impacted by the decisions that we're making."

A graduate of Chicopee High School, she wants more support for teachers and

students.

"I understand what this specific system needs and as an educator, I'm able to have a higher level of understanding of education and teachers, what support they might need and what students need to thrive," López said.

López said the city lacks in listening to residents and valuing their input.

"This current administration has brought forth big developments and has not listened to the residents' feedback on how the development affects their everyday lives. I think that that is neglecting the residents and it's irresponsible," López said. "Development is necessary, we absolutely need to bring in more tax dollars, but that's done through economic development plans and through input from the residents."

López also wants to bring more representation.

"The city is diverse and it's growing. The diverse populations in the city are growing, but I'm behooved by the lack of public input and the lack of listening to the



Delmarina López

residents and the lack of representation of women and minority groups in elected officials and positions of leadership in the city. That is proof enough that we are not inclusive in the ways that we should be," López said.

López wants to shake things up, present fresh ideas and revitalize the city.

"There's so much that the city could be growing in. We look at surrounding cities where revitalization is happening and they're growing and their small businesses are thriving, they're not just floating, and their schools are thriving and we could have that under the right leadership, and I can bring that leadership," López said.

López envisions support for veterans and seniors, including helping them stay in their homes, access to services and lower property taxes.

Additionally, she envisions better housing assistance and public transit support.

"We do need to address the high rents and support first-time buyers with down

payment assistance and lower interest rates," López said.

For public safety, she believes in improving community-police relations, including working with the C3 Unit.

"I'm looking towards expanding that program in the city and focus on not just improving the community-police relations, but also how do we prevent crime and keep people safe," López said.

Other issues López will focus on include addressing pedestrian safety, environmentally-friendly measures, small business support and city planning.

Additionally, she will focus on transparency and accountability.

"I think it's important for residents to have a leader they can trust," López said.

López shared why she is running for mayor.

"We need a leader that is going to put the city back on track. The city deserves that, the city deserves a leader that will lead not just with heart but also coupled with experience and with knowledge and understanding of how the city should be run," López said. "Our residents also deserve a voice in city government."

Chicopee Public Library lists upcoming June events

CHICOPEE - The following events will occur at the Chicopee Public Library at 449 Front St.

Tuesday, June 20 at 6:30 p.m. Poetry and the Spoken Word -o you write poetry? Do you love the spoken word? The Chicopee Public Library is starting up a new program on the third Tuesday of every month, "Poetry and the Spoken Word" with local poet, Mary Jennings. Our next meet-

ing is June 20. Sign-ups will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the program will begin at 7 p.m. Come join us to share your favorite poems, do a dramatic reading, share a favorite monologue or just listen. Teens (16+) and adults are welcome. This program is supported by the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the MA Cultural Council, a state agency.

Wednesday, June 21, 28 at 6 p.m.

Evening Yoga -Yoga classes with Carolyn Ruzala will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6-7pm. Class will be held outside behind the library if weather permits and in the Community Room if needed. Please have the following props available for class: yoga mat or a blanket and strap or scarf. For more information, email or call the Reference Desk at cpl@chicopeepubliclibrary.org and 594-1800 x3. This pro-

gram is sponsored in part by the Friends of the Chicopee Public Library.

Thursday, June 22, 29 at 6-6:45 p.m.

ASL Class The Library is offering a beginning, four-week ASL Class for adults. The Class will be taught by SIGNING Basics from Springfield. Registration is required.

Call the library at 413-594-1800x3 or email us at cpl@chicopeepubliclibrary.org to register or for more information.

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Residents celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community at Pride Fest

The event took place at Szot Park

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - Residents stopped by Szot Park from 3-9 p.m. on June 10 for the third annual Pride Fest to celebrate the LGBTQIA community.

The event was organized by the Chicopee Cultural Council.

Throughout the event, residents enjoyed food, music, drag performances, a bounce house castle and vendors including Moon Magic, Raw Beauty Brand LLC, Hooked Crochet Creations, the Chicopee Public Library, the fire department and many more.

Additionally, a park parade featured Free Mom Hugs, First Congregational Church, Tapestry Health, the police department, Lorraine's Soup Kitchen and more.

Mayor John Vieau, Ward 3 City Councilor Delmarina López, State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), Chicopee Cultural Council Chair Jeanette Rivera, Pride Fest Emcee Johnny Miranda and Emarie Leatherwood, the chairman for the event's Organizing Committee, provided remarks at the welcome ceremony.

Artist Courtney Froebel of FroebelArt is a resident, part of the community and an ally who was selling her artwork.

This is her second Pride Fest and for her, the sense of community and showing support to the LGBTQIA community is important.

"It makes me happy to be a part of Chicopee, to be a part of this community and just to see a diverse group of people show support and love," Froebel said.

Emily Williams and Erin Rideout of Dyke Dyes were selling shirts, stickers, bandanas and pins made with tie-dye and thrift materials.

Additionally, in partnership with The Tiny Activist, she sold tote bags to support the J.S. Bryant School, an LGBTQIA-affirming school, and trans health.

Williams explained attendees could



Emarie Leatherwood leads the parade procession during Pride Fest at Szot Park. Leatherwood was the chairman of the Organizing Committee for Pride Fest.

purchase the bag itself or a bag with a children's book.

"The book itself either has LGBTQ representation or is written by somebody who identifies as LGBTQ," Williams said.

Williams said pride and representation are important.

"It's just really important for us to be out in the community as our authentic selves and supporting everyone here," Williams said.

Williams also encouraged people to learn about the community, offer support and be open and accepting.



Johnny Miranda, Pride Fest emcee and member of the Chicopee Cultural Council, gives remarks during Pride Fest at Szot Park.



(L to R) Jacqueline Machell of Uniquely Jacqueline, Lee Bee of Horsefish Designs and Lauren Kneeland of Curryland Designs show off their Pride-themed artwork and designs during Pride Fest at Szot Park.

"It's hugely important. We exist, we're not going to go away," Williams said.

Miranda explained Pride Fest originated before the pandemic when he wanted to create an LGBTQ scene in Chicopee. After an unsuccessful run for City Council, he wanted to continue that vision.

"It all started with building gay nights at a bar called Exchange Street Station. In there, I brought in queer artists to exhibit their work, but I also brought performing artists--the drag queens--to perform in that bar," Miranda said.

After the pandemic closed down the bar, Miranda wanted to keep going.

"I proposed the Cultural Council starting a Gay Pride Fest and they were supportive with it and got us some funding and that's how we started," Miranda said.

He was grateful for the turnout, adding it's increased every year.

"This is amazing. The support that the community has given us, the support that the city has given us and the support that the vendors and businesses have provided this year," Miranda said.

Miranda said "it was very important" to have the elected officials showing their support in light of ongoing legislation against the LGBTQIA community, drag queens and transgender people across the country.

"We want to know that our city officials stand by our side, that they have our back. So by inviting them and having them present in our festivity just tells us that that is precisely what they're doing. They have our back," Miranda said.

Froebel had this message on this Pride Month.

