

# Chicopee Register

## CPL Hosts Zen Coloring

**By Christina Gioscia**  
*Correspondent*

CHICOPEE – The library hosted a Zen Coloring event on July 21.

This workshop, run by Crayon Artist Marie Manley Tucker, was free to attend. Zen coloring offers a relaxing creative evening of stress-free fun for people of all ages to enjoy.

Tucker started off by sharing previously done examples with attendees to allow them to get inspired. She then informed everyone that they could follow along with her own drawing instructions or simply draw what they would like.

Tucker’s crayon art for the Zen Coloring took an abstract approach.

Tucker talked about the journey that led her to pursue this art form.

“Since about 2013 I have been working toward being published traditionally as an author or illustrator in picture books using a combination of traditional art, colored pencils and digital illustration. I have stories of my own and I’d love to illustrate other’s works. But

**See ZEN COLORING page 6**



TURLEY PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA  
The result of Marie Manley Tucker’s canvas at her Zen Coloring event.



## PGA Pro Bob O'Neill honored at 90th Birthday Invitational

**By Brendan Rooney**  
*Correspondent*

CHICOPEE – A special moment unfolded in the city as the community gathered at the Chicopee Country Club to commemorate the legacy of the city’s greats, longtime golfing legend and former PGA Pro Bob O’Neill, on his 90th birthday on Aug. 1.

**Chicopee comes together**  
In attendance for the celebration were hundreds of friends, family, and local and former state officials who partook in the signature ‘Bob O’Neill Invitational’, a tournament put together by his son and current Chicopee Country Club Golf Director Mike O’Neill, which left Bob speechless and full of gratitude surrounded by all as he kicked off the outing with the signature tee shot.

“I have no other words, besides thank you,” O’Neill said after opening the tournament. “I want to say thank you to all of the golfers, and to my family and friends; this is just amazing.”

He then hopped into his golf cart and didn’t look back.

**Happy Birthday Bob!**  
Additional tributes came through as current Mayor John Vieau shared today is about Bob.

“I’m just so happy to be part of his birthday celebration here today, and it just shows he’s [Bob] is loved and adored by his community, and it was a great day to golf, and that’s what [Bob] would love, and here’s to celebrate, which is just amazing,” Vieau said. “He is 90 years young, and I wish him another 10 or 20, and again I’m just excited to be a part of this, and I’m happy to see the turnout who showed up in support of Bob; it’s extremely telling of the person and special individual he truly is.”

**See O’NEILL page 5**

## Appointment of Chicopee’s new Chief HR Officer delayed

*City Council voted Tuesday to table the appointment*

**By Dalton Zbierski**  
*Correspondent*

CHICOPEE – The City Council made a unanimous decision Tuesday evening to delay the appointment of Bianca Janeczek as the city’s next Chief Human Resources Officer.

The request from Mayor John Vieau to appoint Janeczek, a city resident, to the position was tabled by the councilors, who requested that they have an opportunity to interview her.

Vieau had hoped that Janeczek could start as soon as Aug. 10.

For now, it will be a temporary appointment for 90 days, and if approved, the appointment will then become permanent.

The key role in the city’s HR Department became available after Karla Bourassa moved out of state earlier this year. Vieau explained the circumstances.

“Our former HR director has left and has relocated her entire family to Florida. If watching, I wish her the best in her future endeavors in the sunny state of Florida. But

here in Chicopee, we received approximately 40 resumes,” Vieau said.

According to the mayor, each resume was vetted by a panel that he put together. It featured some of the city’s top officials.

“That panel included our police chief, our fire chief, our superintendent of DPW, our treasurer, myself and my chief of staff Mike Pise,” Vieau said. “We went through all of the resumes and chose which ones we thought were in our best interests of interviewing and narrowed it down to six who were interviewed in the first interview phase.”

Vieau said the first round of interviews went very well and that the panel chose two final candidates. Every member of the panel agreed to naming them as the finalists.

“We chose to go forward with a second interview, and as Mayor, I wanted to really make this inclusive,” Vieau said. “So, I invited [the entire HR Department] to come up with some questions that they would like to ask the two finalists. They were part of the interview process, and I think they really appreciated it.”

Vieau noted that all six employees from the HR Department and the entire selection panel concluded that Janeczek is the best candidate for the job.

Still, City Council wanted more information. The group may have felt it should have been more involved in the process.

If ultimately approved and confirmed, Janeczek would be the city’s fourth HR Director in five years. Those who previously served in the role were Karla Bourassa from April 2025 to June of this year, Stephen Zajchowski—who was hired as chief of Human Resources—in July 2023 and then terminated in November 2024 after two in-

**See HR OFFICER page 8**

## Voting location changes for Ward 4, 5 announced

**By Kristin Rivers**  
*Editor*  
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CHICOPEE – Wards 4 and 5 will have their voting locations changed, City Clerk Keith Rattell announced during the Aug. 4 City Council meeting.

The announcement comes ahead of the state primary on Sept. 1.

Rattell explained how Ward 4 used to vote at the old Chicopee High School—which is now Dupont Middle School—before it was changed to the senior center due to construction, while Ward 5 had residents voting at the First Central Baptist Church.

“We’re having an issue in (Ward 5),” Rattell said. “First Central Baptist Church, it’s kind of tight to park in there. The new pastor wants us on the second floor, and that was problematic for the last two elections; they had us on the second floor. Lot of complaints. People didn’t want to use the elevator or didn’t want to use the stairs and the lines were getting long. Can you imagine a presidential election where you’re waiting for the elevator, there’d be a line out the door, down the sidewalk and into the parking lot. So, First Central Baptist Church isn’t working out anymore.”

Rattell said the church rented the first floor to a school, which is why the second floor would have had to be used. It was also the only option.

**See VOTING page 8**

## Summer Bash raises \$15K for Lorraine’s Soup Kitchen

**By Kristin Rivers**  
*Editor*  
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CHICOPEE – The Fourth Annual Riley’s Resort Annual Summer Bash raised \$15,210 to support Lorraine’s Soup Kitchen & Pantry on Aug. 1.

The event, now in its fourth year, is a fundraising event hosted by Kate and Nick Riley of Riley Home Realty to support a local nonprofit organization.

Last year’s event raised \$11,960 for Lorraine’s and this year’s goal was \$15,000.

The festivities included over 50 raffle prizes, entertainment from Trailer Trash, Otan Vargas and Joe Walsh on the bongos, a 360 photo booth, beer and wine from The Beer Guy, games of volleyball and cornhole and more.

