

Chicopee Register

32nd Annual National Night Out unites community

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE - The community gathered at Szot Park on Aug. 10 for the 32nd Annual National Night Out.

The annual event took place at Szot Park this year as

the usual location, Sarah Jane Park, was undergoing ongoing construction.

The festivities included over 100 vendors, a K9 demonstration, a flyover from the Massachusetts State Po-

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TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

2026 Chicopee Colleen Charlotte Fields also stopped by with her court for the festivities.

The K9 demonstration was among the many activities attendees got to enjoy.

City Council enters talks of BESS facilities

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE — The City Council has officially entered the statewide discussion regarding the placement and utilization of Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facilities in the city, as policies continue to fall into place throughout the Commonwealth.

The discussion occurred during the council's Aug. 4 meeting.

This comes as prior reports indicate that the city already has three BESS facilities currently in the works, which the city's economic development director, Mike Daniels, has confirmed.

At this moment, one has already been revealed, as the news broke earlier this summer that a 5MW(20 megawatt-hour) facility is set to be developed and housed at 425 Meadow St. right behind Callaway Golf, alongside partners like Silo Electric and Uriel Renewables; reaction from the community then ensued, with many voicing

displeasure over the project, which led to Ward 9 City Councilor Mary Beth Costello presenting a proposal to enact an immediate moratorium on BESS facilities unless proper ordinances are implemented.

It primarily focused on zoning restrictions and operational requirements based on the foundations of public notification, input and public safety received.

The council swiftly rejected the measure by an 11-1 vote, with Costello the lone member to support it. Several councilors cited concerns about potential litigation stemming from a letter from the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) regarding the measure's compliance with G.L. c. 40A, § 3.

As per the AG's report: "If a city or town attempts to bypass the AGO or unconstitutionally enforces a moratorium, it directly exposes itself to high-stakes litigation. Clean energy developers can sue the municipality in the

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CPL hosts Diamond Art Group

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

CHICOPEE — Once a month in the Bazan Community Room on the lower level of the Chicopee Public Library, the Diamond Art Group meets.

This program is run by Senior Reference Librarian Carol Lynne Bagley and the group has been meeting for about six months.

At the meeting on July 30, the diamond art projects offered consisted of an option of either various cats or various house plants. The group will be skipping a meeting in August and September, with the next meeting to take place in October.

Registration for this program is required so that library staff know how many people to expect and how much supplies they will need to put out.

Bagley explained how the idea for this program came about.

"We wanted to do something we hadn't done before here and something we could do during the day.

And something that it didn't matter if people had experience before they came in.

Because even if they've never done it before, it's

going on, so you can't really. And so, it's a fun way to get to know other people who come, and a lot of repeats come every month because they've gotten to meet other people who come. And if people bring kids, kids find it perfectly easy to do."

Bagley then shared the benefits of the supplies being provided for attendees.

"I feel like having programs where people don't have to get their own stuff, because sometimes people really want to try something. But they don't want to invest in it. And they want to try it out. They want to see if it's something they would like to do in the future.

I think it's a great way to dip your toes into something and say, 'oh, yeah. I can do that.' And I think, also, the fact that you don't have to bring your own supplies you can come and everything's here. It helps, because if you have to get your own

Please see **DIAMOND GROUP**, page 3



TURLEY PHOTO BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA
Example of attendee's diamond artwork at the July 30 meeting.

easy to learn. We also wanted something where people could talk to each other," Bagley said. "Because a lot of regular programs, you just kind of have instruction

Order of the Arrowhead visits Switzerland

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE — Earlier this summer, on June 20, 29 arrowmen from the Western Massachusetts Council Scouting America Pocumtuck Lodge Order of the Arrow departed from the Chicopee Moose Lodge and embarked on a journey to the Kandersteg International Scouting Centre in Switzerland, which included three scouts from Troop 1849.

Discussing the importance of having Western Mass and Troop 1849 represented at the global stage and part of this trip was Pocumtuck Lodge Chief Vincent Barrett.

"I think it's a great thing to know that Chicopee is represented on this trip, because the truth is we are all scouts, no matter the distance," Barrett said. "So, my hope is everyone has a safe and wonderful time."

Offering insight into what they were looking forward to the most were Troop 1849 scouts Zach and Josh Trexler, along with their friend Daniel Kalafarski.

Josh kicked off the trio's thoughts by sharing that he was excited for the trip, as his brother Zach confessed he felt this was "a huge opportunity, and Kalafarski took a different approach as he shared this trip has been in the books for

quite a bit, something that Lodge Advisor Ken White confirmed.

"The idea came into focus about a year and a half ago while we were thinking about different trip ideas at our Scout Camp and someone shared, 'Let's go to Switzerland, where our International Scout Center is', and then we said let's do it, and it turned into a full-blown trip," White said.

He added that fundraising efforts took priority to help offset costs for the upcoming trip.

"So, in the past year, we were involved in several fundraisers; we've done product sales, we've done a booth at

the Home & Garden Show at the Big E, and we've also had some donors as well, so as you can see everything worked out and we are all excited," White said.

Offering excitement while previewing the trip was Scouting America International Representative Josh Hall.

Please see **ARROWHEAD**, page 6

The Western Massachusetts Council Scouting America Pocumtuck Lodge Order of the Arrow outside the Kandersteg, Switzerland International Scout Centre in Switzerland.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MELANIE WICHOWSKY TREXLER



Quarterly tax item tabled

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – During its meeting on Aug. 4, City Council voted without opposition to table an item looking to establish a quarterly tax payment system.

After a brief discussion, Ward 6 representative and council Vice President Sam Shumsky amended to table the discussion for a special meeting of the board so that the entire body can participate, which he said would ensure "better communication."

All 12 councilors who were present at the meeting voted in favor of tabling the item for a future meeting.

Prior to the vote, Mayor John Vieau went into detail regarding the origin of the conversation, as he thanked the public for its vote last fall.

"When this passed on the ballot last year, the city of Chicopee put together a task force. That task force consisted of members who were intimately involved," Vieau said.

The task force includes Ron Rivet, the city's interim chief information officer; Tammy Shaefer, a senior systems analyst; Dawn Fortin, a senior systems analyst; Sandra Peret, the city collector; Marie Laflamme, the city treasurer, Frank Laflamme, City Council president; Tiana Steffenhagen, the city auditor; and Laura McCarthy, the city assessor.

According to Vieau, the city has now reached the point where it wants to adopt the chapter officially.

"This is again quarterly billing, and we have completed a complete review process," Vieau said. "Like I had mentioned, the voters had approved of this, and it would be a four-payment system, which will allow taxpayers to budget and pay their bills with less financial burden. Again, it would come quarterly instead of the two semi-annual payments."

While the process changed due to quarterly time frames, Vieau noted that it "essentially involves

Please see **TAX BILLS**, page 3

IN THE CITY

CPL hosts Singer Josée Vachon

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - The library hosted award-winning Franco-American singer and songwriter Josée Vachon on July 23.

The event was free. Attendees gathered outside behind the library to watch Vachon perform traditional and contemporary folksongs from Quebec and Arcadia.

The Friends of the Chicopee Public Library were, also, selling refreshments during the event for attendees to support the library and enjoy some food.

After the performance, Vachon talked about her journey through music.

Vachon first explained how she grew up with music during childhood.

“We moved to Maine when I was seven and the house came with an old upright piano. I took to it immediately, taking piano lessons for eight years. When I was 12, our parish priest asked if I would take over playing the organ every Sunday. At 15, my parents bought me my first guitar, and I fell in love with being able to accompany the family during our family parties, just by learning a few chords,” Vachon said. “I started performing publicly

in college when I discovered singing in French was filling a niche around New England. I worked for a French newspaper on campus and my boss recommended me to three or four festivals around Maine.”

Vachon then shared what her songs mean to her.

“Songwriting began after performing at a dozen Franco-American festivals, Chicopee included, and realizing that I wanted to express our own identity as Franco-Americans, and not only sing the songs from Quebec, France and New Brunswick. I’m not a prolific songwriter, but my songs have always had a theme of identity, culture, love of language, and nostalgia,” Vachon said.

Vachon also shared a little about how she selects what to sing for each performance.