"You're seen, you're valid, you're loved and I hope that you can have a space, and if you don't there are means throughout the community. There are avenues for you," Froebel said.



Employees from Chic'Salon By José display their pride and a banner promoting their business along the park parade procession during Pride Fest at Szot Park.



Artist Courtney Froebel of FroebelArt shows off her artwork during Pride Fest at Szot Park.

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GUEST COLUMN



Lots o' lettuce

The weather has been nothing less than unpredictable these last few weeks.

While there has been next to no rain at my locale, friends and family have talked about deluges and even quarter-sized hail blanketing their deck space. Temperatures for June seem bizarre, too.

If cold night temperatures weren't enough, a day of mercury bursting into the 80's will shock even well-watered plants. Before heat-lovers can adjust, it's back into the 50's and low 60's.

Strange indeed.

While it's too soon to say whether this year will be a bust or boom, I can say that my lettuce is doing wonderfully!

I started my lettuce indoors the first week of April, at the same time I sowed broccoli and kale seed. I saved little "plug" trays from a prior plant purchase and filled the tray with moist seed starting mix.

Lettuce seed needs light to germinate, so I pushed two or three seeds per cell into the soil to make contact but not so far as to have them get covered up. To keep the soil surface moist, I slid the whole tray into a clear plastic bag.

I left it in my laundry room in front of a window where it would get some afternoon sun and checked on it periodically, misting it a couple times a day. After about five days the seeds had sprouted.

It was a little challenging to keep them growing well indoors, but I did, and was able to move the tray outside on nice days where it could get some filtered sunlight.

On one such occasion I hit the end of the doorway with the tray, knocking a number of the cells loose! I re-filled the cells and transplanted what I could salvage and they adjusted fine.

About a month later, in early May, I planted the lettuce seedlings into the garden. Since I planned to grow the lettuce for leaves and not heads, I planted them fairly close to one another, just about six inches apart in a wide block about four feet long by two feet deep.

Every foot or so I interplanted a leek plant; leeks require a long growing season and will outlive the lettuce, but for now they make good companions.

I began harvesting the third week of May, and now, I can make a salad to feed an army. The bed is a beautiful blend of colors, textures and flavors.

Typically, I pick it right before I want to eat it, rinsing it in a sink of cool water before sending it through the salad spinner or blotting it dry with a paper towel.

Lettuce is undemanding in the garden as long as you provide it with rich soil and a daily watering if nature does not provide. Some compost mixed into the top couple inches of soil will keep it well fed.

When temperatures rise, lettuce will bolt. Bolting simply means that the lettuce is going to seed. It will send up a main stalk that has little leaves on it, inevitably flowering at the end of the stalk.

The flowers are yellow, with seeds forming at the end of little pieces of fluff that help them to disperse in the breeze.

Sometimes lettuce will even self sow. I had a beauty come up in the middle of my mulched path this year and moved it to the wide bed.

To keep lettuce growing during the heat of summer gardeners get creative, often planting heat tolerant varieties and/or planting it in the shade of trellises of vines or under shade cloth.

GUEST COLUMN



How will working affect my first year's benefits?

Dear Rusty: I retired from working in January of this year and have since claimed Social Security. I didn't work at all in February or March, but I began a part time job in April. I'm very confused about how Social Security counts earnings for the first year. I don't know if I need to keep each month's earnings under \$1,770 or if they average it. Some of the literature I've found says each month must remain under \$1,770 or no benefit will be paid that month. Two people at the Social Security office told me that they'll just dock me \$1 for every \$2 I am over that, even in my first year. I also cannot find anything about when they count your income. Is it when it's earned or when it's paid? If I go over in a month because there are three pay periods, can they withhold the benefit for that month? I'm just so confused! Signed: Part Time Worker

Dear Part Time Worker: The Social Security earnings test during your first year collecting benefits before full retirement age is, indeed, somewhat confusing. The reason is because there are two methods, which Social Security may use during your first calendar year collecting early benefits, and they will use the one which results in the least financial impact to you.

To elaborate:

If you claim benefits mid-year before your full retirement age, for the remainder of that first year (starting in the month benefits begin and ending in December) you'll be subject to a monthly earnings limit (\$1,770 for 2023). If you exceed the monthly limit in any remaining month of that first calendar year, you won't be entitled to benefits for that month, so Social Security would (eventually) take back that month's benefit. That is, unless using the annual limit (\$21,240 for 2023) instead will result in a smaller penalty. If your total earnings for your first year

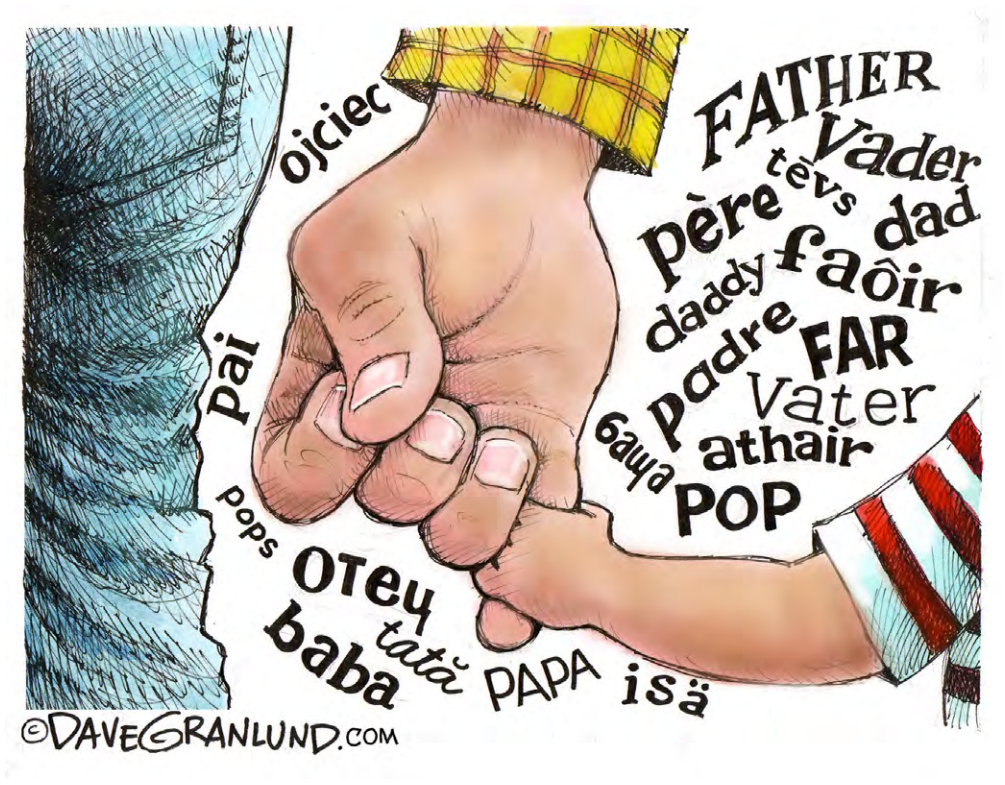
collecting are over the annual limit (e.g., \$21,240 for 2023), the penalty would be \$1 for every \$2 over the annual limit and, if that is less than the penalty from using the monthly limit, they will assess the smaller penalty. In other words, Social Security will use the method, which is most beneficial to you when assessing a penalty for exceeding the earnings limit during your first calendar year collecting benefits. And just for clarity, the earnings limits are much higher and the penalty less during the year you attain Full Retirement Age.