The Silver Sponsors were Curry Honda and Curry Nissan, while the Bronze Sponsors were Falls Pizzeria and Chicopee Industrial Contractors.

Kate Riley explained that every year, a local nonprofit organization is chosen and 100% of proceeds from the event go to them. Originally starting as a birthday celebration for her husband and daughter, it became a fundraising event to support a nonprofit in the community that needs help.

“The first two years

was Boys & Girls Club. Last year—the third year—was Lorraine’s and we had such a great turnout,” Riley said. “We offered to have them come in again and they’ve

been amazing. They have an amazing team that showed up and helped put everything

**See SUMMER BASH page 6**



PHOTO COURTESY OF KIM CAISSE  
Kate Riley with staff and board of directors at Lorraine’s Soup Kitchen & Pantry for The Fourth Annual Riley’s Resort Annual Summer Bash.



IN THE CITY



Players await lined up in formation for another practice run.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE CHICOPEE GALAXY

Chicopee Galaxy holds football skills camp

By Brendan Rooney  
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – Last month, the Chicopee Galaxy Youth Association conducted a free-to-all summer football skills camp that ran for three weeks and was deemed an overall success.

The skills camp took place from 6 to 8 p.m. behind the field at Bellamy Middle School.

It was once again led by Galaxy head coach Demetrius Wilson, who spoke with the Chicopee Register during one of the practices, as a full crowd of all ages and genders participated, as coaches and loved ones watched on.

“The main goal of this camp is to get the kids outside; we want them running around, we want them having fun, and less time away from the video games and screens,” Wilson said.

He then touched upon the importance of the student-athletes who are now heading off to high school, noting that he felt the camps allowed the kids to get a bit of a head start in conditioning and other areas.

“I feel these kids will have a bit of an advantage, because they consistently showed up, they worked hard, and put in the focus and dedi-



Players gather and listen to one of the coaches.

cation to get better, across the board, and I feel that’s going to reflect and transfer during the tryout phase, because it already shows their work ethic is extremely high, and that’s something that will go a long way in the eyes of the coaches, no matter the sport they are going to focus on,” Wilson said.

In addition to celebrating the conclusion of the skills camp, the Galaxy shared an official statement of gratitude on their social media.

“We want to extend a

heartfelt thank you to every player, parent, coach and volunteer who made this year’s camp such a success,” the organization said. “Over the past three weeks, we watched our young athletes work hard, improve their skills, build confidence, and have fun. Their effort, enthusiasm, and commitment made this camp truly special. We can’t wait to see all of our athletes contin-

ue to grow, compete, and put the skills they’ve learned into action.”

Currently, the fall season is underway, which consists of tackle football and cheerleading.

For more information about the Chicopee Galaxy Youth Association, feel free to check out their various social media pages across all platforms.

Chicopee Comprehensive High School Class of 1986 - 40th Class Reunion

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Comprehensive High School Class of 1986 will celebrate its 40-Year Class Reunion on Saturday, September 26, 2026, at The View Street Tavern in Chicopee.

Appetizers, cash bar, music, dancing - and an opportunity to reconnect with classmates. For those interested, a round

of golf will also be held that morning/afternoon.

Classmates are encouraged to email their current contact information to chicopeecomp86@gmail.com to receive future reunion updates and to let us know if you plan to attend.

We look forward to celebrating 40 years with the Class of 1986.

Venue Change for 2026 Chicopee National Night Out

CHICOPEE – The police department shared the following Facebook post on July 8 on this year’s National Night Out:

“Due to unforeseen delays in the ongoing construction, we are unable to host this year’s National Night Out at Sarah Jane Park.

However, the community fun is still happening! We are moving the event to a new location for this year: Szot Park.

We can’t wait to return to Sarah Jane Park next year in 2027 to celebrate in the

beautifully upgraded space! Until then, join us for a fantastic evening at our temporary 2026 home.

Event Details:  
New Location: Szot Park (97 Sergeant Tracy Drive)  
Date: Aug. 10, 2026  
Rain Date: Aug. 13, 2026  
Time: 5 p.m. until 9 p.m.

Please share this post with your friends, family, and neighbors to help us spread the word about the venue change. We look forward to seeing you there.

Frozen Polish Food Sale Aug. 15

INDIAN ORCHARD – There will be a Frozen Polish Food Sale at Immaculate Conception Church Hall 25 Parker St. Indian Orchard, Ma on Saturday, August 15, 2026 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Golabki—Three per package--\$12  
Kapusta--Large Container--\$12  
Pierogi (Cabbage, potato and cheese, sweet cheese, blueberry) one dozen--\$15.

Update on Smokestack Demolition on Uniroyal Property

CHICOPEE – The City of Chicopee is providing an update regarding the anticipated demolition of the smokestack at the former Uniroyal property, located at 154 Grove Street.

There will be no public viewing associated with the demolition. The City is sharing this update so residents are aware of the project’s status and anticipated activity at the site.

As previously announced, demolition work was expected to begin in late June but has been delayed. Under a Cooperation Agreement with the City for the former Uniroyal property, the demolition work is being performed by contractors for Michelin North America, Inc. (MNA). MNA is responsible for the smokestack demolition and ongoing environmental remediation activities at the site. The city does not oversee the planning or implementation of this work. Once MNA provides a confirmed demolition schedule, the city will share updated information with residents.

The city appreciates residents’ patience and will continue to provide updates as additional information becomes available. For any questions on the process, residents are urged to call the Chicopee Planning Department. They can be reached at 413-594-1515.

Children’s Summer Art Class offered

CHICOPEE – A Summer Art Class for children ages 2.9 to 5 years old will be held on Thursdays from 3:30 to 5 p.m. July 23 through Aug. 27.

Head Start Center, 216 Broadway Street in Chicopee.

Designed for kids to explore, imagine, and truly express themselves. Art supplies included.

Call or e-mail to Silvia 413-505-9053 or durands@headstart.org.

Sponsored by the Holyoke Chicopee Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

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# in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer



PHOTO BY DOUG MOORE

Juvenile glossy ibis

A Belchertown resident shared this photo of a glossy ibis he took at Lake Wallace. The glossy ibis is a medium-sized wading bird, 18.9 to 26 inches long, with compact body, long neck, long legs and long, curved bill.

The plumage appears dark, almost blackish, at a distance or in poor light. Up close, the body is maroon with wing coverts showing a metallic green, bronze and violet tones.