“At the beginning, I chose songs that were part of our family repertoire and listened to what audiences requested. My song book has a couple hundred songs, however, for each concert I try to imagine if people want to hear more traditional songs, more upbeat, festival-feel rhythms, or in a concert hall setting, I may include more of the ballads and melodies that bring me joy,” Vachon said. “Because I’m usually a solo artist on stage, I can

adapt my set list to whatever seems more appropriate at the moment. In the early days, my audiences were 90 to 95% French speaking. So, I was lucky to be singing around New England at a time when there was a hunger to hear our language through music. Now after 40 plus years, I find that I can still perform mostly in French, but I try to include a few in English, again that somehow relate to my culture.”

Vachon also connects with the audience when performing. This is seen through audience members singing along and the information she shares throughout the performance.

She explained why she enjoys performing.

“I simply love sharing the songs that people recognize or that makes them feel a connection. I’m always a little nervous before any presentation, but once I see smiles, participation and sometimes even tears, I hope that the music brought out their cultural pride and a joie de vivre,” Vachon said. “I feel that free presentations allows us to learn more about one another. I most enjoy having a connection with the audience and performing as if we are all in my grandmother’s kitchen parties. I want the concert to



TURLEY PHOTO BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA
Josée Vachon performing at her show at Chicopee Public Library on July 22.

always have a natural humor and warmth.”

It’s clear that Vachon has a real passion for her singing and songwriting and enjoys being able to share her talent with different communities. Attendance at her show on

July 22 was high with people showing up to the concert and simply enjoying the show or also singing along.

For more information about upcoming events at Chicopee Public Library, visit chicopeepubliclibrary.org.

Chicopee Comprehensive Class of 1986 celebrating its 40-Year 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.

Summer Art Class offered for children through Aug. 27

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.

BESS from page 1

Massachusetts Land Court or Superior Court. Relying on the landmark Supreme Judicial Court precedent *Tracer Lane II Realty, LLC v. City of Waltham*, courts will readily invalidate local regulations that make BESS projects impracticable or uneconomical.”

City Council President/Councilor-at-Large Frank Laflamme then introduced his counterproposal that does everything Costello introduced, but goes a step further, and adheres to the statutes in place.

Providing context to Laflamme’s order was City Planner Lee Pouliot.

“What Councilor [Laflamme] referenced during the meeting was that we have proposed a revision to the renewable energy chapter to establish specific provisions governing battery storage systems within the chapter. And those revisions were on the City Council’s agenda, to be referred for public hearings with the Planning Board, and then with the City Council’s Zoning and Ordinance Committees,” Pouliot said.

“I can confirm that the Planning Department has already drafted proposed revisions to the renewable energy chapter to address battery storage, but the next step is that those proposed revisions need to go through the public review hearing process, with the relevant bodies, in order to be adopted.”

Both Laflamme and the Planning Department’s comments align with the correspondence the AG’s office passed along to the City Council, which was validated by comments made from Ward 2 Councilor Shane Brooks.

“I feel the state has laid out the framework, and we need to follow that,” Brooks said. “So I’m voting no on this because the AG has laid out very strict policies and procedures with respect to battery storage so that local municipalities could not legislate them out of their district or town, and it’s important for us to crosswalk any advisement from the AG’s

office with any proposals we might want to put in place, understanding that if they are outside the scope of the law based on legal opinion, it’s not going to hold up.”

Pouliot shared that, per the AG’s office, battery storage systems fall under the title of “an accessory to renewable energy” and if the city did proceed forward, a moratorium would be deemed “inconsistent,” which is what the AG’s correspondence shows, as back in 2025, the town of Blandford attempted to enact a moratorium, resulting in a violation of a state law prohibition adopted in 1985 that went against “unreasonable regulation of solar installations.”

Also, state law regarding these systems reads as follows.

“No zoning ordinance or by-law shall prohibit or unreasonably regulate the installation of solar energy systems or the building of structures that facilitate the collection of solar energy, except where necessary to protect the public health, safety or welfare,”

it reads.

Ward 1 Councilor Abigail Arriaga reiterated that the city needs to let the process continue and proceed through the proper channels.

“We need to allow the Planning Board, allow Lee[Pouliot] to look over things and offer his professional opinion, because we’ve already been told we can’t do this, and if we don’t, then we are just opening ourselves to some legal things, and we have to remember our job is to protect the city, so I’m voting no,” Arriaga said.

Laflamme shared that he quickly brought this correspondence and proposal to the mayor’s office and the proper channels to expedite the process and get ahead of this.

“We need to do this the right way, and if we don’t get this process started, then it’s clear we are only going to prolong this, but we need to do this the right way, because Lee is ready to start working on it, and he’s ready to move forward,” Laflamme said.

Pouliot said his staff has

been working extensively on the proposal but emphasized that additional work remains before it can be implemented. He pointed to the city’s “well-established site plan review” process as a key resource for gathering additional information.

“In place are a series of triggers based on a number of parameters, so we’re not going to treat battery storage systems any differently than any other project that we would review,” Pouliot said.

He then shared that as regulations continue to evolve statewide and nationally, the Planning Department remains steadfast in staying up to date and well-versed on the subject at all times.

“We are looking at how other municipalities and states are managing the development of these entities, so we can ensure we craft a Chicopee-specific regulation that works for us,” Pouliot said.

And, according to the Site Plan Review Advisory Committee (SPRAC), which serves as the designated Site Plan Review Authority under Chapter 275-6 of the Chicopee Zoning Ordinances, “Integrating Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) requires careful alignment with state

Update on Smokestack demolition at 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.

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IN THE CITY

PNCU hosts community Shred Day on Oct.16

CHICOPEE - Polish National Credit Union (PNCU) is pleased to host a free Community Shred Day on Friday, October 16, 2026, from 10 a.m. to Noon at its Executive Office, located at 46 Main Street in Chicopee.

The event provides community members with a secure and convenient way to dispose of confidential documents and protect themselves from identity theft and fraud. Attendees are encouraged to bring outdated financial records, credit card statements, tax documents, medical records, and other sensitive paperwork for secure on-site shredding.

Community members may bring paper documents for shredding during the event. To ensure the event can accommodate as many participants as possible, there is a maximum limit of three boxes of documents per person.

For additional information about the event, please contact Shane Hall at (413) 206-0623 or shall@pncu.com.

Chicopee Parade Committee announces Fall Events

CHICOPEE - The St. Patrick's Parade Committee of Chicopee is planning two events in the fall to support its participation in the 2027 Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade Committee.

The third annual Designer Purse Bingo will be held on September 12, 2026, at the Portuguese American Club, 149 Exchange St., Chicopee. All guests must be 18 years of age or older. Doors will open at 4pm. Games will start promptly at 5 p.m. Prizes for the lucky winners will be designer handbags.

Admission is \$35, which includes 10 bingo card games and a door prize entry ticket. Dabbers will be available for purchase. Additional bingo card games can be purchased during the event. Tables of eight can be reserved for \$240.00 and must be paid in full no later than Sept. 2. Checks should be made out to Chicopee Parade Committee and mailed to P.O. Box 495 Chicopee, MA 01021, or brought to 1 Central Ave., Chicopee during regular business hours (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM) Monday thru Thursday.

Attendees are welcome to bring snacks but must purchase beverages from the bar. Tickets for donated baskets will be available for purchase. Photos will be posted on the committee's Facebook page for those interested in a preview of the prizes. For more information or to reserve a

table, call or text Alivia @ 413-378-5694 and leave a full name and good contact # where you can be reached.

New this year: A Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday October 3, 2026, at the Chicopee Country Club, 1290 Burnett Rd., Chicopee. Fee is \$120 per Golfer which includes 18 holes of golf with cart, lunch and dinner. Cost is \$440 per foursome. Dinner only tickets may be purchased for \$40. There are also sponsorship opportunities available from \$100 through \$1000. For more information or to register, call 413-531-5161 or e-mail ChicopeeSP-Cgolf@gmail.com.

Links to register for both of these events will be set up through zeffy and posted on the committee's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/chicopeespc/>. More information will be posted as it becomes available. Proceeds will support the Chicopee contingent's participation in the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade.

The St. Patrick's Parade Committee of Chicopee strives to promote Irish pride and culture through its many events. For over 70 years, the committee has organized the annual Colleen Contest and Coronation Ball, constructed the Colleen's award-winning float, and awarded scholarships to young women who plan to further their education at a college or university.