Something else to be aware of: if you know in advance you will exceed the annual limit it would be best to inform Social Security in order to avoid an Overpayment Notice next year. If you don't, Social Security won't know about your 2023 earnings until you file your 2023 income taxes, so you'll get your 2023 monthly payments as usual. But when the IRS informs Social Security of your 2023 earnings later next year, Social Security will ask you to detail your monthly work earnings for 2023. If you have exceeded the limits, they will determine an overpayment amount and will ask you to either pay back what is owed in a lump sum or will withhold your benefits for enough months to recover what you owe for exceeding the 2023 earnings limit. Then, after you FRA, you'll get time credit for all months in which benefits were withheld, thus slightly increasing your monthly payment after your FRA.

Finally, it is when your income is earned that counts, not when it is paid. So, for example, if you worked in January 2023 and were paid for that work in February 2023, that is considered January income, which wouldn't count toward the February earnings limit.

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Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



I am planning on planting a succession crop soon so that I'll have replacement plants on standby to tuck into the bed that my garlic will be harvested from. My husband enjoys a big salad every night and this will surely help our grocery bill.

If you have never tried growing lettuce, I encourage to you give it a whirl!

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

WE CARE ABOUT YOUR NEWS!

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

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DPW to spend \$700,000 on signal maintenance in Fairview

By Dalton Zbierski
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CHICOPEE – On June 6, City Council unanimously approved a \$700,000 appropriation to the Department of Public Works for signal maintenance in Chicopee’s Fairview neighborhood.

The signal maintenance will complement more extensive work in south Fairview on the intersections of Montcalm and James Streets and Montcalm and Britton Streets.

“We’re going to be disturbing two intersections there,” DPW Superintendent Elizabeth Batista said. “This is the third schedule for the sewer separation project in south Fairview. We have three schedules (or) components, one being water, one being wastewater, the sewer, and one being traffic.”

Batista said the intersections have the oldest equipment in the city so the con-

tractor will be “ripping through them,” making it an appropriate time to upgrade the traffic signals.

“We budget annually about \$100,000 to upgrading intersections so we are utilizing the contractor to do the installation work, and we will provide them with all the equipment, which we budget for annually,” she said.

Batista said Tighe & Bond completed a design to ensure that equipment works properly and timing is accurate for the traffic that flows through each intersection. There will also be “pedestrian additions,” she said.

Ward 3 Councilor Delmarina López agreed that it is prudent to replace the traffic signals. She also offered an update on the total project cost.

“If we’re going to be tearing up the area, we might as well do both things at once so that we don’t have to pay for it twice,” she said. “This is a portion of the project. The project has a total funding

deficit of \$4,950,279 that is being covered by ARPA, and then this is a \$666,000 that are required to complete the total funding deficit.”

Last Tuesday, City Council also unanimously approved \$59,917 to go towards the Reserve for School Special Custodians, funding part of Chicopee’s youth summer work program.

“A reminder to everyone, this only funds a portion. It costs almost \$105,000 to hire the 25 to 30 kids that we hire over the summer,” said Chicopee Public Schools Director of Maintenance Scott Chapdelaine.

The money that was appropriated on June 6 stems from the cell tower money that the city receives from Sprint for the cell tower that exists above Dupont Middle School. Unfortunately, that tower will soon be removed, cutting the money that the city receives each year in half.

“On July 10, (Sprint) will start the decommissioning process with remov-

ing all of Sprint’s equipment from that school, and we will be installing a standard flagpole on top of that building, which has already been purchased,” Chapdelaine said.

Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello praised Chapdelaine’s work at the middle school, noting that she was impressed when she visited on Memorial Day.

“The grounds were immaculate, the bushes were trimmed, and it was something that, as citizens of Chicopee, we can all be proud of,” Costello said.

Costello also had kind words for the youth summer work program. Familiar with the program from her time on the School Committee, Costello said it is very well managed and helps out many youths in the city.

“Believe me, they not only learn how to paint, sometimes they learn landscaping as well. They learn a skill, they get money and they feel good about themselves,” Costello said.



(L to R) Mayor John Vieau, City Assessor Laura McCarthy, Vice President/Councilor-at-Large Robert Zygarowski, Ward 3 City Councilor Delmarina López and Ward 4 City Councilor George Balakier listen as State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee) gives remarks during the Portuguese Flag Raising ceremony outside City Hall.



(L to R) State Sen. Jacob Oliveira (D-Ludlow) reflects on his Portuguese-American heritage as Mayor John Vieau, City Assessor Laura McCarthy, Vice President/Councilor-at-Large Robert Zygarowski, Ward 3 City Councilor Delmarina López and Ward 4 City Councilor George Balakier look on during the Portuguese Flag Raising ceremony.

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from page 1

to learn a little bit more about this rich diversity that we do have here in our community,” Arriaga said.

Mendes was thrilled by the turnout.

“It’s good exposure to the Portuguese community for sure. There’s a lot of Portuguese people in the city who have done a lot, and this means a lot to all of us,” Mendes said.

Mendes said The Portuguese American Club is on Exchange Street, family-oriented, with a small bar and lounge.

“We’ve held many events: weddings, birthday parties, jack and jills, stag parties, catered for all,” Mendes said. “Very well-run establishment.”

Mendes added the flag-raising means

a lot to people who came from Portugal in the early 1970s.

“Found home here, found work here, a lot worked over on Meadow Street, the old Spaulding building which is now Callaway. They’ve grown their families here in Chicopee, and when you look at Chicopee as a whole, different pockets of the city, there are definitely Portuguese communities in the different parts of Chicopee Center,” Mendes said.

Joseph Jack explained his father, Albert Jack Sr., was a founder of The Portuguese American Club, adding the flag-raising is very important.

“It’s great. It brings attention to the Portuguese community, the culture, the food, family of course, the local businesses,” Jack said. “It’s a benefit for the Portu-

guese to have something like this.”

Cindy Valentine was honored to raise the flag in memory of her father, Joe Valentine, who was also one of the club’s founders.

“It’s very special for me. My father was very proud of his heritage, very proud of where he came from, his culture, and

very proud, also, to be an American citizen. He loved Chicopee and he loved his fellow Portuguese community,” Valentine said.

She had this message.

“I would love the City of Chicopee to remember just how vital all of our people are to this community,” Valentine said.



City Assessors Victor Anop and Laura McCarthy applaud as Mayor John Vieau presents the proclamation to Brian Mendes, president of The Portuguese American Club.

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IN THE CITY

FIREFIGHTERS from page 1

childhood dream.

"So I took all the correct steps to get into it and, lucky enough, Chicopee Fire hired me," he said.