Juveniles are a duller brown color with some white streaking on their neck

Glossy Ibis occur in flocks, both at nesting colonies and when foraging. They typically feed by lowering the bill into water, mud or soil, to feel for prey.

In addition to consuming animal matter, plants may constitute a major portion of their diet during some seasons.

They frequent almost any wetland environment with shallow water or exposed mud and also readily feed in farm fields or open areas where soils are moist.

They inhabit shallow freshwater wetlands as well as brackish and saltwater wetlands, mangroves, and rice fields. Over much of its range,

When flying, the glossy ibis has its neck stretched forward and legs straight behind it. The glossy ibis does not call often, but may make murmuring sounds while foraging.

During the breeding season, glossy ibises will

court one another by preening and touching bills. Males and females will work together to build a large nest.

Nesting in tight colonies, glossy ibis nests are often no more than 2 feet away from each other. The female will lay three to four eggs and incubate them for 20-22 days.

Glossy ibises can be found across the globe. Their range has greatly expanded in the 20th century in North America.

This species has gone from a rare and local Florida species to regularly breeding as far north as Maine and occasionally along the east coast of Canada. The first Massachusetts nests were found at coastal sites in 1974.

The oldest recorded glossy ibis was at least 21 years old and lived in Virginia between 1971 and 1992.

Sutton birds

Recently, my brother and sister-in-law hosted a pool party. My brother, Ted, puts out grape jelly for the Baltimore orioles and a nectar feeder for the ruby-throated hummingbirds on his deck.

Birds included male and female ruby-throated hummingbirds for the nectar feeder. Baltimore orioles, red-bellied woodpecker, downy woodpecker and a scarlet tanager came to the deck.

They also have a pond that abuts their backyard. They have a pair of mute swans on the pond. They raised a family for several years in a row.

Great blue heron

I often see a great blue heron wading in Long Pond in Rutland. Every time I drive along Route 122 by the pond, I look for the heron.

People may report a bird sighting by emailing edowner@turley.com or calling or texting 774-262-5882.



## SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

### When should my wife file for spouse benefits?

Dear Rusty:  
My wife is 66 (born February 1960) and started taking Social Security retirement benefits just over one year ago at age 65.

She was a stay-at-home Mom for most of her adult life. I turned 62 this past March and received my first SS payment recently for a May 2026 start. We are scheduled to meet with SSA in late July to initiate spousal benefits because my wife's current benefits are less than 50% of mine.

We also have an adult disabled son, who receives Supplemental Security Income and Social Security benefits (this split in benefit sources happened after my wife filed - that whole process was confusing and we don't understand it).

My question relates to spousal benefits (I was a career finance person but don't completely understand these rules). We were going to file in July but is there any benefit to waiting until she turns 67? And will her 50% benefit be 50% of my lower

benefit due to my filing at 62 or is that based on another amount?

Signed: Confused Finance Guy

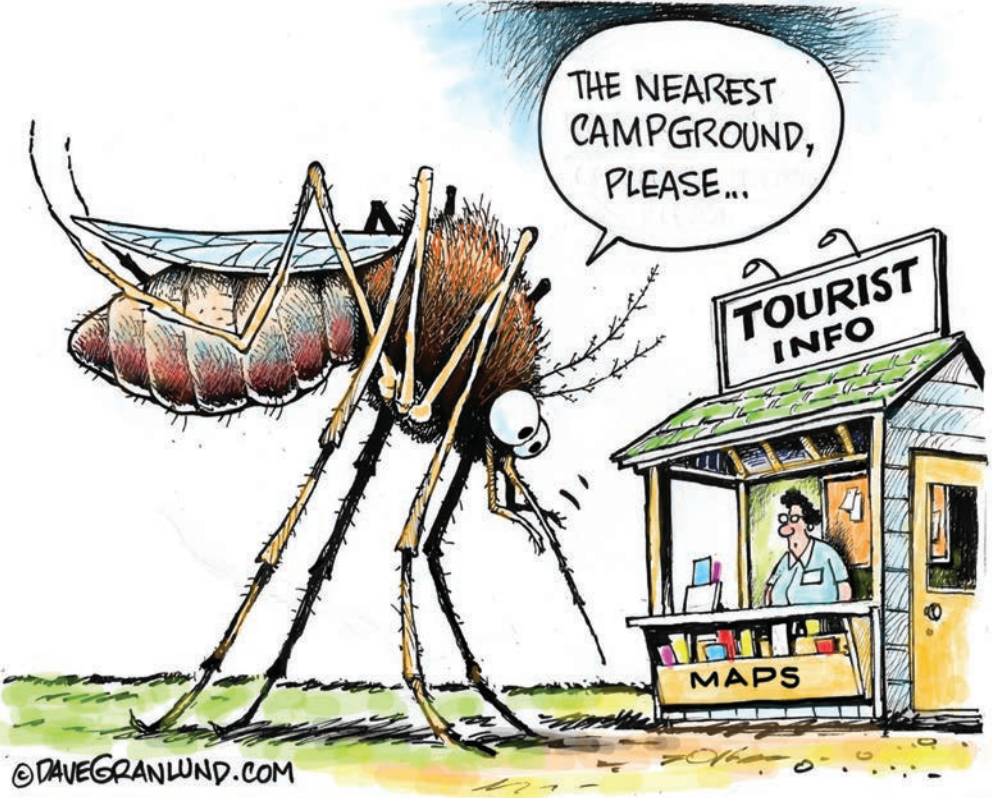
Dear Confused:

First, be aware that your wife's spousal benefit will be based on her age when she claims it, and half of your Full Retirement Age, (although you claimed at 62, her benefit as your spouse will still be based on your FRA entitlement).

Because she claimed her SS retirement at 65, your wife will not get 50% of your FRA entitlement; rather she will get her own reduced SS retirement benefit (which was reduced by about 13% from her FRA entitlement) plus a "spousal boost." The amount of that "boost" will be the difference between her own FRA entitlement and half of your FRA entitlement, but that boost amount will also be reduced because she will be

See **SOCIAL SECURITY** page 8

## OPINION



### A veteran finds peace of mind through home repairs

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

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Wayne, a 72-year-old Navy veteran, enjoys life's simple pleasures: tending to his garden, mowing the lawn, spending time with his service dog, Maxine, and savoring a mug of coffee on his deck. But in recent years, those moments have been overshadowed by concerns about safety.

The deck outside Wayne's West Springfield mobile home had become increasingly unstable, with rotting planks and a leaking sliding door that let rainwater seep inside. The deterioration had become so severe that Wayne worried about falling through the deck. In fact, his cane had already poked through some of the weakened boards and Wayne feared he might lose his home altogether.