PHOTO AND CAPTION COURTESY OF CHICOPEE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Firefighter Tim Barry retires

CHICOPEE - After more than 32 years of dedicated service to the Chicopee Fire Department, Firefighter Tim Barry has retired. Following his service to our country as a United States Marine, Firefighter Barry joined the Chicopee Fire Department in 1994. Throughout his career, he proudly served as a firefighter. In June of 2024, he was honored as Badge 1, recognizing him as the department's most senior firefighter. Thank you, Firefighter Barry, for your commitment to our country, our department, and the community. Please join us in congratulating Firefighter Tim Barry on his well-earned retirement.



PHOTO AND CAPTION COURTESY OF CHICOPEE FIRE DEPARTMENT

DIAMOND GROUP from page 1

supplies, you might just put it off," Bagley said.

Bagley highlighted why she believes that having a social group at the library is so important.

"There are a lot of people who come to the library as a place to go, to be out of their house. And libraries are quiet places. And so, this encourages people to talk at the library, in a space that's provided, where it's just fine to talk. And I think there are a lot of quiet spaces in the library and

people come and they like being at the library, but they would like it to be special. And so, this allows us a social space," Bagley said.

Bagley reflected on what she enjoys about running the Diamond Art Group.

"I think because the people who come are having a blast. They look forward to it. They're excited to see what things we've picked out. And so, it's exciting to see them excited to do things. And a lot of them will share the projects they've been doing at home. It's fun to see people excited to do projects," Bagley said.

This crafting group provides a welcoming social space for people of all ages to gather, chat and craft. It's clear Bagley is passionate and dedicated to creating a free space for anyone to come and join their're group.

Whether someone is looking for a quiet spot to try a new artform or a group to meet new people while making a fun craft, CPL's Diamond Art Group is the perfect spot.

For more information about upcoming events at Chicopee Public Library visit, chicopeepubliclibrary.org.

TAX BILLS from page 1

the current function and requirements."

The mayor explained further that assessment evaluations will continue to be mandated, "but the timing will be impacted due to quarterly billing."

Prior to the meeting, Laflamme passed out information pertaining to the item to the entire council.

After pointing that out, Vieau continued his description, as he said postage will remain the same because two bills will be mailed.

"The first bill, which will probably be mailed out in August again when we implement next year, you would receive two estimates and then you would also receive them at the other half part of

the year. There would be two actual bills in one envelope," Vieau said.

Vieau added that he has spoken with Peret about the reality that this process would have an "impact on staff time."

Their discussions have been centered around how the city will be moving forward in a much more involved manner.

"The collector has indicated that staff will again be impacted," Vieau said. "It is requested that the information, questions and answers to taxpayers be explained [regarding] this new process, and we're going to be doing that."

Vieau promised that the draft City Council received will be made available for all taxpayers.

However, Ward 3 Councilor Susan Goff motioned for the item to be referred to the Finance Subcommittee for a first reading and public hearing.

"I think there's a lot of information that needs to be communicated to the city councilors so they can answer all the questions that the constituents are going to ask them. Also, it gives the opportunity for the public to speak," Goff said.

It was at that point that Shumsky motioned to amend and table the item for a future special meeting that will include the entire City Council. His request passed without opposition.

The special meeting to discuss this item further will take place this coming Tuesday, Aug. 18.

Boutin completes probationary year

CHICOPEE - Congratulations to Firefighter Jacob Boutin on successfully completing his probationary year.

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OPINION

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reader supports Neal for Congress

To the Editor,

As the primary election approaches, voters across Western Massachusetts face a choice about who will best represent our region in Washington. I am writing to express my strong support for Congressman Richard Neal for re-election.

Congressman Neal's track record of delivering tangible results speaks for itself. Recently, his leadership was instrumental in securing vital federal funding for Chicopee as well as other community water treatment infrastructure. By bringing these dollars back home, he directly offset substantial infrastructure costs that otherwise would have fallen on local households, keeping municipal water rates manageable for everyday ratepayers.

Furthermore, Congressman Neal's unwavering support for Westover Air Reserve Base has been essential to our local

economy and national defense. His efforts to fund the construction of the new maintenance hangar for the C-5M Super Galaxy aircraft ensure that the base remains at peak operational efficiency while securing Westover's mission and presence in Chicopee for decades to come.

In Washington, effective representation depends heavily on influence and relationships. Congressman Neal's seniority, depth of experience, and steadfast commitment to Western Massachusetts ensure that our region continues to have a powerful, respected voice where key decisions are made.

We need a proven advocate who delivers real results for our infrastructure, economy, and community stability. I urge my fellow residents to join me in voting to re-elect Congressman Richard Neal.

Sincerely,
Michael Pise

Reader supports Whalen for Congress

To The Editor:

Through the course of my life, I've had the privilege of serving my community in many different ways.

I recently retired after over 20 years in the Massachusetts Army National Guard, I've spent nearly two decades as a federal civilian employee, and I've dedicated countless volunteer hours to suicide prevention, LGBTQ+ advocacy and nonprofit leadership.

Those experiences have taught me that the best leaders aren't the ones who seek attention; they're the ones who show up, listen and work alongside the people they serve.

Those are the qualities I see in Jeromie Whalen. Politics has become increasingly divided, but I believe our representatives should be judged less by political rhetoric and more by their character, accessibility, and willingness to serve. Jeromie approaches leadership with humility,

compassion, and a genuine desire to hear from the people he hopes to represent. Rather than talking at constituents, he listens to them.

Rather than promising easy solutions, he's willing to have honest conversations about difficult issues.

After spending my own life in public service, I've learned to recognize leadership that comes from a place of service instead of ambition. That is why Jeromie has earned my support.

Every voter deserves to make an informed decision, and I encourage everyone to take the opportunity to meet the candidates, ask questions, and engage in the democratic process. As for me, I'll be casting my vote for Jeromie Whalen because I believe he represents the kind of thoughtful, community centered leadership that Massachusetts' First Congressional District deserves.

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Midsummer questions for the Garden Lady

Karen, who has a vegetable garden in Hardwick, is concerned over her tomatoes cracking and is asking the Garden Lady for some advice.

“With all the rainstorms we’ve had, one measuring over 5 inches last week, my cherry tomatoes, and even some of my paste types are starting to crack. Is this a normal occurrence and if so, is there anything I can do to prevent this from happening in the future?”

This is a timely question, Karen, and one that I am sure a lot of readers can relate to. I know I can.

It’s always exciting when the tomatoes start ripening and then this happens.

Fruit cracking around the stem, either in rings or radiating downward is caused by overwatering; we or Mother Nature can be at fault. This year I will blame her for some of it.

A week ago many gardeners in the area received an inch or more of rain in two separate deluges. Keep in mind that most veggies require about an inch per week.

Adjust your irrigation to accommodate for the excess.

Mulches do well to moderate soil moisture; if you mulch, you can water less often. If cracking ends up being a big problem for you, consider scouring the seed catalogs for varieties that are resistant to it.

As long as the cracks are fresh, and haven’t begun to show mold, I use the fruit anyway. Watering issues

can also affect other plants. Sometimes gardeners complain that their cucumbers look funny, bent in the shape of an apostrophe.

Some people comment that the berries with this disorder are a little tough or flavorless. It doesn’t really bother me.

Moldy berries would look furry and the area would be raised.

Bill is growing basil for the first time and he had this question for the Garden Lady: “My basil was slow to take off. I came back from vacation and it is in flower. While the bees seem to enjoy the flowers, I was hoping to harvest some of the leaves. Do you have any advice as to how to get it out of flower mode and into leaf production?”

Yes, I do. It involves giving the basil a hair cut. Sure enough, your plant needs to be rid of those flowers.

Once you do that, provide some nitrogen to get them greened up and growing. This could be by the addition of a little blood meal at the base of the plant or a foliar feed of fish emulsion or compost tea.

In no time your plant will rebound. Just be sure to keep those flowers trimmed off.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 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.



Chicopee Register

We Want to Hear From You

EDITOR
Kristin Rivers
krivers@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

The Chicopee Register is published every Friday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

WEB
chicopeeregister.turley.com

PHONE
(413) 283-8393

ADDRESS
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069

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www.turley.com

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The deadline for submissions is Tuesday at noon.

WE CARE ABOUT YOUR NEWS!