Meuse was born and raised in Chicopee and has lived in the city for the entirety of his life, excluding his time spent in the military. It means the world to him to be able to serve his hometown.

"To be able to come back home and work for the fire department and maybe give back a little bit more, it means a lot. I'm really looking forward to it," he said.

At the academy, Meuse learned more than he expected. The most difficult part about the 10-week course was acclimating to wearing heavy gear for hours on end.

"Most of the time, you're not used to spending five or six hours in gear that's upwards of 30 to 50 pounds, running around, then you're lugging all these hoses and packs and all this other heavy equipment around so that took a lot of getting used to," he said.

Meuse reiterated that he is excited to serve his community. He hopes to be able to help out when others need assistance in their most trying times; he believes he will be able to stay calm during stressful situations.

For youths looking to one day join the fire department, Meuse said the job is an active one. Members of the fire department must be in shape and have perspective.

"If you're not taking care of your body first and foremost this job will beat you down really fast," he said. "Stay driven. There will be tough days. If you understand that not every day will be the best day you have, just get better every day after, you should have no problem fitting into the fire community."



Hunter Larochelle was a member of Class #S32 of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy.

Laura Rousseau

Rousseau, 32, expressed that she felt a sense of pride as she graduated from the academy last week. She said it was a special feeling to see everyone excited for her accomplishment and noted that her support system is "unreal."

Rousseau most looks forward to working in her home city, where she will pay it forward.

"I grew up here and I've seen everyone who did this job before me so it kind of gives you a sense of calling," she said. "My community's been there for me, and I just want to be there for them at this time. I had the urge and followed that dream and here I am helping them out."

Rousseau described the job as physically demanding and explained that she built up her body so she could handle the rigors of the job. When speaking about the academy, she said the "mental game" was more difficult than the physical one, only



Nicholas Meuse graduated from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy on June 9



Rousseau graduated from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy last Friday.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE CHICOPEE FIRE DEPARTMENT

because of how tired she was at times.

"Overcoming that mental game was really tough for me in some situations compared to others, but you kept fighting through and you did it," she said. "You were proud of yourself at the end of the day. You couldn't believe you did it so the most difficult (part) for me was getting over those humps when it was hot or hard. Then you did it, and here we are."

Rousseau used the word "home" to describe the fire department. She said members of the department eat meals together, work hard together and bond together.

"Family" was another word she used to characterize the environment.

"They have your back no matter what. Whether you mess up or do something good, they're still going to be there for you," she said.

When asked to give encouragement to future firefighters, Rousseau reminded them that the job requires immense sacrifice. She said that aspect was one of the biggest things she had to prepare for.

"You're going to have to want to sacrifice. You're going to miss birthdays, you're going to miss graduations, the best word to describe how to prepare yourself is to prepare to sacrifice those moments that you're going to miss the most because you're not there," she said.

Hunter Larochelle

Larochelle, 25, was inspired as a

youth when he would watch fire apparatuses show off their equipment around the city.

"It was most definitely growing up and seeing all the firetrucks and everything like that," he said.

As he prepared to graduate high school, he decided to get serious about a career as a firefighter and went to college to study fire science. All the work in the classroom, however, couldn't fully prepare him for the physical challenges of the 10-week fire academy.

"The most difficult part for me personally was getting acclimated to how sore your body is going to be throughout the whole thing because you're doing rigorous activities day to day, but you make a lot of relationships there. Really, when you make those relationships, it's easier to keep going throughout the day," Larochelle said.

As a full-time member of the fire department, Larochelle has been impressed by the camaraderie. He described the department as a big family and said that veteran firefighters have made themselves available to answer any questions he might have.

Now, Larochelle envisions a long career in the department. When asked how he got this far, his answer was simple.

"It takes hard work and perseverance. It's going to suck sometimes but the end result is really worth it," he said.

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Blue Sox open regular season



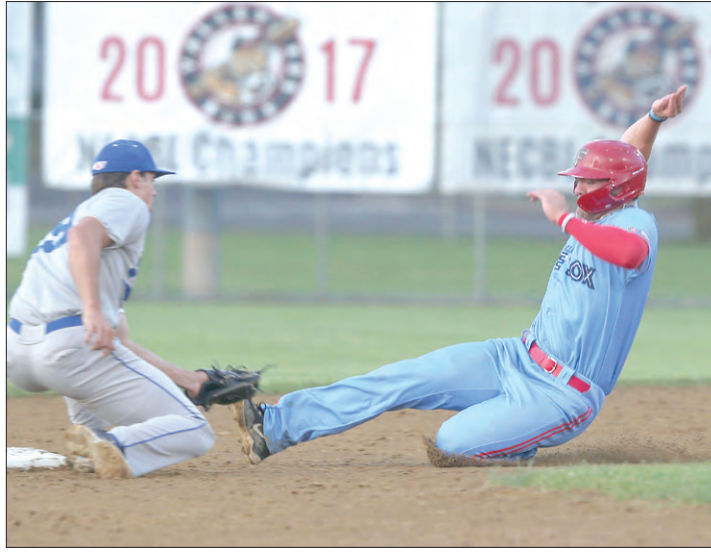
Matthew Garcia rages to pick up the grounder.

HOLYOKE – The Blue Sox dropped their final game of their four game homestand, losing to the Martha's Vineyard Sharks by a score of 11-4 on Sunday afternoon. The Blue Sox tallied three hits on the day, and all their runs came in the third inning. The team fell to 2-3 on the season.

The Sharks scored 11 runs off of nine hits, with Clemson's

Nathan Hall going 3-5 on the day with two triples. The Blue Sox allowed nine stolen bases and seven advancements on wild pitches or passed balls, and will hope to limit the traffic as they head on the road for their next game.

In one of the most peculiar innings of play so far this season, the Blue Sox were able to



Matthew Bergevin slides safely into second.

score four runs while not tallying a hit the entire inning. The runs all came from walks and hit batters, allowing four runners to score thanks to the Blue Sox excellent plate discipline. Martha's Vineyard walked eight batters today and hit two.

Matt Bergevin was able to produce quality at-bats in each of his plate appearances today,

going 1-3 with two walks. With strong plate discipline Bergevin worked three consecutive at-bats to a full count.

EJ Kreutzmann stayed hot at the plate, going 1-5 with an RBI.

The Blue Sox opened the regular season on the road, then had four-games from Thursday to Sunday.

Tigers out to first place start

CHICOPEE – Last year, the Chicopee Falls Tigers made their triumphant return to the Tri-County Baseball League.

The Tigers, which took a few years off after many years competing in the league, had a successful return season before falling in the playoffs.

Now, the Tigers are a new staple in a league that has actually seen the number of teams dwindle all the way down to six.

Chicopee is out to a 5-2 mark, giving the Tigers 10 points under the standings system used in the league. The Tigers had more games than some of the other teams to start the season as PeoplesBank and St. Joe's got off to slower starts with their schedules.

Despite the great mark to start the year, three more teams are nipping at their heels, with PeoplesBank, St. Joe's, and DiFranco Realty all with three wins and six months in second place.

