

# Chicopee Register

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## CPL holds end of summer reading party

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
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CHICOPEE - The community gathered in the library on Aug. 14 for the End of Summer Reading Party featuring Ice Cream with the Mayor and mini golf throughout the library.

Attendees gathered downstairs in the Bazan Community Room to enjoy ice cream with

library staff and then headed upstairs to play a round of mini golf.

Vieau expressed excitement, sharing he read "Results" by Charlie Baker and Steve Kadish this summer and is now reading "Bleeding Out" by Thomas ABT. Next, he plans to read "The Celestine Prophecy" by James Redfield.

"I was genuinely happy to see so many families, kids and community members come out

to enjoy a fun, relaxed afternoon together. There's something incredibly special about connecting with residents over a scoop of ice cream and a friendly round of mini golf," Vieau said.

He stressed the importance of community events as they bring everyone together.

"Community events like Ice Cream with the Mayor are truly

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TURLEY  
PHOTO BY  
KRISTIN RIVERS  
Mayor John Vieau poses for a group photo with attendees during Ice Cream with the Mayor on Aug. 14.

## Meet the City Collector Candidates: Sandra Peret

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
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CHICOPEE - As we get closer to the Sept. 16 primary for the role of city collector, the Chicopee Register will be highlighting the candidates.

The three candidates on the primary ballot are Raj Sanghvi, Sandra Peret and Frederick Krampits.

This week, let's meet Sandra Peret.

Peret explained Stanley Iwanicki's retirement presented "an opportunity to leverage my leadership skills," including her background as a director of Operations for the Chicopee Visiting Nurse Association (CVNA), which also helped equip her with broad management skills.

"As director, I had the responsibilities to manage a team of approximately 20 professionals, to develop and implement operating and internal control procedures, and to ensure compliance with complex state and federal privacy and billing regulations. On multiple occasions, I served as interim Acting Executive Director overseeing the entire organization," Peret said. "My career at the CVNA was focused on Chicopee, which eventually closed due to mergers and

acquisitions. I joined an Aging Services Access Point Agency in Northampton. The City Collector's position is an opportunity to return home to Chicopee to work full-time."

Peret emphasized her education with a management focus and completing the Massachusetts Collectors and Treasurers Annual School for first-year tax collectors sponsored by the Massachusetts Collectors and Treasurers Association in August.

The course, she added, "provided in-depth instruction in the collector's duties" and she's the only candidate to take the course.

"One aspect of my role at the CVNA involved assisting patients with their insurance coverage and answering their questions regarding Mass Health and Medicare. There was significant customer service communicating with patients, physicians, and hospital discharge planners," Peret said. "As a healthcare professional, I have provided direct health care services, medication education, explained complex insurance coverage and resolved regulatory issues, all with empathy, compassion and professional-

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Sandra Peret

## School Committee denies applications for two foreign exchange students

The applications were submitted well after the June 20 deadline.

By Dalton Zbierski  
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - At the recommendation of Dr. Marcus Ware, the superintendent

of Chicopee Public Schools, the School Committee voted 10-2 on Aug. 20 to deny the applications of two foreign exchange students.

The board's denial of the students' applications stemmed from a clearly outlined policy, in which the district requires organizations backing foreign exchange

students to apply on their behalf no later than June 20.

In this case, the two German students looking to join the district for the 2025-2026 academic year did not apply until July 29, according to Ware.

Last year, a foreign exchange student was accepted after applying in August, but

Ware acknowledged a mistake was made, as it was unclear to him then that a policy existed and that the School Committee had the final say.

Entering a new school year, Ware emphasized the importance of getting it right this time around.

"At this time, now that I recognize there's a policy and

I recognize that last year was my out-of-step, I cannot make the recommendation moving forward," Ware said.

Ware reported that one of the German students looking to attend Chicopee Public Schools this year is represented by an organization called International Exchange Services, while the other is

backed by the Council on International Education Exchange.

However, neither organization would pay the Chicopee school district, and the city would be required to cover the combined \$38,000 necessary to ensure the students

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## Barry Elementary School project down to four designs

Also, community output

By Brendan Rooney  
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - On Aug. 21, the Anna Barry School Building Commission met within Barry Elementary School to share that the future of the hallowed elementary school is now officially down to four viable options, as the city has chosen two being at Garrity Grove and two at Szetela.