Earlier this year, Wayne reached out to Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) and spoke with Executive Director Aimee Giroux, after learning about the nonprofit's Veterans Build Home Preservation program from his peers at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). With support from The Home Depot Foundation, GSHFH is repairing Wayne's deck and damaged sliding door, helping him remain safely in the home he loves.

"I'm very thankful to get these things fixed. I was worried about the house being condemned and being forced to move out," said Wayne. "Working with Habitat has been a very good experience. It's been a pleasure to work with Aimee."

GSHFH's Veteran Home Preservation Program is a part of a national initiative to provide housing solutions to US veterans, military service members, and their families. Services include accessibility



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Edgar Herrera of Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity's construction crew works on the new deck.



Wayne's new deck while it's under construction.

modifications for bathrooms and kitchens, ramps, roof repair/replacement, weatherization, heating system upgrades, porch/stair repairs, and hard surface flooring to help with mobility.

Wayne and his wife, Linda, purchased the mobile home in April 2017. They had moved to Western Massachusetts two years earlier from Charleston, South Carolina,

to be closer to Linda's family.

In recent years, Linda moved in with her mother to provide around-the-clock care, but the couple who are parents to six adult children remain close. These days, Wayne spends much of his time with Maxine, his trained American Pit Bull Terrier service dog, who he rescued nearly four years ago from Thomas J O'Connor Animal Control & Adoption Center in Springfield.

"She's very protective of me and is blind in the right eye, like I am," Wayne said speaking of Maxine's missing right eye, which she lost after she was hit by a car. "That's what caught my eye."

Wayne is legally blind and lives with Parkinson's disease, which he says hasn't advanced significantly thanks, in part, to the active lifestyle he developed during his years in the U.S. Navy. Wayne served more than a decade in the Navy, where he worked in technology and later became a journeyman electrician after he was medically discharged.

"Every veteran deserves a safe place to call home," said Aimee. "Thanks to Team Depot's support, Wayne can remain in the home he loves with the safety, independence, and peace of mind he deserves."



Wayne gives a thumbs up on his new deck as he poses on his new deck at his West Springfield home.

## Chicopee Register

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Send letters to:

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24 Water Street,  
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or email  
chicopeeregister@turley.com.

The deadline for submissions is Tuesday at noon.

### WE CARE ABOUT YOUR NEWS!

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

### Election letters to the editor

The Chicopee Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to Chicopee Register care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to journalregister@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election. For more information, call the editor at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

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

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

# IN THE CITY

## AJGA hosts FM Junior Championship

By **Brendan Rooney**  
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – Earlier this summer, the American Junior Golf Association (AJGA) returned to the Chicopee Country Club for the FM Junior Championship, presented by the John D. Mineck Foundation, marking the eighth consecutive year the club has hosted the tournament.

Reflecting on the strength of the field was AJGA Tournament Director Alyssa Corrion, who revealed that the organization hosts more than 150 tournaments nationwide and offers a plethora of opportunities.

“This tournament here today consists of 96 players ranging from ages 12 to 19, and they are some of the nation’s best, and they come from all parts of the world, and a lot of them are looking to get a college scholarship, while getting this sense of professional and championship-caliber exposure,” Corrion said. “Some of our tournaments consist of pre-views, which are for younger

players getting into their first AJGA Tournament; we also have invitationals, which help players earn stars, allowing them to move up in the Rolex ranking, which grant the opportunity to qualify into higher-level tournaments.”

This year’s field was elite: 12 past AJGA champions, seven players inside the top 150 of the Rolex AJGA rankings, and 41 international players from seven different countries all participated.

Echoing Corrion’s statements was Chicopee Country Club Golf Director Mike O’Neill.

“This is a chance and stage for these students to not only further and develop their golf game, but also earn an opportunity to advance their education. And what I mean by that is a lot of them are going to be entering college in the next couple of years or already have, and we actually get a ton of college scouts and coaches who come out here to watch and recruit,” O’Neill said. “We have seen Harvard out here before, Yale, Boston College, just to name a few.”

He also touched upon the economic impact that the tournament provides not only to the city, but the region.

“The families are from all over the world; some come from Canada, China, Mexico, Australia, and they don’t come for a few days; they are here for the entire week. And with it being the Fourth of July, everybody is going to Cape Cod or Maine or Hampton Beach, or they’re heading for the beaches, but it is nice to have some people here to show them what Chicopee is all about and showcase the Chicopee Country Club,” O’Neil said.

And for those in attendance, the action didn’t disappoint after an extensive three-day 54-hole, two first-time champions emerged on July 3.

Making history within the girls division was Amy Tang of New Zealand, who shot six under par, which was her first career AJGA win, and was rewarded with the ultimate prize of receiving an exemption from FM Global into the official qualifier for



From Left to Right: Amy Tang (left) and Bosheng Zhang (right) celebrate winning their respective divisions at the AJGA golf tournament.

the LPGA’s FM Championship later this month at TPC Boston, in Norton, MA.

However, for the boys it wasn’t smooth sailing as a nail-biting three-way playoff grabbed the attention of all e final day of play, extending

play four extra holes before Bosheng Zhang of British Columbia, Canada secured a birdie to capture the title, capping off his afternoon eight under par to record his first-ever AJGA victory.

Corrion then closed her

See **AJGA TOURNAMENT** page 6



City Council Vice President/Ward 6 Councilor Sam Shumsky with Ward 5 Councilor Joe Pasternak III with friends and Bob O'Neill.

### O'NEILL from page 1

Former State Rep. Joe Wagner echoed similar sentiments.

“This celebration is truly Chicopee at its best, and the O’Neill name carries a great reputation not only in the game of golf, but also here in the city,” Wagner said. “I also want to wish Bob a very happy birthday, and it’s truly special to be here with so many.”

Longtime friend and amateur champion Ed Polchlopek Jr, offered a simple message.

“Hey Bob, this is your friend Eddie. I want to wish you a happy birthday, and what a great turnout; you truly deserve this,” Polchlopek Jr. said.

“**Golf is in our blood**”

As the day went on, Mike O’Neill explained how the idea for the festivities came together and that he wanted to do his father justice.