The Bankers are the reigning, defending playoff champions for the past eight seasons. They are 3-1 to start.

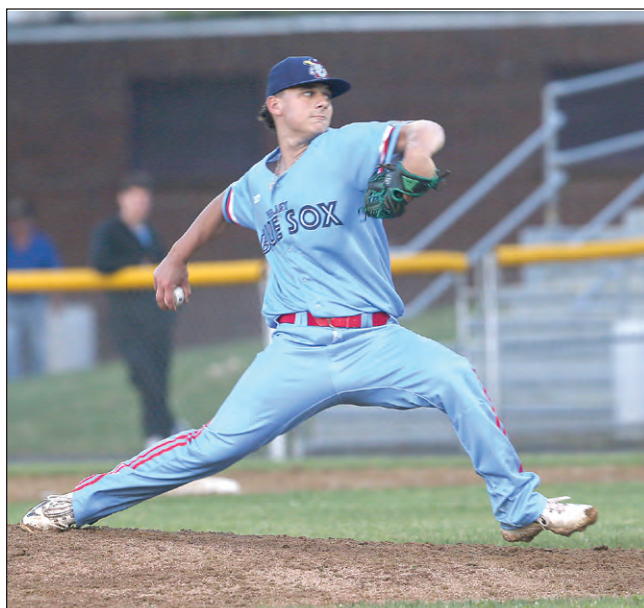
The success of the top four teams has come mostly at the expense of 413ATC and the Longmeadow Cardinals, which are 1-3 and 1-7, respectively to start the season.

Coming up on Tuesday, June 20 is a big matchup between PeoplesBank and the Tigers where first place could be on the line. The action begins at Mackenzie Stadium in Holyoke at 7 p.m.

The Bankers won the first matchup between the two teams on Tuesday, June 13 at Szot Park, beating the Tigers 4-2.



Miachel Zarrillo fires to first.



Nick Callano winds and fires.



Eliot Dix makes a play.

Pioneers gets another draw

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—The last two Western Mass. Pioneers home matches have ended in draws. It's something that hasn't taken place at Lusitano Stadium since 2018.

Four days after playing a scoreless draw against Black Rock FC, the Pioneers had to settle for a 1-1 home tie versus the Boston Bolts, last Wednesday night.

"Another tie really doesn't help us very much," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. "We've been having trouble putting the ball into the net during the past couple of games."

At the beginning of the 2018 regular season, the Pioneers posted back-to-back 1-1 home draws against the Boston Bolts and the GPS Portland Phoenix.

The Pioneers also played a road tie against the Seacoast United Phantoms and a home tie against the Westchester Flames in back-to-back matches at the end of the 2018 regular season.

The good news is the Pioneers haven't lost a regular season match at Lusitano Stadium since June 22, 2018, when they suffered a 2-1 setback to Black Rock FC.

The Western Mass. squad had a 3-0-3 overall record after their first six matches of this season. Their other tie came in the

first meeting of the regular season with the Phantoms, which took place away from the friendly confines of Lusitano Stadium on May 25.

The Pioneers posted a 3-0 road victory over the Bolts in the season opener on May 16.

Western Mass. was trailing 1-0 at halftime of last Wednesday's home contest.

The Bolts (0-3-3) took a 1-0 lead following a header by Harry Sankey, which was assisted by Tanner Barry, during the 21st minute.

The home team, who played much better during the second half, had several very good

See PIONEERS page 8



PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Connor Hicks makes a throw-in.



Tomas Duben socks a corner kick away.

Rollins takes win in Late Model race

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Veteran wheelsman Geoff Rollins rocketed to victory Saturday at Monadnock Speedway, gobbling up the competition as he won the first round of the 2023 Teddy Bear Pools NHSTRA Late Model Triple Crown series at the storied high-banked speed-plant.

The Bay State hot shoe was one of four drivers scoring his first win of the year Saturday on the high banks. Nate Wenzel, NHSTRA Modifieds, Louie Maher, Mini Stocks, and Michael Yeaton, Six Shooters, each earned his first victory lap of the summer, while Pure Stocker Chris Davis and Young Gun Adrian Smith both won for the second time.

Starting up front in the 50-lap main event after dominating his heat race, Rollins never looked back en route to running away with the \$1,000 top prize. Strongman Chris Buffone stayed with him the first ten laps but when Buffone suddenly dropped out on lap 11, it was all Rollins. Behind him, though, the competition was fierce for spots two through five.

With only one caution, on lap 47, slowing the rapid-fire event, gains were hard to come by as the sizzling field blasted through the fog. Kenny Thompson claimed the duce at Buffone's demise, but had Tim Wenzel glued to his bumper.

Matt Sonnhalter, charging from row four, took second on lap 35, but Wenzel stayed just inches behind. With three to go, Rollins lost his half-lap lead, while the two top contenders set up for a furious finish. Son-



Geoff Rollins got a victory at Monadnock Speedway last Saturday evening.

halter's last-lap backchute dive netted him second, with Wenzel, Thompson, and Hillary Renaud rounding out the potent top five.

Sophomore speedster Nate Wenzel led all the way in the NHSTRA Modified 40-lapper, keeping defending track champ Tyler Leary in his shadow to score his first victory of the summer. Brian Chapin edged Aaron Fellows for third, while JT Cloutier, spun on lap five, stormed back through the field to come home fifth.

The crowd held its breath in this one, as the red waved on lap five when Kimmy Rivet's open-wheeler took a wild ride in turn two, landing on top of the backstretch wall. Something appeared to have broken in Cole Littlewood's car, sending him into Rivet and then into the wall, but both drivers fortunately walked away from the carnage.

Louie Maher made the move of the night on lap three of the Mini Stock feature to take the lead from Skyler Shippee and then hold strong to score his first win of the season in the caution-free 25-lapper. Shippee fin-

ished at his bumper, with Kevin Clayton strong in third.

Chris Davis held second-generation pilot Nolan McClay in his shadow for all 25 laps to win his second Pure Stock feature in a row. Reigning Claremont champ Chris Chambers was third, taking the checkers just ahead of Kodi Sabins and CJ Johnson.

Week one winner Steve Miller and son Steve Jr. brought the Six Shooters to the green but, if this one was supposed to be a Marvelous Millers show, Michael Yeaton hadn't read the script. Yeaton took over on lap three and never looked back. Miller Jr. was strong in second, with Renegade Robert Shaw coming home third.

Markus O'Neil led the first eight laps of the Young Guns feature before giving way to event winner Adrian Smith. Owen Zilinski got up for second on lap 11 but couldn't reel in the speedy Smith, while O'Neil stayed strong to earn the third podium spot.

After a weekend off, Monadnock Speedway will return

to action on Saturday, June 24, when it hosts the 50-lap Pure Stock Shoot Out. The NHSTRA Modifieds, Pro 4 Modifieds, Mini Stocks, and Young Guns, along with the NELCAR Legends and Bandaleros, will all be in action too.