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

Election letters to the editor

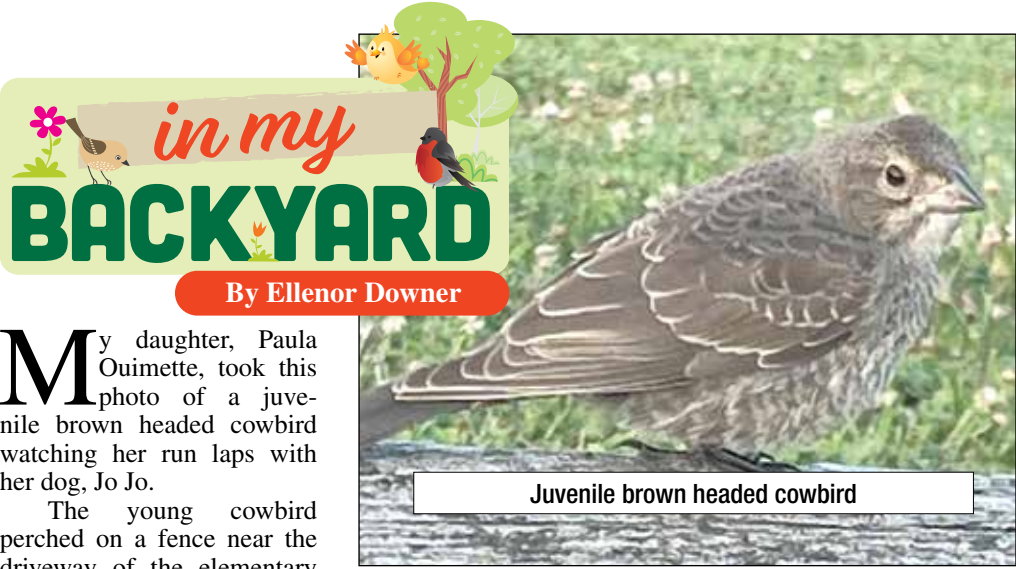
The Chicopee Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to Chicopee Register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

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

Campaign news

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

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



My daughter, Paula Ouimette, took this photo of a juvenile brown headed cowbird watching her run laps with her dog, Jo Jo.

The young cowbird perched on a fence near the driveway of the elementary school in Hardwick.

My daughter used the Seek app by iNaturalist to get the identification. It stayed there for about 20 minutes before flying off.

She said there were no other cowbirds around, but cowbirds lay their eggs in nests of birds smaller than then in hopes they will raise their young.

Obviously, this young cowbird looks well feed. I wonder what bird raised it, often at the expense of their own offspring.

Warblers and vireos are

the most common cowbird hosts. Their nestlings weight less than half as much as the cowbird nestling.

Some species will either push the cowbird egg out of their nest or leave that nest and start another nest.

The brown-headed cowbird is a stocky blackbird. The females do not build a nest and instead produce up to three dozen eggs per summer.

They lay the eggs in the nests of other bird species and let them raise their young, know as brood parasitism.

Brown-headed cowbirds are native to North America, but many people consider them a nuisance bird because of their parenting style.

Cowbirds destroy the eggs and young of smaller songbirds and have been implicated in the decline of several endangered species, including Kirtland's warbler and black-capped vireo.

Adult male cowbirds have glossy black bodies and brown heads, hence their name. In poor lighting, the male's head looks brown.

The female is brown with the head lighter brown than the body. She has fine streaking on the belly/ Both sexes have thick, conical bills and black eyes.

They are 7.5 to 8.7 inches long. They feed on the ground and can be seen walking behind livestock to eat what their hooves stir up.

They are found in open habitats such as fields, pastures, meadows, forest edges and lawns. They also perch on a prominent branch high in a tree.

They are primarily seed-eaters and insectivores, adapting their diet based on availability and season, often gleaned from the ground or by following grazing animals. They will come to feeders as well and prefer sunflower seeds and millet.

Other Hardwick birds

My daughter, Paula, saw lots of bluebirds, swallows, robins and one hen turkey with a poult. She said there were probably more underneath the hen turkey, but only one was brave enough to come out.

Red tail hawks

I have several red tail hawks in Barre, New Brain-tree and Oakham. Recently, one flew off and the sunshine showed off the hawks red tail. They are often seen by freshly mowed fields in hopes of featching some rodents, who stand out on a newly cut field.

Great blue heron

Long Pond in Rutland is a popular spot to find a great blue heron “fishing” in the shallows along Route 122.

Meal worms

I continue to have catbirds come for the mealworms I leave them on the picnic table. The other day I heard a catbird make its meowing call. Males use the call to establish territory and females for communication and alarm purposes.

Raven

Recently, the common raven flew overhead making its gurgling croak. I could hear it, but I was unable to see it with all the trees.

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

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
from page 1

lice Air Wing, an extrication demonstration from the fire department, a flashlight walk and many more.

Also, the return of the police department’s ice cream truck, which received a ribbon-cutting ceremony as the event got underway.

This year’s Wing Eating Contest—sponsored by Buffalo Wild Wings—had a slight change. As the Chicopee Comprehensive High School football team declined to participate, members of the police department volunteered to compete against the Chicopee High School football team. Chicopee High then went on to win the contest in a very close match.

This year’s other sponsors were Chicopee Electric Light, Florence Bank, Polish National Credit Union, Westfield Bank, IQ Ink and Embroidery for the staff shirts, Walmart for the cupcakes, Our Father’s House and Holyoke Medical Center.

Mayor John Vieau opened the event after being introduced by Sgt. Melissa Lyman.

“What this event is about is building those relationships with not just the police department, but your elected officials, your neighbors, our stakeholders and all the businesses,” Vieau said. “One thing about the city of Chicopee, when we hold events like this, no one’s allowed to sell you anything. Everything is free tonight. Make sure you take advantage of that. This is an opportunity for everyone to have the same identical experience, so whether you have a lot of money or no money, you still have the same good time.”

Public Information Ofc. Travis Odiorne assisted in handing out ice cream, sharing how the CPD got the new ice cream truck.

“Last year, we had some mechanical difficulties with our old one, so we had to take it off the road. I started the search back in November. We did some research to buy a new one; it was rather expensive, so we were lucky enough to be able to reuse a vehicle that the city has,” Odiorne said.

Odiorne said they were able to come up with a way to take on the vehicle while it still stays with the Council on Aging.

“So we just had it wrapped, we had a window put into it—a sliding window for serving—we just got it back on Friday so it’s up and running now,” Odiorne said.

He was thrilled with the turnout as well, especially seeing the families.

“It’s always great for the community to come out and support us for events like this. It just shows that the work we’re doing doesn’t go unnoticed throughout the community and it’s kind of reassuring for officers too. Throughout the years, sometimes guys feel a little burnt out and underappreciated,” Odiorne said. “But we come out here and see 3,000 people that show up and come by, shake your hand and thank you for your service, it makes a big difference for everybody at the department.”

Odiorne also expressed gratitude for the community’s continued support of National Night Out as it marks its 32nd year.

“If it wasn’t for the community coming out, we wouldn’t be able to do this every year. Some communities, unfortunately, some towns that do the National Night Out, they’ve seen a drop in attendance and they kind of scale back a little bit,” Odiorne said. “Luckily, every year, it gets bigger and bigger. Last year, we were ranked #12 in the nation for a community the size of 55,000 or over, so again, we’re grateful for everybody coming out and showing the support and making it as big as it is.”

Nick Athas, who’s part of the Melha Shriners, was spreading the word about the 19th Annual Melha Shriners Motorcycle Run event coming up on Aug. 16 that will feature motorcyclists riding from Shriners Children’s New England in Springfield to the Polish American Club in Agawam. All the money raised that day will go back to Shriners and there will be an after-party event.

Athas has been part of the Shriners for 9 years and has been the chairman of the motorcycle run event for the last five years.

“I just love it. I love everything about being a Shriner,” Athas said. “It’s just giving back. It’s a wonderful feeling to know that I did something to help the children at Shriners.”

Athas said he and the Shriners were enjoying the event and he liked checking out the State Police 911 Center.

“This is an unbelievable event. I hope that we can get more of us here next year. There’s so many different things to see and do from all the different police officers, all the different units and horses and the motorcycle community is represented here,” Athas said. “Everything here is great.”

For Zachary Smola, a patrolman who is also part of the Hampden County Regional Response Team, he said it was “a great opportunity to get out and interact with the community.”

Smola was inspired to become an officer from a young age.

“A lot of people don’t get to see this side of us. Usually it’s their worst day when they call the police, so it’s nice to get out and talk to them on a different level and interact with the community,” Smola said.