“Honestly, this started as a family thing, ‘a simple let’s get the family together and go play golf’, but I talked to friends, and they told me, ‘You know what, do just for a whole day for him, and we decided let’s do it,’” O’Neill said. “And we couldn’t be happier with how things turned out, because we have family from all over the country here today; we got family from Chicago, Wisconsin and Florida, so it’s quite special

to celebrate the way we did. I mean, how many 90-year-olds do you know that are still working, and can play golf, and enjoy it? That’s absolutely why we did.”

He added his dad is an ultimate professional, citing a Hall of Fame career that spans more than four decades as a pro.

“Golf is in his blood, and it’s ours,” O’Neill said. “He first started his career by being the head pro at the old Oxford Country Club, where he was the head pro for 13 seasons, from 1965 to 1977, and worked there in the fall and spring, and in the wintertime, he worked at Spalding for 10 years and a little well-known tidbit, he made a set of clubs for President Dwight D.[Eisenhower], while at Spalding, so that’s a cool fact to know,” O’Neill said. “In 1978, he got offered the head pro job at the Ludlow Country Club, and he worked there until 2007, then took a year off, and quickly returned to the workforce by being a part-timer at Mill Valley for one year, and then in 2009 he joined us, and he’s been up here as a starter for more than 16 years. So, in total he’s been in the golf industry for 70-plus years, and he’s still working, and passing on what he knows.”

**Bob O’Neill is a true Hall of Famer**

Taking a look back at some of Bob’s stats and ac-

colades, they consist of two club championships during his tenure at Oxford, with tournament highlights including a Pro-Club Championship win as an amateur with the late Ed Rubis and as a pro with amateur Polchlopek Jr, one of his friends. He also partook in the Spalding Industrial Tournament in New Jersey as a four-man team with Walt Dobrzycki, Cookie Pajak and Mickey Sliwa; one career ace, at the 205-yard fourth hole (with a two-iron) at Oxford CC, and shot a personal best Career-Low Round of 67 at Oxford as well.

He is also a proud member of the Western Massachusetts Golf Hall of Fame, where he was inducted in 2016 as part of its 10th anniversary class, along with being a guest of honor at the Western Mass Tee Party in 1988.

**Past Present Future**

Mike O’Neill added that he and his staff feel that the



A celebration and legacy table showing all of Bob’s achievements.



club benefits by having two pros on staff for the price of one, and that his bond with his dad continues to grow.

“It’s huge because I grew up working for him, and now the tables have kind of turned because he’s working for me, but it’s all good fun, because we both love coming to the golf course, and even though we don’t play much, we still watch, and offer advice, and pass on what we know, because that’s how we were raised, and so when we were younger, we all played, and now we’re running the place, and we couldn’t be happier,” O’Neill said.

The celebration capped off with a family portrait out on the green where he took the tee shot prior in the day, and then a BBQ cookout that was full of laughs and good times, with Bob surrounded by countless family, friends, and loved ones, to help solidify the historic milestone.



Card table showing Bob O'Neill’s PGA golfer status with a commemorative plaque.

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USDA INSP. TURKEY BREAST .....

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USDA INSP. SWISS CHEESE .....

\$4.49 lb

USDA INSP. STOREMADE ITALIAN MARINATED 1/2 CHICKEN .....

\$2.99 lb

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IN THE CITY



A before of Marie Manley Tucker's canvas at her Zen Coloring event.

ZEN COLORING  
from page 1

my work had its long breaks due to rejections and such. I was giving as much as I received in terms of the kid lit community. I couldn't give anymore, and I had stopped making new art myself. So, I started coloring in coloring books. Markers seemed to be my enemy, and colored pencils I felt needed to be reserved for my work," Tucker said. "So, I played with Crayola crayons again. I was just doodling, and then I decided to re-create my favorite work of art as a teen- Van Gogh's Starry Night. It was hours of chill time. It was fun trying to figure out how to show the movement in the piece with crayons strokes rather than paint."

Tucker then explained the process of developing a technique that could be used for teaching those who may not be familiar with the style of artwork.

"I broke it down into simpler steps, fewer colors, and voila. I knew I had the ability to lead others in creating impressionist artwork. I tried it out on Monet's Water Lilies. I broke it down and found it was even simpler than Starry Night. I pitched the workshops to my local libraries. Storrs Library of Longmeadow hosted me first. I led a full house of adult artists in creating Water Lilies. Heather O'Connor of Storrs Library sent a glowing review of my workshop out into the local library inter-system," Tucker said. "Before I knew it, I had bookings like crazy."

She added about bringing in other works of art to create other workshops.

"I have been adding works of art to my selections. And I created different workshops for littles. They often have a theme, such as stuffy portraits or cat, space, dinos, seasons. I started playing with lines and shapes and filling in spaces with colors and shading and voila again. I created a workshop that could be enjoyed by all ages, even varied ages within a single workshop," Tucker said.

Tucker then shared her passion for bringing these workshops to different communities.

"Art makes people happy. If I can spread the happy, I'm happy. Having the opportunity in the public library system to share art is amazing. I'm so grateful to the public library program directors for keeping art making as an important part of their schedule for their patrons. It means people can take a break in a safe space and just play or relax. I love being a part of that," Tucker said.

By taking the time to develop different workshops targeted at various age groups and skill levels, Tucker has managed to create many workshops for people to enjoy. These workshops not only make art accessible to others; but they also allow Tucker to share her talent and gain new inspiration for her work.

For more information about upcoming events at the Chicopee Public Library visit [chicopeepubliclibrary.org](http://chicopeepubliclibrary.org).

For more information about workshops hosted by Tucker, visit [mariemanley-tucker.com](http://mariemanley-tucker.com).

SUMMER BASH  
from page 1

that I dreamt of to reality, which is amazing and we are so excited to see what tonight profits and we give to them because they deserve it. They work very hard for our community and we're just happy to bring everyone together for a good time."

Riley was ecstatic with the turnout, adding she hopes to add more nonprofits to her list to support next.

"We give back. That's our main focus is we teach our family and we believe that bringing the community together and bringing back is truly important, so that's what we like to do and that's what we're here doing tonight," Riley said.

She also expressed gratitude for the local businesses and community members who donated raffle items and sponsored the event.

"It feels so good. I can't tell you how good it feels to see everyone turn out, to see everyone of having elves show up all week with baskets on my porch. Just to help give back any way they can. So, we truly appreciate every little help we can get," Riley said.

Riley said the event can help raise awareness too.

"It lets everyone know what Lorraine's does and what they're capable of and how much help they really do need, because the community relies on them. Our neighbors need the help and now's a better time than any time," Riley said. "So, being able to give back this way and watching them—Lorraine's crew, the team—be such a big part and so grateful, it's pretty amazing. It's an amazing feeling."