Monadnock Speedway June 10 Unofficial Top Tens:

TEDDY BEAR POOLS TRIPLE CROWN LATE MODEL 50: Geoff Rollins, Matt Sonnhalter, Tim Wenzel, Rupert Thompson, Hillary Renaud, JD Stockwell, Erik Smith, Isabella Minchella, Gordon Farnum, Chris Castor.

NHSTRA MODIFIED: Nate Wenzel, Tyler Leary, Brian Chapin, Aaron Fellows, JT Cloutier, Cory Plummer, Joel Belanger, Eric Leclair, Adam LaPoint, Kevin Pittsinger.

MINI STOCK: Louie Maher, Skyler Shippee, Kevin Clayton, Cam Sontag, Erin Aiken, Jon Fultz, Chris Sontag, Robert Williams, Jake Puchalski, Pat Houle.

PURE STOCK: Chris Davis, Nolan McClay, Chris Chambers, Kodi Sabins, CJ Johnson, Colton Martin, Jimmy Zellman, Andrea St. Amour, Colton Hull, Ricky Melcher.

SIX SHOOTER: Mike Yeaton, Steve Miller Jr., Robert Shaw, Steve Miller Sr., Andrew Scott, Ethan Meyeette, Mike Comtois, Zach Zilinski, Jacob Scott, Russell Mason.

YOUNG GUN: Adrian Smith, Owen Zilinski, Markus O'Neil, Madison Cousino, Addison Brooks, Cambri Hubbard, Kailyn Hubbard, Sofia Rego, Jordan Higbee.

Athletes invited to participate in sports clinics

LUDLOW – Lions Pride Sports Clinics are back. Young inspiring athletes have the opportunity to participate in one or all of our exciting clinics.

The 2023 lineup consists of, Soccer session 1 from June 26 to 30, Soccer Session 2 from July 17 to July 21. Athlete Prep strength and conditioning program from June 27 to Aug. 10, Basketball from July 10 to 14, High School and Beach Volleyball June 20 to Aug. 15, Volleyball Basics July to Aug. 16, and Wrestling July 10 to Aug. 16.

All clinics are held on the campus of Ludlow High School and are geared toward the development of fundamental skills.

For more information log on to lionspridesc.wix.com/lpsc or contact Tim Brillo TBrillo1723@gmail.com.

Registration is now online at <https://www.familyid.com/organizations/lions-den-sports->

PIONEERS from page 7

chances to put the ball into the net past Bolts goalie Nikola Antich.

Alec Hughes, Jared Smith, Lucio Berron, and Khalid Rose had shots on goals for the home team.

Augustine Boadi, who's a first-year member of the Western Mass. Pioneers squad, finally got the job done during the 84th minute.

Boadi, who'll be entering his sophomore season as a member of the Boston College men's soccer team in the fall, received a pass from Hughes before firing

a shot off the post into the right corner of the net for the game tying goal.

"It was the third goal that I've scored as a member of the Western Mass. Pioneers," said Boadi, who was born in Accra, Ghana. "I scored my first goal of the season in a home match against Pathfinder. The second one came at Boston City, which was a 10-1 win. Another tie wasn't the result that we really wanted in tonight's match, but it's one of those games we need to learn from."

Boadi also does a very good job in the classroom at Boston College. He was recently selected to the ACC All-Academic Team.

Prior to playing soccer for Boston College, Boadi attended Northfield Mount Hermon where he was named as the Massachusetts Gatorade Player of the Year as a senior.

Frankie D'Agostino, who's a former Pioneers player and is currently the associate head coach of the B.C. men's soccer team, recommended Boadi to Molinari.

"Frankie played a key role in getting me to play for the Pioneers this year," Boadi said. "Vermont and the Bolts also wanted me for them. Frankie told me about this team and stadium, so I decided to come here. It has been a lot of fun so far. This is a very

special place and I'm hoping to come back here next year."

D'Agostino, who grew up in Longmeadow, had the chance to watch Boadi play a soccer match at Lusitano Stadium for the first time last Wednesday night.

It looked like the Pioneers would take a 2-1 lead with a stoppage time goal, but the referee never called it a goal.

"From my point of view, I thought the shot by Andrew Serafino did go into the net," Boadi said. "It was either a goal or we should've been given a penalty kick because of a hand ball."

Molinari gave his thoughts

about the no goal call.

"All of the players told me it was a goal," he said. "If it was a goal, it's disappointing that the referee didn't allow it, but there isn't anything we can do about it now. We now must win the rest of our games if we want the chance to make the playoffs."

Nicholas Oberrauch, who's the Pioneers captain, didn't play in the Pioneers home match against the Bolts because of an injury.

After playing a couple of road matches, the Pioneers will be returning home to battle rival Seacoast United at 7 p.m. on June 23.

Happy Father's Day

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Lucio Berron dribbles up the field.

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Lieutenant Lambert graduates from FBI National Academy



Lt. Douglas Lambert

SUBMITTED PHOTO

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Police Department announces that on June 8 Lt. Douglas Lambert graduated from the 286th Session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA. The 286th Session of the National Academy consisted of 238 law enforcement executives from 47 states and the District of Columbia. The class included members of law enforcement agencies from 25 countries, five military organizations and six federal organizations.

Internationally known for its academic excellence, the National Academy offers 10 weeks of leadership and fitness training. Participants must have proven records as professionals within their agencies and only one percent of law enforcement executives will be invited to attend this training. Lambert is the first member of Chicopee Police Department to attend this training.

Since 1972, National Academy students have been able to earn

graduate credits from The University of Virginia, which accredits all the National Academy courses offered. Lambert took courses in essentials for law enforcement executives, advanced human engagement strategies, psychology of leadership, executive leadership in drug crimes, managing organizational change, and fitness in law enforcement.

Lambert said, “I appreciate the support of Chief Major, my family, and all members of the Chicopee Police Department during my time at the National Academy. This experience has been extremely rewarding and I look forward to putting this training into practice at the Chicopee Police Department.”

Lambert has been a member of the Chicopee Police Department since April of 2007, was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in September of 2016 and Lieutenant in October of 2019. Lambert currently serves on the dayshift detective division.

Upcoming events and announcements

Police department to hold Youth Police Academy this summer

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Police Department will be holding its Youth Police Academy again this summer and applications are now available. This is a great experience for kids aged 14-17 to come together and learn about law enforcement, team building and problem solving. If you would like more information or have questions about the program please contact Officer Mark Hammon at Mhammon@chicopeepolice.com.

Chicopee to offer CPR/AED & first aid training class

CHICOPEE – The Parks Department is offering a certification class in First Aid/cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an automated external defibrillator on Saturday, June 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Chicopee Parks & Recreation Dept. 687 Front St. This class is open to people ages 11 and up.

The cost for the full class is \$80 for residents and \$85 for non-residents. These are basic certifications and do not apply for daycare providers, lifeguards and nurses. Participants are invited to bring a snack. Class space is limited! To register go to www.chicopeerec.com Deadline to sign up is Thursday June 20.