Smola was also thrilled with the record number of vendors this year.

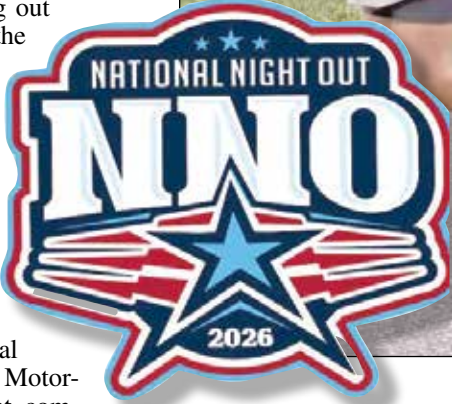
“It’s awesome all these vendors came out. It makes it a lot more enjoyable for everybody. Lines are shorter and they have more to do, so that’s awesome,” Smola said.

He hopes attendees see that officers are “humans just like them.”

“It’s nice to interact with them and hopefully if they do need to call us for help, they’ll feel a lot more comfortable doing it,” Smola said.

Odiorne’s message was this.

“Thanks again for the support and we’re always there for them. We’re happy they’re here for us, for this,” Odiorne said.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

A family poses for the camera with all smiles as they walk during the flashlight walk.



Sgt. Erik Sunny sings the National Anthem.



Attendees check out the United States Air Force fire truck.



The Chicopee Public Schools were among the many vendors.



The Chicopee High School football team and members of the Chicopee Police Department compete in the Wing Eating Contest.



Monica Torres, community and special projects liaison for the city of Chicopee, and Rachel Beaudoin, communications and special projects liaison for the city of Chicopee, pose for a photo.

Advancing Chicopee Together/Adelantando Chicopee Juntos (ACT) Coalition were also in attendance.



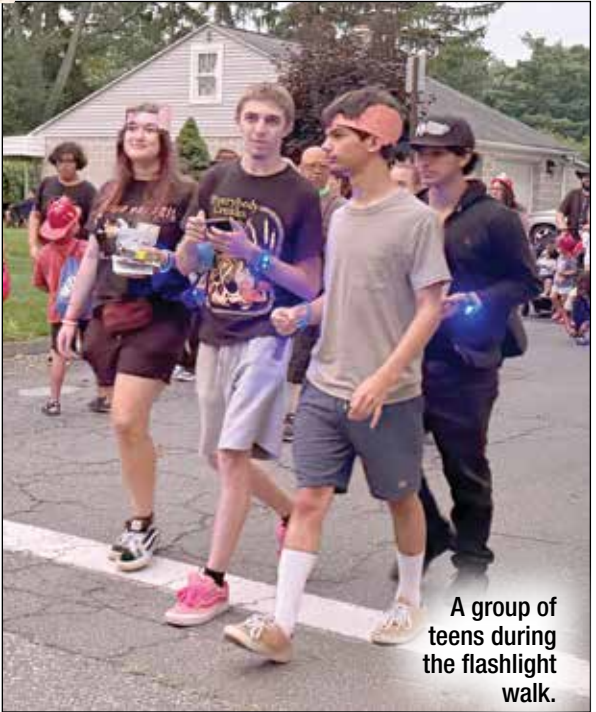
Chicopee Register Correspondent Brendan Rooney—who was enjoying the night off per his boss's orders—takes a group photo with Ward 4 City Councilor George Balakier, Ward 1 City Councilor Abigail Arriaga and Ward 8 City Councilor Doug Girouard at the cupcake table.



A fun inflatable slide for families presented by the Massachusetts Army National Guard.



Here we have the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee at their table.



A group of teens during the flashlight walk.

IN THE CITY

Chicopee Police Dept. announces the retirement of K9 Kane

CHICOPEE - After 10.5 years of dedicated service to the citizens of Chicopee and the surrounding communities, the Chicopee Police Department proudly announces the retirement of K9 Kane.

K9 Kane joined the Chicopee Police Department as a dual purpose (Patrol/Narcotic) canine in 2016 with his then partner, Officer Ryan Romano. From the beginning of his career, Kane quickly demonstrated the tremendous value a police K9 can bring to a law enforcement agency. His success in the field not only enhanced public safety but also helped pave the way for the expansion of the Chicopee Police Department's K9 Unit. Through Kane's proven effectiveness and reliability, the Department recognized the need for additional K9 teams, ultimately growing the unit to the four-K9 program that remains in place today. Following the retirement of Officer Romano, K9 Kane was paired with Sgt. Ryan Moran, extending his remarkable career and continuing to contribute as an invaluable asset to the Chicopee Police Department and its K9 Unit.

Throughout his distinguished career, K9 Kane played a critical role in countless operations and investigations. He assisted in locating missing children and vulnerable adults, helping reunite families during some of their most difficult moments. Kane was instrumental in tracking and apprehending fleeing suspects, often bringing danger-

ous situations to a safe resolution. His keen abilities led to the recovery of valuable evidence that contributed to successful criminal investigations and prosecutions. Additionally, Kane's narcotics detection skills helped remove dangerous drugs from our streets, making our community safer for all who live, work, and visit here.

Beyond his operational accomplishments, Kane served as an ambassador for the Department, representing the professionalism and dedication of the Chicopee Police Department at community events, school demonstrations, and public outreach programs.

The Chicopee Police Department extends its sincere gratitude to Officer Romano and Sgt. Moran for their years of commitment to training, handling, and caring for Kane. The bond between handler and K9 is unlike any other partnership in law enforcement, and their teamwork has left a lasting impact on our Department and community.

As K9 Kane entered the later stages of his career, the effects of age and accumulated injuries began to take their toll. After careful consideration, Sgt. Moran and Department leadership made the difficult but necessary decision to retire him and allow him to enjoy a well-deserved retirement.

K9 Kane will remain with Sgt. Moran and his family, enjoying retirement surrounded by those who know

him best. He looks forward to spending his days swimming during family vacations, relaxing at home, and finally enjoying one of life's simple pleasures that working K9s rarely get to experience—sticking his head out the window during car rides.

On behalf of the Department and the City of Chicopee, we thank him for his loyal service, unwavering dedication, and countless contributions to public safety. His legacy will continue to be reflected in the success of the Chicopee Police Department's K9 Unit for years to come.

Congratulations, K9 Kane. Enjoy your retirement—you've earned it.



PHOTOS AND CAPTION COURTESY OF CHICOPEE POLICE DEPARTMENT



CFD responds to structure fire

CHICOPEE - Crews were dispatched by West-comm Regional Dispatch to Emerson Street at 4:33 a.m. the morning of Aug. 1, following reports of a structure fire.

Firefighters arrived shortly thereafter and extinguished the fire. All residents were safely evacuated.

The American Red Cross is assisting 24 residents who were displaced by the fire.

Fire crews remained on scene throughout the morning.

We would like to thank Chicopee Electric Light for their rapid response and for ensuring power was safely restored to the surrounding homes. We also extend our appreciation to the Chicopee DPW for their assistance in addressing excess water in the road.

We were also assisted by Massachusetts Department of Fire Services and mutual aid was provided by the Holyoke Fire Department and Westover Fire and Emergency Services.



COLLEGE NEWS

WNEU recognizes students on Spring 2026 President's List

SPRINGFIELD - Western New England University (WNE) is proud to recognize 597 students who have earned a place on the Spring 2026 President's List, one of the University's highest academic honors.

The President's List celebrates students who have achieved exceptional academic success through their dedication, discipline, and pursuit of excellence by earning a GPA of 3.80 or higher, while the Dean's List honors students who earned a semester GPA of 3.30 or higher. Their accomplishments reflect a strong commitment to learning and exemplify the high standards of achievement that define the Western New England University community.

WNE congratulates these outstanding students on their remarkable academic performance and applauds their continued pursuit of excellence.