Close to 60 people gathered from within the Barry School cafeteria seeking answers while still providing ample frustrations that continue to be a point of concern manifested toward various topics ranging from residents on Granby Road having their quality of life diminished, along with the concerns of a possible subdivision of the busy road, taking place, to raising the question of whether prop-

erty value will be negatively adjusted, which saw the inclusion of City Council President Frank Laflamme to join, along with various other constituents, to seek a closer inspection about the project.

### What Comes Next

Following the project's timeline, it was revealed that the next step forward is now to create a PSR—or Preliminary Schematic Report—to follow up and try to decipher how much a renovation would cost if the option to get Barry back up to code was the path taken, along with the final location being passed to final approval to the MSBA which then would greenlight the construction process, as previously reported on.

However, the difference is that the final four schematics were now revamped, and revised.

Please see **DESIGNS**, page 6

## Lorraine's Soup Kitchen receives \$11,960 donation

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE - Lorraine's Soup Kitchen & Pantry has received an \$11,960 donation from the Riley family through the "Riley's Resort Annual Fundraiser" hosted by Kate Riley of Riley Realty and her husband, Nick Riley of N. Riley Construction.

The proceeds from the event are donated to different organizations every year.

This year, Lorraine's Soup Kitchen was chosen after the Rileys reached out to them and the donations came from the entry fee and raffle prizes.

Executive Director Kim Caisse was thrilled with the donation and explained the event was a private one posted on Facebook and invite-only, taking place the first weekend of August.

"So there was like, probably, eight or 9 of us from Lorraine's that had gone and helped the day before just helping them set up and do some prep work and things like that and then a group of us went on the day of," Caisse said. "I don't know the num-



PHOTO COURTESY OF KIM CAISSE

Lorraine's Soup Kitchen & Pantry received a donation of \$11,960 earlier this month from Kate and Nick Riley through the "Riley's Resort Annual Fundraiser."

bers, but it had to be over 150 people there. It was just huge. It was so impressive from start to finish."

When the Rileys came with the donation, Caisse was shocked, grateful and emotional.

"It brings tears to my

eyes. I never expected it," Caisse said. "It was just amazing. People were so generous, people that came out and even the day of, they made donations to Kate beforehand. 'I can't come, but here's a donation.' They were just so amazing."

Caisse expressed gratitude not just to the Rileys, but also to those who attended the annual event.

"It really was incredible just to see everybody that

Please see **LORRAINE'S**, page 9

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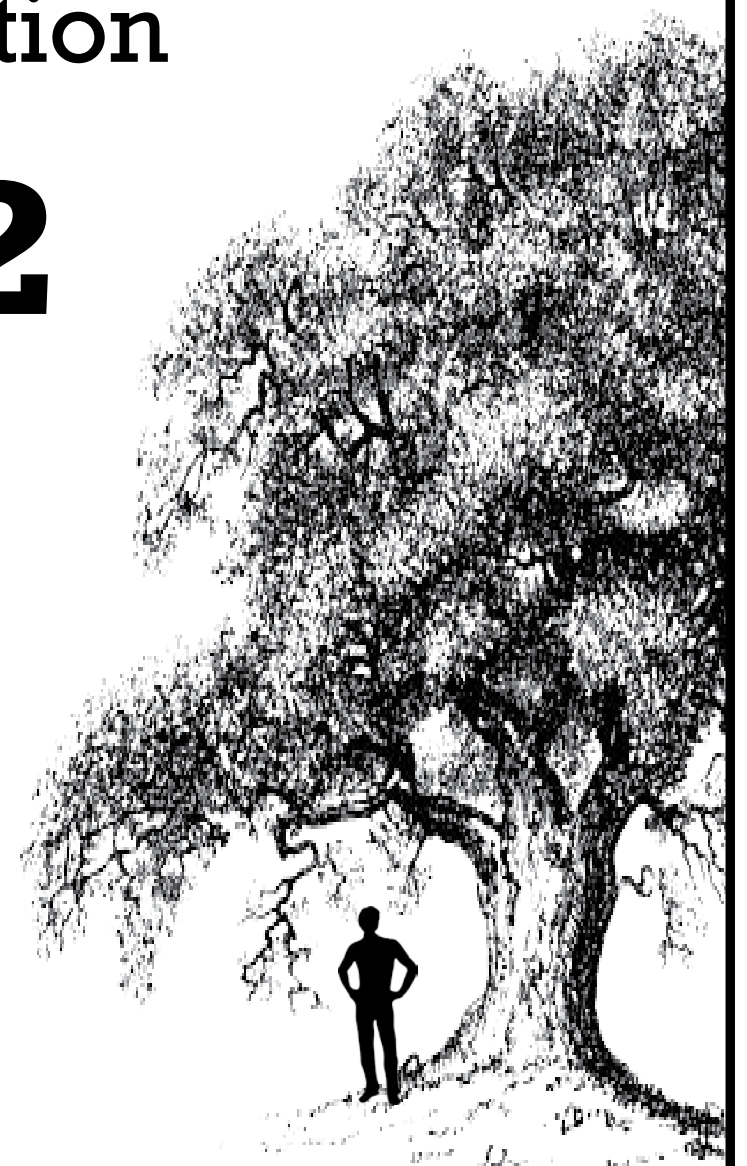
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# DL&G TREE