Kim Caisse, executive director at Lorraine's Soup Kitchen & Pantry, praised the Rileys, calling them "so amazing."

"All of the support they give not only to Lorraine's, but they're out there in the community. Kate is on every board or every com-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KIM CAISSE

The Beer Guy presented a \$1,000 donation to Lorraine's Soup Kitchen & Pantry during the event as well.

mittee. They're just really great. We're so appreciative," Caisse said.

Caisse emphasized the importance of an event like this to bring the community together and spread the word.

"We're also getting our name out there. People are more aware of who we are and what we do, what we're doing for the community. That's the important piece. We want people to know that Lorraine's is here to help anyone in Chicopee who's in need," Caisse said. "So that's what this is about, getting the word out."

Also, to continue supporting them during the summer months with kids out of school and costs continuing

to rise for families.

"We're seeing a lot more people come in through the pantry, so that means more families are coming in with more kids and so they need more food. It's so important for the community," Caisse said.

On food donations needed right now, Caisse said they include canned fruit, canned beans and tomato products such as tomato sauce and diced tomatoes.

Also, Lorraine's is always looking for volunteers.

"We're always looking for volunteers because we get kids in through the summer and then they'll start to leave after they do their hours. Some of whom are leaving

us so we're looking to replace them with new ones," Caisse said. "We have a few spots open in the mornings for people and we start at 8 a.m. stocking shelves and doing cleanup and all that kind of stuff. So, there's always need for volunteers."

Caisse also thanked The Beer Guy for a \$1,000 donation he presented to Lorraine's as the event began.

"He's amazing. He's so great to us. Last year, he donated \$500 and this year he said he wanted to double it and as soon as the event started, he came over with a check and that was just amazing," Caisse said. "It was unexpected, but it was a nice pleasure too. It was great."

Caisse said the community can continue supporting Lorraine's throughout the year through food and monetary donations and volunteering their time. Her message was this.

"This just means so much to all of us at Lorraine's, myself, our board. It's going to be so helpful to our clients that come in. We appreciate all of the efforts that everyone makes for us," Caisse said.

Riley encouraged the community to come out next year, which will take place August 7, 2027 and that they are always looking for sponsors and donors.

"I just want to say thank you for believing in us and thank you for making this happen. It's truly a great thing we look forward to every year and we hope that every year it gets better and better," Riley said.



Attendees chat with The Beer Guy as the event gets underway.

AJGA TOURNAMENT  
from page 5

cial one, and one she hopes continues.

"We have been here for eight years now, and it's always great to know Chicopee comes together, and that gives this tournament a local

feel, which makes this a special moment for our players," Corrion said. "We had many volunteers come out and help us with timing, getting scores, and offering a sense of camaraderie, and we are always pleased with the level of professionalism that Chicopee continues to provide."

O'Neill shared that there was close to 50 volunteers who helped make the tournament shine.

"For example, we had City Council Vice President Sam [Shumsky], and the rest were a mix of Chicopee residents; some were golfers, others had never held a golf club before, and they all shared the common goal of wanting to be a part of this," O'Neill said.

According to the AJGA website, since its inception in 2018, the FM Junior Championship has provided more

than 1,200 playing opportunities for junior golfers across tournaments and qualifying rounds. In addition to competitive development, the event has generated more than \$1.9 million in total economic impact for the Chicopee community through travel, lodging and local spending.

O'Neill shared that sponsorships were instrumental in helping to defer the expenses of this event, as when there is a surplus, the AJGA will donate half of the funds back to the local community. He

added that some local organizations in Chicopee that have benefited from these funds included the Chicopee Boys and Girls Club, Lorraine's Soup Kitchen and Pantry and Sunshine Village.

O'Neill capped off his thoughts by reflecting on the success of the annual event, and he hopes it continues.

"I felt the players and the parents were very appreciative of our service, and it shows because the reception continues to be strong, and the message is that we hear is that they [the AJGA] love Chicopee, and we love having them. We hope to make this an annual event and couldn't be happier," O'Neill said.

The Chicopee Country Club also added a statement of gratitude on their social media as well.

"This wouldn't be the great event it is without the help of the following: Our Superintendent Mike Bach

and his staff for having and keeping our course in impeccable conditions through the hot, challenging temps; Virginia Robak and her dedicated crew of volunteers helping the golfers and their followers by keeping them hydrated and guiding them around the links; Eric Gower, Kevin Brown and their restaurant staff for keeping all golfers, patrons and workers well fed and hydrated with delicious foods for the week," the post said. "We also want to thank our Local sponsors, Polish National Credit Union and Amy's Landscaping, for the financial help as well as food, water, and dinner donations. Finally, to the golf staff and AJGA staff who work so well together not only during the tournament but leading up to it by getting the 'behind the scenes' duties complete to make this another successful tournament for all involved. Thank you all."



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# SPORTS

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## Rumbleseat advances to finals of PVSSL playoffs

CHICOPEE – The second-seeded Rumbleseat defeated KO Elites 2-0 in the semifinals of the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League playoffs in the Men’s Division. Rumbleseat would move into the finals last Friday evening to take on Mt. Carmel. Highlights and photos from that game will be in next week’s edition.



Shane Denault looks to clear the ball.



Jack Leland traps the ball and tries to outmaneuver and opponent.



Evan Ricelli possesses the ball.



TJake Thibideau advances up the field.



Kyle Girourd starts a move up the field.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHTOS.COM  
Ryan Sunshine socks a free kick away.

## CF Arbor reaches semifinals

SOUTH HADLEY – In last week’s PVSSL summer playoffs, the CF Arbor Men’s soccer team, which was the No. 4 seed in the playoffs, was able to advance into the semifinals and took on Mt. Carmel, which defeated CF Arbor’s chances of reaching the championship game this year. Mt. Carmel would capture this year’s men’s championship.



Owen Dieterle heads up the field.



Troy Remillard outplays an opponent for the ball.



Landry Kwawu goes to meet up with a loose ball.

## Valley Wheel regular season concludes

WILBRAHAM – The regular season has concluded for the Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League, one of several adult baseball leagues that plays in the region. This year, with play concluding this past Sunday, the Angels were able to finish the regular season with the top record, going 11-4. The Angels matched the Twins with the same record, but won two out of three head-to-head for the tiebreaker advantage in the playoffs. The Orioles finished third and the Cubs overcame the A’s by tiebreaker for the final of four playoff spots. The semifinals for the league are set for this Sunday at Spec Pond in Wilbraham. In the first matchup, the No. 2 Twins host the No. 3 Orioles at 2:30 p.m. Then, the top-seeded Angels face No. 4 Cubs at 6 p.m. The championship game will be held on Sunday, Aug. 16 at Spec Pond at 3 p.m.