• Jack Ryczek of Chicopee
• Emily Meyer of Chicopee
• Benjamin Halley of Chicopee

• Kaile Bottesini of Chicopee
• Jenna Dirosa of Chicopee
• Amie Teixeira of Chicopee
• Brady Burnett of Chicopee
• Haley Agostinucci of Chicopee
• Hadi Syed of Chicopee
• Angelina Cross of Chicopee
• Jack Seymour of Chicopee
• Julia Zielinski of Chicopee
• Henry Ryczek of Chicopee
• Matthew Nabors of Chicopee
• Allison Dejordy of Chicopee

• Caleb Germain of Chicopee
• Steven Placzek of Chicopee
• Caitlyn Carrasquillo of Chicopee
• Matthew Lagares of Chicopee
• Tryston Tolliver of Chicopee
• Daniel Kennedy of Chicopee
• Ella Smith of Chicopee
• Shakina Perry of Chicopee



TURLEY PHOTOS BY BRENDAN ROONEY

Group photo before heading off to the airport.

ARROWHEAD from page 1

"I will admit I'm also looking forward to doing some yodeling at some point, but I know that the scouts are looking forward to the canoeing and the gondola rides," Hall said.

He said that opportunities like this don't come often.

"To be honest, I've been waiting to do this type of trip since I was a teenager, and the fact it's almost here is pretty surreal, because you truly never think of these opportunities as a scout," Hall said. "But

here we are presented with a chance to leave the country and experience what scouting is like in a foreign country; it's truly a fantastic opportunity for all, and we couldn't be happier."

According to the consensus gathered among officials, the trip was deemed an incredible success for all, and the lodge is already planning its next trip.

Troop 1849 Scouts From Left to Right: Daniel Kalafarski, Zach Trexler, and his brother Josh Trexler.



SPORTS

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Chicopee youth basketball finishes up summer season



Gianna Nem-bhard tries to dribble around pressure.



Tarielys Negrón goes for the layup.



Faith Williams makes an open shot.



Mia Rivera goes for a rebound.

WILBRAHAM – The Spec Pond Summer Basketball League held playoff last week, utilizing a few sites in addition to the courts at Spec Pond. Chicopee, a 5-6 team, were involved in a matchup held in Wilbraham at Minnechaug Regional High School.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Mount Carmel captured the PVSSL Men's title this year.

Mount Carmel takes Men's PVSSL title

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Anthony Bourget was an assistant boys' soccer coach under longtime varsity coach John O'Keefe at Minnechaug Regional High School before stepping down at the end of last season. Bourget was also the head coach of Villa FC, which captured the last two Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League men's championship titles. Villa FC changed sponsors before the start of the 2026 summer league season and are now known as Mount Carmel FC. Mason Perham is one of the former Minnechaug soccer players listed on the Mount Carmel roster. Perham scored a second-half goal, which helped top-seeded Mount Carmel FC win the championship title once again with a crisp 2-0 win over second-seeded Rumbleseat before a large crowd at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow on Friday, July 31. "We've won the last two men's championship titles with Villa, and this is our first one with Mount Carmel," Bourget said. "Winning the championship game is something that we expect to do every year. It was a hard fought

battle tonight. Rumbleseat played very well against us." Mount Carmel FC, who finished the PVSSL regular season with a 10-1-0 record, defeated fourth-seeded CF Ardor, 2-0, in the semifinals. Rumbleseat, who also lost to Mount Carmel during the regular season, entered the playoffs with a 9-1-1 record. They advanced into the men's finals for the first time in more than ten years after knocking off the third-seeded KO Elites FC, 2-1, in the semifinals. "This is the first time that we've made the finals in many years, and it was a fun game tonight," said Kyle Giroud, who was an outstanding three-sport athlete at Chicopee Comp. "It's always a great time playing in this league and I'm looking forward to playing again next year." Giroud is also a member of the Skidmore College men's soccer team. The men's finals was scoreless at halftime. Mount Carmel broke the ice four minutes into the second half. The scoring play began with a crossing pass from Joao Miranda to Deandrae Brown, who fired a shot from the top of the box past Rumbleseat goalie Luke Theroux. Miranda was selected



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Deandrae Brown dribbles away from a defender.

as the M.V.P. following the match. About ten minutes later, Perham scored a goal, which was assisted by Brown. "It just felt awesome to score a goal in the championship game," Perham said. "We took control of the game at the start of the

second half. We had another great season." Perham has been a member of Villa/Mount Carmel for the past four years. "I'm very happy for Mason," Bourget said. "He

Please see **MOUNT CARMEL**, page 8

West Side Sports Shop grabs ladies title

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Since joining the prestigious Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League in 2021, West Side Sports Shop has claimed the women's championship title five times. West Side Sports Shop entered this year's playoffs as the fourth seed. They posted a 2-0 shutout victory over second-seeded W. Mass Xtremes in the women's finals held at historic Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow last Friday night. "We might be the fourth seed, but we played very well in the playoffs," said West Side Sports Shop head coach Chris Andre. "We lost to the Xtremes twice during the regular season." The only year that West Side Sports Shop didn't take home the championship trophy was in 2024. They beat top seeded Here for Beer in the finals a year ago.

"We've set a high standard here," Andre added. "A number of these players have been playing for me since our first year in this league. We also add a couple of new players each year. The players get along with each other very well and we always have a lot of fun." West Side Sports Shop, who finished the 2026 regular season with a 7-4-0 record, defeated the fifth-seeded Lusitano Women, 5-1, in the quarterfinals. Just like they did a year ago, they beat top seeded Here for Beer, 3-2, in the semifinals. West Side Sports also won the regular season match-up Here for Beer. "Here For Beer is a very talented soccer team," Andre said. "We played very well against them the other night." The West Side Sports Shop captain is Rhiann Ryan, who graduated from Minnechaug Regional High School. Please see **WEST SIDE**, page 8



TURLEY PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Sydney Mercier sends a free kick away.

SPORTS

Blue Sox season comes to end

HOLYOKE — The Valley Blue Sox’s bats finally awoke at home during Game 2 of the 2026 NECBL Playoffs Opening Round on Aug. 2. While the Blue Sox ultimately lost 14-5 to the Sanford Mainers, head coach John Raiola says his team has a lot to be pleased with.

“[As a coach] you try to provide the motivation and the energy and the right words, which are tough to find sometimes, especially when things aren’t going well,” said Raiola. “There are brighter days ahead, and we have an outstanding coaching staff who brings that same message, and that is something we are proud of.”

The journey to get to the playoffs was grueling for the Blue Sox, winning both games of a home-and-away series on the final day of the regular season to secure their spot in the post-season. The team gave it everything they had in the two weeks leading up to the playoffs, but unfortunately ran out of steam in the end.

“They had to go out there and show up every single day, tired, and same lineup, grinding their way through it,” said Raiola. “Credit to the players, credit to [team owner] Matt [Dru-ry], and the coaching staff for keeping the train on the tracks.”

Despite finally breaking their duck and hitting the ball out of Mackenzie Stadium for the first time all summer, Sunday’s loss eliminated Valley from the playoffs.

Mackenzie Stadium is one of the larger fields in the league, with dimensions of 400 ft. to center, 330 ft. to right, and 315 ft. to left, making it one of the hardest parks in the NECBL to hit a home run in. Valley did not hit a home run at the Mack until Sunday’s loss.

Entering the postsea-son, it seemed unlikely that statistic would change, but Valley’s Josh Toole (George Mason) went yard with two outs and two men on base in the bottom of the second. Toole swung at the first pitch he saw from Drew Smith (UConn) and sent the ball out of left field, scoring the first Blue Sox home run at Mackenzie Stadium this summer, putting his team up 3-0.

Fans were still riding the high from Toole’s homer when Nick Spaventa (UP-enn) added the second Blue Sox home run at the Mack an inning later. Spaventa hit the ball out into Valley’s bullpen with Esteban Garcia (Boston College) on third, extending the lead to 5-0.

Though the Blue Sox did not walk away with the win, it was only fitting for the team that clinched their playoff spot on the last day of the regular season to also score their first home runs at the Mack during their last game of the summer.

“We talk so much about the wins and the losses throughout the year, but we don’t do it for the wins; the wins happen as a result of them continuing to show up and do the right things,” said Raiola. “They will look back on it, and they will realize that through failure comes a lot of success down the road, and that part in it-self is rewarding.”



Jake Durham plays the ball off his toe.



Anthony Basile turns play around.

MOUNT CARMEL from page 7

began playing with us the year after he graduated from Minnechaug. We also have a couple of other Minnechaug players on our team. We have a bunch of talented players on this team.”

The other former Min-nechaug soccer players listed on the Mount Carmel roster are Kyle Atkin, Nick Cian-fione, Chase Henderson, and Cam Rigney.

The members of the Mount Carmel FC are hoping to make it a four-peat in the summer of 2027.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Shane Sewell sends a pass away.