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# IN THE CITY

## Chicopee Public Library hosts programs for kids, families

CHICOPEE - Each month the Chicopee Public Library hosts a variety of free programs for children, teens and families. The Youth Services Department seeks to provide opportunities for entertainment and enrichment that promote literacy and explore creativity. Here is the slate of events for September 2025.

**Terrific Twos will be held on Tuesdays, Sept. 2, 16 and 30 at 10:30 a.m.** Terrific Twos is for two year olds and their caregivers. This program features about 25 minutes of structured circle time, followed by about half an hour of semi-structured playtime. During circle time we will sing songs, do rhymes, do some big movements and read 1 book. The book choice rotates between either a read aloud picture book or a group read of a board book. Playtime involves a choice of craft, activity or play.

**Storytime will be held on Thursdays, Sept. 4 and 18 at 10:30 a.m.** Storytime is for children ages 3-5. This program features about 30 minutes of structured circle time, followed by 15-30 minutes of a craft or activity. Circle time will include 2-3 read aloud books, rhymes, songs, and felt boards. Children will be encouraged to ask and answer simple questions and recognize things like shapes, colors, letters and numbers.

**Sensory Play Saturday will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 6.** Come let your babies socialize and explore sensory play! We will have our play area set up with



some sensory activities and other play opportunities. For babies 0-24 months and their caregivers.

**Saturday Playgroup** will be held at 1 p.m., on Saturdays in September. We'll put out some extra toys in the playspace. It's a great time for families to meet up and play!

**Little Kid Dance Party** will be on **Wednesdays, Sept. 10 and 24 at 10:30 a.m.** Moving and grooving for kids and their caregivers. Geared toward ages 0-5, but all are welcome! 45 minutes to one hour of energetic activity including singing and dancing, action rhymes and playing with props like scarves and shakers.

**Build with LEGO on Thursday, Sept. 11 at 4 p.m.** Unstructured building time for kids ages 6 and up.

**Create Art with Crayons on Saturday, Sept. 13 at**

of the year will be on **Thursday, Sept. 25 at 11 a.m.** We'll talk about what kinds of things we would like to do this year, including holiday celebrations, book club ideas and ideas for presentations from students and families.

The Children's Room is a great place to hang out. Coloring pages and board games are always available. There are also some new things you can play with while you visit. Ask us about food toys for the play kitchen, art supplies, or building blocks.

### Teens

Visit the library after school and enjoy the Teen Space with friends! We've got board games, puzzles, the library's Switch, and coloring to enjoy. We're excited to see everyone this school year and hear about your interests so we can plan some exciting activities

**September is Library Card Sign Up Month!** We're celebrating with prizes. When kids use their library card to check out physical items at any CPL branch (Main, Fairview or Bookmobile) in the month of September they can enter a raffle for a bookish squishmallow. One entry per visit, but you can visit more than once.

When teens check out a physical item with their library card, they can enter the squishmallow raffle OR the adult prize raffle for a Kindle Fire HD8.

Visit the library website for more info about all of the library's events. [www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org](http://www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org).

**1:30 p.m.** Join Marie Manley Tucker for a monthly drawing lesson this fall. Each month will have a different theme. September's theme is Adorable Animals. Draw cute things like axolotls, capybaras, hedgehogs and more. Recommended for ages 5-12.

The library will host a **Simple Plushie Sewing Workshop on Wednesday, Sept. 17 from 3:30 to 5 p.m.** Learn some basic sewing skills and make a cute stuffed friend. Recommended for ages eight and up, teens and caregivers welcome. We will use felt, cool glue guns, and regular sewing needles. Kids who want to participate, but may need help with some of these tools should attend with an adult. Registration is required. Contact the Children's Room to sign up.