Father's Day Picnic to occur June 18

INDIAN ORCHARD – St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church will hold its annual Father's Day Picnic on Sunday, June 18 from noon to 5 p.m. on the church grounds at 135 Goodwin St., Indian Orchard. Visitors are invited to enjoy many favorite Armenian dinners including shish kebab and rice pilaf. Baked goods will also be available for purchase. The picnic will also feature a raffle, Armenian music and dancing, and outdoor activities.

Admission and parking are free. For more information, please call the Church office at 543-4763.

IN THE CLASSROOM

Chicopee students receive degrees from Quinnipiac University

HAMDEN, CT – The following students from Chicopee received degrees from Quinnipiac University during commencement ceremonies held in May: Hope Gauthier, Bachelor of Science, Health Science Studies, Kiersten Matulewicz, Master Health Science, Pathology and Mathieu Toczek, Master Business Administration.

Stallman makes Muhlenberg College Spring 2023 Dean's List

ALLENTOWN, PA – Congratulations to Brayden Stallman of Chicopee for being named to the Muhlenberg College Dean's List for the Spring 2023 semester. Muhlenberg College students and Muhlenberg College School of Continuing Studies students with a term GPA of 3.50 or higher were recognized for this academic achievement.

BENEFITS from page 1

lutely notified the council, especially because the council oversees the finances of the city,” López said. “The council should have been notified about this and they were not. The mayor and administration did not let us know.”

López feels it's “really hurtful and harmful and unacceptable” for residents not to know where their money is going, adding it causes distrust.

“Taxpayers need to know that their elected leaders are responsible for their hard-earned dollars. They deserve to know where their money's going and that the local government can effectively manage its operations,” López said.

López called for an independent audit and investigation, expressing concerns about the Employers Association of the Northeast, the auditor contracted by the city.

“I know that that's not an independent auditor because we already have a contract with EANE. They're not independent investigators and auditors,” López said. “It's a band-aid. That's not an actual independent investigation and audit.”

She hopes for more transparency.

“At best, this is mismanagement and a devastating oversight. We hope that that's what it is. It's unfortunate, but we hope that that's the extent of what it is, but we know that there's a possibility that this could be more than that,” López said.

López added, “This affects all residents, all taxpayers.”

“This is mismanagement of taxpayer funds and when residents and taxpayers pay their taxes here, they do so trusting that their funds are going to be managed properly. As a city, we're supposed to oversee how every dollar is spent,” López said.

López added Mayor John Vieau has “shown of lack of leadership.”

“As a city and community, we need an independent audit and investigation and it is evident that we need a change in leadership. We need a new mayor. The current mayor and his administration have not properly addressed this issue and, therefore, we need leadership that will properly address this issue,” López, who is running for mayor, said.

Vieau explained during an audit on dental insurance premiums in November/December 2022, the issue was discovered and corrected.

The audit dug deeper during the process.

“It looked like it was something more than that, and they looked at health insurance. So the city was paying those benefits, but they were no longer employees, ultimately, is what the story is,” Vieau said.

Vieau said the goal was to recoup some of those premiums. As the process went deeper, another issue concerning medical insurance was found.

“When it was brought to my attention, the Human Resources Director (Paul Winspeare) at the time came in and said, ‘Looks like it's a bigger problem there.

Looks like it's also medical insurance.’ and I said, ‘Okay.’ Like any person would say, ‘I'm tasking you as the HR Director to resolve it’ and he was tasked with fixing it,” Vieau said.

Additional corrections were made in January through March 2023 as the insurance broker delved more into the issue.

Vieau stressed, “no one benefited from this.”

“We were paying benefits. No particular employee received anything. There's no corruption, there's no one stealing money. I just want (to say) also, to be clear, we are collaboratively all working together to fix the problem,” Vieau said.

Vieau explained the former HR Director contracted the Employers Association of the Northeast to work with the city beginning June 9.

“This has been planned. We've been waiting for them to actually come,” Vieau said.

He said “no one has to worry about their job for blowing the whistle” because the information came from the former HR Director.

Additionally, they did not have conversations with López.

“The word ‘corruption’ is sensationalizing this and trying to turn it into something it's not. I'm just disappointed that that approach is being taken by someone who hasn't spoken to me, never called me once, and has not spoken to our treasurer, our auditor, anyone in the HR Department, the acting HR Director, any sort of people who all work collaboratively to

make this happen. To make sure it doesn't happen is a process,” Vieau said.

Vieau clarified EANE is looking over, updating and correcting the city's process and is open to López's request for an audit.

“If she has an auditor in mind that she wants to have a look at this, then we can talk about that,” Vieau said. “Again we have nothing to hide other than the fact that there was a mistake that is being addressed.”

Vieau also reached out to another source for additional input.

“I reached out to a town administrator who told me it's very common that benefits may be paid to an employee who is no longer there and that's not something atypical,” Vieau said.

When asked why the issue was not made public, Vieau said this.

“I think people make mistakes here, and I don't run to the media to tell them that someone potentially could be receiving a dental benefit who didn't pay for it. I don't see that as being news or a press release,” Vieau said. “We started correcting it immediately when we found it.”

Vieau reiterated the issue is being corrected and is unsure of the facts himself.

“I'm not sure how long this has been going on. I've been here for three-and-a-half years. It could have been going on longer than that. To say that it's the mayor's fault or blame employees, we don't do that here,” Vieau said. “Once it was found out it was addressed.”

RiverMills Center announces June programming

CHICOPEE – The RiverMills Center, Chicopee’s senior center at 5 W Main St., has announced the following programs for the month of June through the Council on Aging.

Drum Away the Blue

The COA will host the workshop ‘Drum Away the Blues’ on Thursday, June 22 at 10 a.m. at the RiverMills Center.

Join Craig Harris, master percussionist, educator, historian, author and photographer for this workshop that combines songs, stories and a multitude of rhythms. This workshop is funded by the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency sponsored by

the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. You must register in advance.

Rainbow Coffee Hour

The COA will host a Rainbow Coffee Hour on Wednesday, June 28 at 10 a.m. at the RiverMills Center.

Come join others for an LGBTQ+ coffee hour here at RiverMills Center. Jay Weingarten, LGBTQ+ Outreach Coordinator with WestMass Elder Care, will be on hand to chat about Rainbow Social Clubs in the area and other resources that are available to the LGBTQ+ community. Registration is not required.

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 19, 2023, at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper’s lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2005 Dodge Caravan
VIN: 1D4GP45R95B387042
Alexandra Jones
11 Kristen Ave.
Agawam, MA 01001

2005 Jeep Grand Cherokee
VIN: 1J4GR48K95C553070
Isaiahs Lozada
1750 Dwight St. Apt. 7
Springfield, MA 01107

2005 Toyota Camry
VIN: 4T1BE32K25U090290
Breno Ferreira
8 Lakeview Gdns Apt. 518
Natick, MA 01760

2006 Chevy Cobalt
VIN: 1G1AL55FX67741321
Boyen Hanlon
5 Bofat Hill Rd.
Williamsburg, MA 01096

2007 Audi Q7
VIN: WA1BY74L17D103973
Teah Wright
1819 Barnes Ave. A1B
Bronx, NY 10462

2009 Ford Flex
VIN: 2FMDK51CX9BA28185
Carlos Rivera
582 White St.
Springfield, MA 01108

2012 Toyota Corolla
VIN: 2T1BU4EE8CC778176
Nevens Conte
12112 Town Walk Drive
Hamden, CT 06518

2016 Subaru Impreza
VIN: JF1GPAB60G8259994
Chelsey Aguiar
29 Wellington St.
Fall River, MA 027200

6/02, 06/09, 06/16/2023

**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. HD23A0074AD
In the matter of:
Aryana Rachele Nunez
CITATION
G.L. c. 210, §6**

TO:
**Wendi Rachele Young
Edwin Javier Nunez**
any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented to said court by:

Glorimar Rodriguez of Springfield, MA

Rafael Rodriguez-Ortega of Springfield, MA requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to
Aryana Rachele Rodriguez

If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person.