Chapin Jeannotte takes the ball up the sideline.

WEST SIDE from page 7

nechaug a couple of years ago.

“I love being a member of this soccer team,” Ryan said. “It feels nice to finally beat Xtremes, especially after losing to them twice during the regular season.”

Six other players listed on the Westside Sports Shop roster played soccer for legendary head coach Nundi Goncalves at Minnechaug. They are Emily Howard, Gabby Rita, Lylah Jeannotte, Chapin Jeannotte, Gaby Wil-liams, and Claire Poindexter.

One of the West Side Sports Shop starters in the championship match was Mallory Pereira, who graduated from Ludlow High School.

Julianna Beaulieu, who graduated from Chicopee Comp, was selected as the M.V.P. of the women’s cham-pionship game.

“I never expected to be the M.V.P. of this game, but I knew we could win another

championship title,” Beaulieu said. “I’ve now won three championships with this team, which is very special. It’s been a lot of fun playing soccer for this team.”

Beaulieu, who played both basketball and soccer at Utica University, scored a pair of goals in the finals.

She got things rolling during the 16th minute of the opening half by putting a shot into the back of the net past goalie Madison Harmon.

“Once the ball left my foot, I knew it was going into the net,” Beaulieu said. “It set the tone for the rest of the game.”

The Xtremes, who went 10-1-0 during the regular season, had an opportuni-ty to tie the score during the 27th minute. Gianna Sakow-ski, who also graduated from Minnechaug, fired a shot on goal, which sailed high over the crossbar.

Beaulieu scored her sec-ond goal early in the second half.

Sara Avery, who was



Kaela Mochak heads up the field.



Emily Howard makes a stop.

Julianna Beaulieu sends a pass away.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



West Side Sports Shop, featuring adult female players from throughout the region, took the PVSSL Women’s Championship.

the West Side Sports Shop starting goalie, didn’t have to make very many saves in recording the shutout. Avery

lives in Belchertown and she graduated from the MacDuff-ie School. She’ll be a senior on the AIC women’s soccer

team this fall.

The members of the West Side Sports Shop will be looking to win another

PVSSL championship title next summer.

IN THE CITY

Polish Heritage Night
with the Valley Blue Sox

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE/HOLYOKE — The Valley Blue Sox hosted the Second Annual ‘Polish Heritage Night’ in tandem with the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning (PCDL) and Bernat’s Deli, on the grounds of Mackenzie Stadium on July 31.

From a live rendition of the Polish National Anthem playing over the intercom, to the budding union of all generations echoing the ballad, as two young volunteers held the Polish flag, adorned in patterns of porcelain white and crimson red, forever glistening in the spotlight as the ESPN+ cameras watched on, to a triumphant play-off-clinching victory on the final day of the season for the Blue Sox, it was clear this was one to night remember.

Offering insight into how the event came together was PCDL President and Board Chair Joanne Gruszkos, who said the reasoning was quite simple.

“The Polish Center was thinking of a way to gather families of Polish descent and offer a night of entertainment and fun, while also being budget-friendly, and so we decided, ‘Why not do a baseball game’ in the local area,” Gruszkos said. “So, we decided to reconnect with the Valley Blue Sox and expand on the blueprint and success we gathered from last year’s inaugural event, while also getting Bernat’s in the loop as well, and that’s how the idea of having a VIP tent came into focus, and we couldn’t be happier with the turnout, and we hope this continues to get bigger from here on out as we continue to grow.”

Gruszkos added that she extends the invitation to all to stop by the PCDL, citing the vast wealth of history and the abundance of Polish culture, perfectly displayed and honored.

“If you haven’t been to the [Polish Center], I recommend you do, because it’s a beautiful and well-crafted exhibit and showcase that’s worth visiting, because the truth is so much of our history relates to every culture, and we would love to share that

with everyone, even if you are Polish or not,” Gruszkos said.

Those who attended the special tailgate were treated to a full buffet of Polish classics, such as reverse Golumbki’s, Kielbasa with Peppers & Onions, among other specialties, along with refreshments, and a traditional specialty cocktail featuring V1 Vodka, courtesy of Bernat’s owner Greg Bernat, who was on site



Valley Blue Sox players signing two signature Polish jerseys.

The backs of the jerseys showing the signatures.

and helped serve; according to consensus gathered, the food was one of the main highlights throughout the evening, with many sharing at times, “This was the best thing I’ve ever eaten,” and another sharing, “this tastes just like home.”

“I love this event, and it’s one of my favorites, from the atmosphere at the ballpark to the sense of community; I couldn’t think of anywhere else to be,” Bernat said.

Echoing similar sentiments was Blue Sox General Manager Brandon Seymour.

“This event is always a bona fide success, and I can confirm we look forward



The Valley Blue Sox lineup and staff look on as the Polish anthem is played through the intercom



TURLEY PHOTOS BY BRENDAN ROONEY

Lukasz Wadas and Michael Ochab holding the Polish National Flag.

erate interest in reading within the school district, and due to its success, that’s becoming a perennial event as well,” Seymour said.

Seymour then closed his thoughts by sharing how he felt this season was one to remember.

“I feel this has been a tremendous season overall, and

we couldn’t be happier, and now that we have reached this newfound point of success, we only feel it’s natural to keep raising the bar from here on out, and finding new ways to strengthen our fanbase and connection with the community,” Seymour said.

As of this story being published, it should be known that the Valley Blue Sox’s season came to an end earlier this month on Aug. 2 after a 14-5 postseason loss to the Sanford Mainers in Game 2 of the opening round of the NECBL(New England Collegiate Baseball League) Play-offs.

Looking ahead

Also, note that the Polish Center is hosting ‘Cigar Night’ at the Rumbleseat Bar & Grille next week on Thursday, Aug. 20 in Chicopee. The event is sponsored by Bernat’s Polish Deli and Cigar Room II, and tickets are going fast and can be purchased at the Polish Center.

They are \$80 per ticket, and with it you get a premium cigar from the Cigar Room II, a beverage of your choice, access to the free Golf Simulator, and a signature buffet. The event runs from 6 to 9 p.m.

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68 69 70

CLUES ACROSS

1. Midway between south and southeast

4. Fathers

9. Wine grape

14. Al Bundy's wife

15. Derived from ammonia

16. Venezuelan state

17. Interest rate

18. Experts

20. Vascular tissues

22. Smooth and glossy

23. Administrative region in S. Korea

24. One from Damascus

28. Special interest group

29. It cools your home

30. Oh, God!

31. Intestinal pouches

33. Men

37. Twelfth star in a constellation

38. Former CIA

39. Arrange in grades of size

41. A baglike structure in a plant or animal

42. "The Great Lakes State"