The library hosts a Meet-up for Homeschooling Families once a month during the school year. The first meeting

## Breton announces campaign for Ward 2 City Council seat

CHICOPEE - Hello residents of Ward 2 and all of Chicopee.

My name is Joseph Breton. I am a lifelong and proud resident of Chicopee.



Joseph Breton

I am running for the seat of Ward 2 City Council. First off, we have an amazing group of DPW, police and fire personnel that sadly use our city as a stepping stone.

We are one of the lower paid cities in Western Mass. We need to be able to work together to pay our employees to stay, which I will work diligently to do so.

Secondly, we all miss and remember downtown Chicopee Center where we could park day and night and walk with our families and not be afraid. Hastings, Balakiers, Woolworth's, Friendly's, The Rivoli, just to name a few.

I will work hard to make our downtown a safe and enjoyable place to be. A place where small businesses want to be a part of.

I will work to hold vacant properties, eye-sores and issues as a top priority. Its not fair to our residents that their legitimate issues fall on deaf ears any longer.

Whether it's holding a property owner, business owner or city department heads, officials or departments, we will be holding them accountable to act and get these jobs done. We want our Chicopee back.

The incumbents haven't been doing it and it's time for change. Let's make our Chicopee home again.

Affordable, safe and a place we all want to be. Thank you and I hope for your support in November.

## Livy's VIP Dance Oct. 5

LUDLOW - Livy's VIP Dance, in support of a fundraiser for Rett Syndrome, will take place on Sunday, Oct. 5, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Gremio Lusitano Club.

The special dance is in memory of Livy, who succumbed to Rett Syndrome at the age of five.

Sparkle, shine and support!

Music and memories with VIP Princess guests.

To learn more, contact Maggie Wurm at [maggie@rsangels.org](mailto:maggie@rsangels.org) or Shanon at [shanon.m.hardy@gmail.com](mailto:shanon.m.hardy@gmail.com).

To learn more about Rett Syndrome, visit [rsangels.org](http://rsangels.org).

For the event page, visit [rsangels.org/event/livys-vip-dance/](http://rsangels.org/event/livys-vip-dance/).

### PERET from page 1

alism. I will follow this same approach to assist individuals and businesses as City Collector."

Another aspect is her local government experience.

"I first served residents as the Ward 2, then Ward 4 School Committee Representative for a combined 18 years, working closely with others on school budgets and improving children's education. In addition, the School Committee elected me as the Liaison to City Council for the past 11 years," Peret said. "This provided me an in-depth exposure to city government and a working knowledge of the municipal systems, inter-departmental operations, and department managers."

Peret praised Iwanicki for his work as city collector.

"In my door-to-door campaign, people have said, 'Stanley is always available to us' and 'He answers the phone and gets back to me with answers to questions.' The success of the City Collector is the accessibility and customer service provided to people throughout the years, and I will do the same," Peret said.

On improvements, she noted several items.

"If I am the elected candidate, I believe it is important to meet with the City Collector, staff and other

department heads to understand the department's daily operating procedures to gain insights into what is working and where improvements could be taken to improve operational effectiveness, efficiency and to safeguard taxpayer collections," Peret said.

Second, helping residents in need by teaming up with local organizations.

"I will develop a partnership with local organizations to assist residents experiencing financial hardship. I have reached out to Wayfinders, an agency that supports the state's financial assistance programs. They indicated that there are support programs to assist residents with past due real estate taxes, assuring residents of keeping their home," Peret said.

Third, turning to a quarterly system for billings.

"Campaigning door-to-door I heard suggestions regarding quarterly real estate tax billings. This is a topic that came up during the Collector's course. This change in the billing procedure will require a thorough review. This process will require input from the mayor and City Council as well," Peret said.

Lastly, expanding ways for residents to get information on services.

"Another suggestion is to expand the City Collector's Frequently Asked Questions and provide more detail to the answers. This is the go-to

spot when city hall is closed," Peret said.

Peret also reflected on her roots in Chicopee.