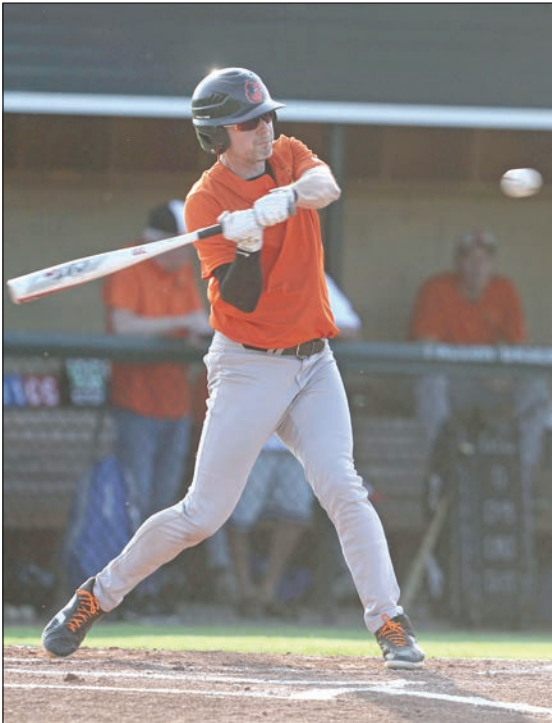
Nate Woodland makes a catch for the A’s during regular season action in the Valley Wheel league.



Mike Burgos pitches in a game for the Orioles on July 26.



Adam Strain fields a grounder.



Sam Ribeiro takes a swing.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHTOS.COM  
Pitcher Mike Bielen fires to the plate.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, August 26, 2026 at 6:30 PM** in the Auditorium, 3rd floor, City Hall, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Special Permit application under section 275-23 for the purpose of restoring and rebuilding on existing lot due to fire loss located at 15 Hudson Ave. Applicant – Elijah Zuev/EZ Development Group, 262 Steiger Dr., Westfield, MA 01085.

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

The August 26, 2026 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. Zoom credentials are available upon request by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8 AM – 5 PM or by email at [aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov](mailto: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](mailto:aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov).

08/07, 08/14/2026

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

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on August 7th, 2026 at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2010 Honda Accord  
VIN: 1HGCP2F86AA193432  
Misfit Flex Fleet Logistics LLC  
1567 State St.  
Springfield, MA 01109

2005 Dodge Magnum  
VIN: 2D8GZ48V95H646928  
John Harley  
50 Stebbins St.  
Springfield, MA 01109

2004 Buick Lesabre  
VIN: 1G4HP54K744120993  
Stephanie Marie Depelteau  
60 Quebec St., #2  
Indian Orchard, MA 01151

2016 Subaru Legacy  
VIN: 4S3BNAC68G3060987  
Michael Megass Mead  
49 Taft St.  
Feeding Hills, MA 01030

2012 Subaru Forester  
VIN: JF2SHADC5CH425541  
Sherer Serrano Hernandez  
124 Lionel Benoit Rd.  
Springfield, Ma 01109

2005 Chevrolet Trailblazer  
VIN: 1GNET16S756178897  
Clifford Gilkes  
126 Union St., Apt. 11-10  
Westfield, MA 01085

2017 Jeep Renegade  
VIN: ZACCJBXXHPF98947  
Maria Janik  
126 Union St., Apt. 19 Bldg. 10  
Westfield, MA 01085  
07/24, 07/31, 08/07/2026

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

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on August 14th, 2026 at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2007 Acura MDX  
VIN: 2HNYD28287H530239  
Matthew Calamita  
431 Park Ave.  
Swarthmore, PA 19081

2000 Ford Ranger  
VIN: 1FTYR14V8YTB29666  
Kathryn Bernard  
1025 Paw Paw Pl.  
Dover, DE 19901

2006 Ford F150  
VIN: 1FTRF14WX6NB43043  
Oliver Monegro Martinez  
394 Page Blvd., Apt. B  
Springfield, Ma 01151

2016 Honda Civic  
VIN: 19XFC1F73GE207057  
Christal Y Page  
88 Perry St., Unit 283  
Putnam, CT 06260

2014 Ford Fiesta  
VIN: 3FADP4EJ5EM116715  
Everett Miller  
76 Pioneer Way  
Springfield, MA 01119

2004 Bmw 745i  
VIN: WBAGL63454DP68737  
Yosnay Yannini Gonzalez  
4604 Avenue A 218 Apt. 218  
Austin, TX 78751

2009 Dodge Journey  
VIN: 3D4GG57V19T600568  
Juvenal Garcia Rodriguez  
Po Box 422  
Bellow Falls, VT 05101

2003 Honda CRV  
VIN: SHSRD78423U158883  
Marcus Garner  
106 Whittier St.  
Springfield, MA 01108

2002 Volvo S60  
YV1RH58D722142741  
James Clayton  
101f Pearl St.  
Enfield, CT 06082

2008 Subaru Forester  
VIN: JF1SG65668H719907  
Darla Duclos  
36 Schultze St.  
Canajoharie, NY 13317

2020 Kia Sorento  
VIN: 5XYPGA37LG644720  
Caleb Rodriguez  
17 Sunset Ave.  
Easthampton, MA 01027

2009 Chevrolet Malibu  
VIN: 1G1ZK57B294106759  
Garry Brinn  
775 Springfield St., Apt. 7B  
Feeding Hills, MA 01030

2023 Nissan Sentra  
VIN: 3N1AB8DV4PY315843  
Sean Geaughan  
21 Washington Ave., Fl. 2nd  
Holyoke, MA 01040

2015 Subaru Legacy  
VIN: 4S3BNAC62F3054276  
Lisa Boron  
72 Leona Ave.  
Chicopee, MA 01020

2012 Chevrolet Equinox  
vin: 2gnalbek7c1321292  
Brian Grant  
141 Bud Rd  
Longs, SC 29568

07/31, 08/07, 08/14/2026

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

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on August 21st, 2026 at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2005 Honda Odyssey  
VIN: 5FNRL38455B021541  
Dennis Adams  
40 North Blvd., Fl 2  
West Springfield, MA 01089