43. Having earlike appendages

44. Momentarily stop

46. Ancient kingdom

49. Of I

50. White clerical vestment

51. Songs to one's beloved

55. Charges

58. Computer application originator

59. A place to dock a boat

60. One guided by reason

64. Slang for cigarette

65. Sailboats

66. "Jerry Maguire" actor Zellweger

67. Screen type

68. Country legend Haggard

69. Puts together in time

70. When you anticipate arriving

CLUES DOWN

1. Involuntary muscular contraction

2. Eastern US transit agency

3. Leaves a place

4. Cease to participate

5. Current units

6. Cease to exist

7. General's assistant (abbr.)

8. Earth vibration

9. Very strong winds

10. For each one

11. A bog

12. The creation of beautiful or significant things

13. Affirmative

19. Pie __ mode

21. Nonclerical

24. Indonesian island

25. Educational environment

26. Namibian peoples

27. Bring out or develop

31. Moves into a place of thought

32. Out of the way

34. Loads a ship

35. Beloved Hollywood alien

36. Distinguishes

40. The ancient Egyptian sun god

41. Secondary or explanatory title

45. Relating to a wing

47. One who gives a speech

48. In the middle

52. Loop with a running knot

53. Airborne (abbr.)

54. Sweet persons

56. Put into play

57. Small cattle breed

59. Millisecond

60. Revolutions per minute

61. They __

62. Moon crater

63. A place to stay the night

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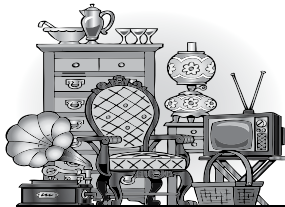
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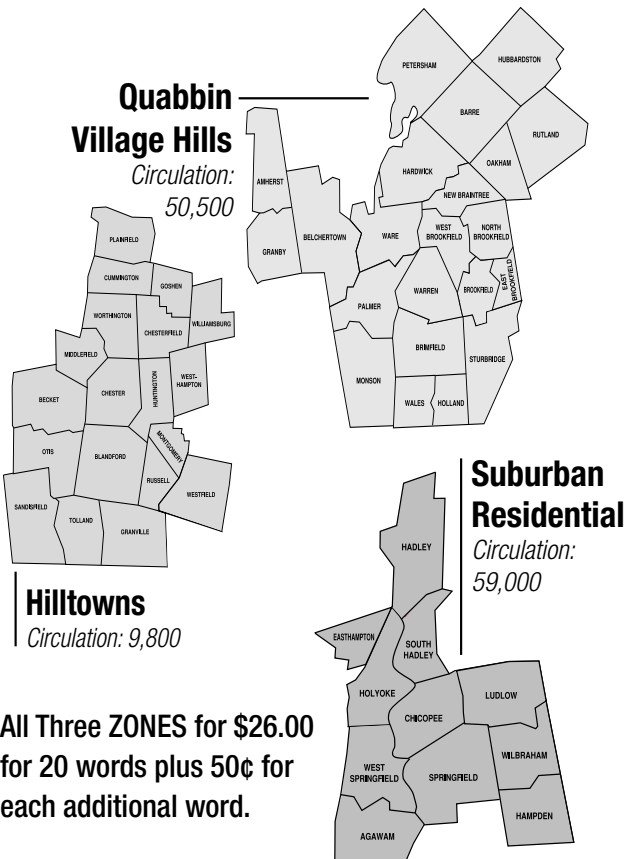
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PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD26P1696EA
Estate of:
Sandra Michelle Bronner
Date of Death: 07/08/2026
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

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

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/04/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: August 07, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
08/14/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD26P1670GD
In the interests of
Jumyel Belen
of Chicopee, MA
Minor

NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time:
A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **08/03/2026** by **Isabel Figueroa** of Chicopee, MA will be held **09/03/2026 08:30 AM** Guardianship of Minor Hearing. Located: **Hampden Probate and Family Court, 50 State Street, Springfield, MA 01102-0559.**

2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:
File the original with the Court; and

Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor:
The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot

afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

Date: August 3, 2026
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
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 28th, 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.

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1989 Honda Civic
VIN: JHMED635XKS003210
Rosa Cruz
658 Union St., Apt. 2
Springfield, MA 01109

2006 Nissan Murano
VIN: JN8AZ08W06W545550
Marie Mobio
412 Summerfield Ave., Unit 313
Bridgeport, CT 06610

2006 Chevrolet Suburban
VIN: 3GN6K26G66G119062
Charles T Corning
7 Mulberry Ln.
New Rochelle, NY 10804

2013 Ford Focus
VIN: 1FADP3J24DL202963
Luis Junior Perez Sierra
698 Broad St., Apt. 301
Hartford, CT 06106

2013 Kia Soul
VIN: KNDJT2A63D7524590
Katherine Vannostrand
334 Woronoco Rd.
Woronoco, MA 01097

2006 Bmw X5
VIN: 5UXFA13586LY39601
Alexander Marano
037 Wyndermere Pl.
Ludlow, Ma 01506

2014 Honda Accord
vin: 1hgc6f59ea010988
Melissa Marie West
367 Bee Hole Rd.
Loudon, NH 03307

2014 Toyota Camry
VIN: 4T4BF1FK5ER356211
Jose Contreras
6 Sackett St., Apt. 11
Westfield, MA 01085

2007 Mitsubishi Lancer
VIN: JA3AJ26E17U017178
Angel Guevarez &
Ashly Figueroa Pagan
135 Meeting House Rd.
Chicopee, MA 01013

2012 Acura TSX
VIN: JH4CU2F62CC000950
Deneishaliz Feliciano
276 Plainfield St.
Springfield, MA 01107

2020 Land Rover Range Rover
VIN: SALGV2SE0LA568762
Nathan Nguyen
135 Seaport Blvd., Apt. 526
Boston, MA 02210

2018 Volkswagen Jetta
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Rafael Hernandez
119 Lebanon Hill Rd.
Southbridge, MA 01550

2007 Honda Ridgeline
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Adam Tirrell
68 Angeline St.
West Springfield, MA 01089

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Cristian Martinez Vazquez
23 N Summer St., Apt. 2b
Holyoke, MA 01040

2006 Kia Optima
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Kristen Thrasher
175 Grattan St., Apt. 3
Chicopee, MA 01020

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08/14, 08/21, 08/28/2026

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

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

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

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

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

2004 Bmw 745i
VIN: WBAGL6345DP68737
Yosnay Yannini Gonzalez
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Austin, TX 78751

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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
Lisette 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: JNKCV51E43M018373
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

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.

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.

08/07, 08/14/2026

OBITUARY

Linda Ann Larivee

Linda Ann Larivee had a deep love for traveling,



even taking a tour around Germany, Italy, France, and England in her early 20s. Linda also had a succession of beloved cats: Fluffy, Venus I, Warren I, Warren II, Venus II, Vegas, Warren III, and Venus III.

Linda leaves behind her husband, Peter Quirk, and her cat, Venus III, who will miss her terribly.

Linda passed away on August 1, 2026. Linda was born to the late Arthur G. and Pauline M. (Strycharz) Larivee. Linda's father was the former owner of Shorty's Restaurant. From his side, Linda is 1/8 Mohawk.

She was a longtime resident of Holyoke, MA and after attending Holyoke schools, she went on

to work for the school department for many years

until her retirement. She even taught a couple of courses at Holyoke Community College.

Visitation will be Wednesday, Aug. 19 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the

Beers & Story South Hadley Funeral Home. A funeral home service will be Thursday, August 20 at 10 a.m. with burial to follow at Forestdale Cemetery in Holyoke.

DEATH NOTICE

Larivee, Linda Ann
Died Aug. 1, 2026
Services Aug. 19, 2026

Dozynki Mass to be held Aug. 30

INDIAN ORCHARD – Immaculate Conception Church, 25 Parker St., Indian Orchard will have a Dozynki (Harvest) Solemn Holy Mass with Bishop William D. Byrne on Sunday, Aug. 30 at 10:15 a.m. with reception after Mass until 12:30 p.m.

The cost is \$20 per person (pre-ordered tickets only). Tickets are available after all Masses and at the rectory until Aug. 23

Food from traditional harvest table (bigos, kiel-

basa, bread, pickle, dessert, coffee). Second option: served 12:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.: Kielbasa placed in a Portuguese roll \$8, Bigos (Hunter's stew) with bread or roll (bowl) \$8 Pickles \$1 each.

- Cash Bar: Wine – Wino, Beer-Piwo (Zywiec, Harnas) Water-Woda.
- Basket Raffle and 50/50.
- Lottery tree sponsored by Rosary Sodality
- Bake Sale by members of our parish

A variety of activities for children and youth.

Listen, Pray, Share & Thank

INDIAN ORCHARD - A concert in Honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be held at Immaculate Conception Church, 25 Parker St. Indian Orchard, Ma on Sunday, Aug. 16, 2026 starting at 3 p.m.

Join our Parish Choir in singing Polish, English & Latin Marian Hymns. Guest speakers during the Concert will be Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist- Sister Faith

Marie Woolsey FSE will speak about the Rosary and its significance, and Sister Rosario Ongayo FSE will speak about real life experiences related to the mysteries of the Rosary.

Light refreshments after the concert.

The program is sponsored by Parish Rosary Sodality, Free will offering will benefit the parish.

Knights of Columbus hosts car shows Wednesday evenings

CHICOPEE - Knights of Columbus, 460 Granby Road, Chicopee holds a car show every Wednesday evening from 5 to 9 p.m., rain

or shine.

All makes, models and projects. Food trucks on site. Free entry.

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 on Saturday, Aug. 15 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.

Cemetery Memorials + Markers
Granite Benches
Religious Statuary + Outdoor Display
RAY HALUCH INC.
1014 Center St | Ludlow, MA | 583-6508

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

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- Tree Removal
- Structural Pruning
- Crane Service
- Storm Damage
- Stump Grinding
- Lot Clearing

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a ISA certified arborist

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