An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3:10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran’s benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT Springfield ON OR BEFORE TEN O’CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: 06/30/2023.

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

Date: May 25, 2023

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate

06/09, 06/16, 06/23/2023



OPPORTUNITY

newspaper correspondent

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

- **Must be dependable, professional and able to meet strict deadlines**
- **Salary based on a flat rate by story and photo**

Send writing samples with resume to



Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or email directly to
ekennedy@turley.com

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

Community Newspaper EDITOR WANTED

Turley Publications is looking for a “hands on” energetic candidate who loves telling stories to be the editor for two weekly publications. This position will include managing and coaching a small news staff that will provide the community with a great local newspaper.

The editor will need to cover local government and events while representing the newspaper at public venues.

The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills and is also expected to gather news and write stories for the two papers as well as for other occasional companywide publications.

This is a job for a self-starter who has a vision for growing and connecting with our valued readers, and who thoroughly enjoys community journalism.

This full-time position with flexible schedule is based in our Palmer office at 24 Water St., this is not a remote position.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor’s degree or equivalent experience
- Willingness to mentor a staff writer and correspondents
- Editing experience and ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style
- Management experience and/or experience managing content for a print publication.

Please send resume and writing examples to:

Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or email directly to
ekennedy@turley.com

JOB OPENING

STAFF WRITER

Turley Publications, based in Palmer, is seeking a storyteller who is curious about everything, and who understands how town government works to join our team of weekly reporters.

Experience in covering town government is a huge plus, and any experience in community journalism is as well. Staff writers cover all aspects of communities from features to municipal meetings to crimes and fires. Successful candidates must have people skills, plenty of curiosity and able to tell a story.

If you’re a self-starter who enjoys community journalism and who can envision themselves connecting with our communities, we encourage you to apply for this position. Not a remote position.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor’s degree or equivalent experience
- A determination to get the story, whatever it might be
- Equally comfortable writing hard news, features and event coverage
- Ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style

Please tell us in a cover letter why you would be a good fit for this position and send it along with a resume and three writing samples to



Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or email directly to
ekennedy@turley.com

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of July 4th,
PUBLIC NOTICES
EARLY AD DEADLINE
Place your public notice
no later than NOON

Thursday, June 29

– Thank you!

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

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

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

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Let them know you saw their ad in the

Chicopee Register

Classifieds

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14 WRENWOOD LANE, AGAWAM. JUNE 16-18, 9AM-3PM 4 Family, large variety of items from lawn mowers, holiday decor to so much more. Come see for yourself.

MULTI-FAMILY TAG SALE

Saturday, June 17 and Sunday, June 18
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
1093 Lyon Street, Ludlow, MA

JUNK REMOVAL

ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL

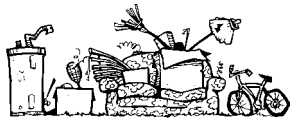
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Call Pete 413-433-0356.

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Donald Roy (860)874-8396

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FIRE DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT The Town of Hampden seeks qualified applicants for the position of Administrative Assistant providing support to the Hampden Fire Department. The successful candidate will perform diversified duties in support of the Department; effective communication skills, computer literacy and the ability to operate office equipment are required. Standard job requirements and a job description may be found online at hampden-ma.gov. Send resumes to **Robert Markel at 625 Main Street, Hampden 01036** or email (preferred) at townadmin@hampden-ma.gov by June 21.

PART TIME SECRETARY FOR SMALL AGAWAM OFFICE need to be organized with attention to detail. Reply to babco321@comcast.net

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM

POLICE OFFICER (2) The Town of Wilbraham is looking to fill two vacancies for Police Officer. For application and more information please visit www.wilbraham-ma.gov. Review of applications begins immediately. Open until filled. EOE

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One-year anniversary of satellite office celebrated with ice cream



CHICOPEE – Mayor John Vieau, City Council President Frank Laflamme and Hampden County Register of Probate Rosemary Saccomani are delighted to celebrate the successful one-year anniversary of the Registry of Probate and Family Court Satellite Office, located at Chicopee City Hall. This milestone marks a year of dedicated service to the community, providing efficient and convenient probate and family court services to the residents of Hampden County.

Since its establishment on May 9, 2022, the Registry of Probate satellite office at Chicopee City Hall has played a crucial role in addressing the needs and meeting the growing demand for probate services in the region. By bringing probate services closer to the community, individuals and families have a choice of traveling to different locations, saving time and effort.

Register of Probate Rosemary Saccomani expressed her appreciation for the continued support from Chicopee City Hall and the community at large, stating, “The establishment of the first Hampden County Satellite Office here at Chicopee City Hall has been a tremendous success. My staff and I are grateful for the opportunity to serve the residents of Hampden County more conveniently. This past year has allowed us to enhance our services, streamline processes, and provide personalized assistance to our visitors.”

Over the past 12 months, the Registry of Probate’s Satellite office at Chicopee City Hall has served an average of 10,000 phone calls and over 1,000 walk-ins since opening, helping them navigate through probate matters efficiently and effectively. The dedicated team of professionals at the office has been committed to providing a high standard of customer service, ensuring that each visitor receives access, guidance and support they require during what can often be a complex and emotional process.

“We are thrilled to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the Registry of Probate’s Satellite Office at Chicopee City Hall,” Vieau said. “The presence of this office has not only benefited our residents but has also contributed to the overall efficiency of our government services. We are proud to collaborate with Register Saccomani and her team, and we look forward to many more years of successful partnership.”

As the Registry of Probate and Family Court Satellite Office at Chicopee City Hall enters its second year of operation, Saccomani and her team remain committed to providing exceptional service to the community. They continue to explore opportunities to enhance their offerings and ensure that the probate process remains accessible, efficient, and compassionate for all. Saccomani invited the public to join the city on June 13 in at Chicopee City Hall where the Chicopee Police Department ice cream truck handed out free ice cream, compliments of Saccomani to the public in celebration of the satellite offices anniversary.

For more information about the Registry of Probate and Family Court Satellite Office at Chicopee City Hall, please contact: joseph.thibault@jud.state.ma.us



SUBMITTED PHOTOS



RSVP:
(413) 593-0088
 (scan QR code for email)

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 & AL LIVIN'
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 CHICOPEE ASSISTED
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