2012 Kia Sorento  
VIN: 5XYKT3A69CG302048  
Lecilia Periz  
810 Southampton Rd., Apt. 6  
Westfield, MA 01085

2004 Toyota Corolla  
VIN: 2T1BR32E94C255167  
Lissette Mejia  
100 Princeton Ave. 2  
Providence, RI 02907

1995 Saturn SL1  
VIN: 1G8ZH5282SZ355129  
Ruthann Persaud  
8 Quirk Ave., Apt. 1  
Holyoke, MA 01040

2026 Mazda CX-50  
VIN: 7MMVABDLXTN493339  
Ean Holdings Llc  
14002 E 21st St Suite 1500

Tusla, OK 74134

2004 Honda Civic  
VIN: 2HGES165X4H529600  
Nicholas Kenny  
151 Hampden St., Apt Top Right  
Chicopee, MA 01020

2014 Infiniti GX60  
VIN: 5N1AL0MN4EC544262  
Elizabeth Diaz  
30 Hunt St.  
Agawam, MA 01001

2003 Infiniti G35  
VIN: JNKC51E43M018373  
Carol Coombs  
PO Box 1801  
Westfield, MA 01085

2018 Ford Edge  
VIN: 2FMPK4J92JBC17932  
Jeremiah D. Murphy  
273 Paulanne Ter., Apt. 2  
Secaucus, NJ 07094

08/07, 08/14, 08/21/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No.  
HD26P1628GD  
In the matter of:  
Andrea V Soto  
Of: Chicopee, MA  
RESPONDENT**

**Alleged Incapacitated Person  
CITATION GIVING  
NOTICE OF PETITION  
FOR APPOINTMENT  
OF GUARDIAN FOR  
INCAPACITATED  
PERSON PURSUANT TO  
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**  
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Andrea Rodriguez Negrón of Chicopee, MA**  
**George Lopez of Chicopee, MA**  
in the above captioned matter alleging that Andrea V Soto is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Andrea Rodriguez Negrón of Chicopee, MA**

**George Lopez of Chicopee, MA**  
(or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **08/31/2026**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.**

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

Date: July 28, 2026

**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate

08/07/2026

HR OFFICER from page 1

vestigations conducted by Ret. Judge Mary-Lou Rupp and Paul Winspeare—who's title was Chief Human Resources Officer—served for less than two years.

In November 2024, Chief of Staff Mike Pise had also presented a statement from Vieau after Zajchowski's dismissal to explain the corrective action plan conducted for the first investigation and how a second one came about and an appropriation request of \$100,000 to the Human Resources Ex-

pense Account for special services from available funds in the Human Resources Salary Account. The council had approved the appropriation.

Ultimately, Vice President/Ward 6 Councilor Sam Shumsky motioned to table the item for further discussion at a future meeting in which the council can interview Janeczek and get to know her and ask questions.

"This is so we could also have a special meeting on this so it would give all councilors an opportunity to ask this applicant questions, if need be," Shumsky said.

At that point, the board members pondered the question of if the upcoming interview could occur at a special meeting of City Council.

City Attorney Tim Reilly weighed in, advising the council that only Vieau can call a special meeting of the group.

"My suggestion is you just table it, and you've already explained why," Reilly said. "A special City Council meeting has to be called by the mayor. You can't refer to something that's called by the mayor, so I suggest just tabling it, and you've given your reason."

VOTING from page 1

"So, in speaking with Councilor Pasternak and Councilor George Balakier, we're moving Ward 5 to the senior center. So, (Ward) 5 is going to be at the senior center and not in First Central any long and (Ward) 4 is going from the senior center and back to the old Chicopee High School where it originally was. I think the people like that. So, they're going to back in Dupont, back in their ward," Rattell said. "So, that's the solution. We certainly spoke with the mayor's office

and the School Department and maintenance at the School Department. We're going to make it work. It's just adding another school into the mix."

He added how most polling places in Chicopee "are at school locations because we control the buildings."

"Any of our logistic problems are from any buildings that we don't control. Places like the Armory. We used to have a polling place at the Armory. That's no longer because we didn't control it. AHEPA Hall in (Ward) 5, that got sold to a church. We don't control that, so we got

bounced out of there," Rattell said.

Rattell also emphasized that the church has always been great to work with.

"They've been great. Great location, a great host and everything, but it's just not working out," Rattell said.

When Ward 8 Councilor Doug Girouard asked how residents would be informed about the changes, Rattell said there was a plan in place.

"Postcards have been all made up and they go out tomorrow," Rattell said. "We notify every voter in (Ward) 4 and every voter in (Ward) 5."

SOCIAL SECURITY from page 4

claiming in July before her FRA.

Your wife will reach her FRA in February 2027, so by claiming her spousal boost in July her boost amount will be reduced by about 5% and the "boost" will be added to her already reduced SS retirement about. The result will be your wife's benefit as your spouse will be less than 50% of your FRA entitlement. And, FYI, your wife will be automatically deemed to be filing for her spousal benefit, she will not be able to defer claiming it.

As your son is now collecting SS benefits based on your wife's personal SS record, you should ask Social Security to switch him over to payments based on your record because you have the higher SS benefit.

FYI, because your son is now receiving Supplemental Security Income, the SS disability benefit he receives will offset by his SSI benefit, and the payment amount will consist of two sources - SSI and SSDI.

Nevertheless, he cannot get more than 50% of your SS retirement amount and will

likely be affected by the Family Maximum, which may further reduce his SSDI entitlement.

Your wife's benefit as your spouse will also be affected by the "Family Maximum," which limits how much can be paid on any one person's SS record (on your SS record).

That also means that your wife will not get a full 50% of your FRA entitlement; rather she will get less because the family maximum limits how much all your dependents can receive to somewhere between 50% and 88% of your FRA benefit amount (after subtracting your own SS entitlement).

That also means that your son's SS payment, as well as your wife's SS payment as your spouse, will be reduced to less than 50% of your FRA entitlement. SSA will be able to guide you through the Family Maximum calculations for both your son and your wife when you meet.

To recap all of this: a) your wife will be automatically deemed to be filing for her spousal benefit; she cannot delay until her FRA. b) her amount as your spouse will be less than 50% of

your SS FRA entitlement. And c) both your wife's and your son's SS benefit will likely be also affected by the Family Maximum and, thus, be less than half of your FRA entitlement.

Nevertheless, it was likely the right decision to claim as you have, considering that your son and wife have been receiving SS benefits for some time now, and both will continue to receive more as your dependents.

*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](http://amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*



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Chicopee Register  
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