"I am a third-generation Chicopee resident. My paternal grandparents, Wojciech Borowiec and Rozalia (Banas) Borowiec were immigrants from Poland who settled on Chicopee Street where they operated Wojciech Borowiec's Grocery Store. They had six children, including four sons who served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. My maternal grandparents, Donat Plasse and Annette (Rajotte) Plasse immigrated from Quebec, Canada and settled on Providence Street. They had 13 children," Peret said. "My parents Robert and Yvette taught me traditional values of honesty, trustworthiness, to value education and service to others. As a life-long resident

of Chicopee, I was raised in the Sandy Hill/ Granby Road area of Chicopee with time spent with my grandparents in Aldenville. My husband and I raised our daughter on Bonneville Avenue."

Also, her volunteer experiences.

"My first volunteer experience was as a young teen going door to door to fundraise for the Danny Thomas St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. I continued to volunteer as an adult with the American Cancer Society, Chicopee Council on Aging, Valley Opportunity Council and St. Stanislaus School Committee and fundraising events," Peret said.

She summed up her campaign this way.

"My campaign is about the qualifications and skills I bring to the position. It is a grass roots campaign ap-

proach that began with me, my husband John (retired Certified Public Accountant), and my daughter Jacqueline (Mechanical Engineer). It has grown in support from people as young as elementary school age to nonagenarians wanting to assist in any manner possible. It is humbling to have people call me to ask how they can help with the campaign. These are people of Chicopee who want their voices heard. My family, friends and other residents are working hard to win this campaign for Chicopee," Peret said.

If she moves forward after the primary, Peret will continue to meet with residents.

"My plan is to continue to meet with residents to share my background, qualifications and goals for the position. My focus is to listen to residents to learn and understand their

concerns so I may best serve the community in the role of City Collector," Peret said.

Her message to voters was this.

"If elected, I will perform the duties of the City Collector on a full-time basis with energy, dedication and a commitment to excellence and truth. My goal is to be accessible to the residents and businesses. I will ask the tough questions, answer your questions honestly, and discuss the facts. I will work for you 'From the heart of Chicopee, for the good of Chicopee,' Peret said. "Your vote is always important on so many levels for you and Chicopee. I humbly ask for your vote to win the primary on Tuesday, Sept. 16. Respectfully, Sandra Ann Peret (413-594-6581)."

50/50 Raffle • Prize to Winning Team • Light Refreshments

**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH**

**TRIVIA NIGHT**

7 Woodbridge Street, South Hadley

**Saturday, September 13, 2025**

6:30 p.m. - Social Hour      7 p.m. - Trivia Starts

**\$ BEER - WINE - SODA \$**

Tickets: \$10 - max 8 people per table

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## IN THE CITY



### How do I apply for Social Security and receive my payments?

#### Dear Rusty:

*I'm ready to apply for my Social Security benefits, and I'm aware of how my benefits are calculated. What I would like to know about is how the application process actually works and how my benefits are received.*

**Signed: Ready to Collect**

#### Dear Ready to Collect:

Essentially, you have two main options for applying for Social Security benefits, and also two separate options for receiving your payments:

To apply for benefits, you can either contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to make a telephone appointment to complete your application while speaking to an SSA representative on the phone or you can submit your application for SS benefits online.

When using the telephone option, you will be guided by an SSA agent while completing your application and can discuss your benefit options directly with that agent, just be sure to be available to receive SSA's call at the scheduled time. You can also make an appointment by calling your local SS field office directly get the number for your local SS office at this link: [www.ssa.gov/locator](http://www.ssa.gov/locator). It is not usually necessary to visit your local SSA office in person to apply.

If you are reasonably proficient with computers, you can, instead, apply online, but you will first need to create your personal SSA account online at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount). Once you have your personal account set up, you will be able to see your estimated benefit amount at different claim ages, which should help you decide when it is best to apply. Here is a short video which explains the process for applying for benefits online: [https://www.ssa.gov/hlp/video/iclaim\\_r01.htm](https://www.ssa.gov/hlp/video/iclaim_r01.htm).

If applying online, you can start your online application at [www.ssa.gov/appl](http://www.ssa.gov/appl) and re-access it multiple times as needed until you are ready to submit it; just be sure to write down the "reentry code," which is provided when you begin your online application.

When you are ready to submit the application, just select "Submit" and your application will be sent to SSA's application processing unit for review. They will contact you if there are any questions about your application or if any additional documentation is needed. Note that it typically takes a couple of months for your payments to start and note that payment is made in the month following the month earned. For example, if you begin your benefits in August your first payment will be received in September on either the second, third or fourth Wednesday of each month thereafter, depending on your birthday.

For receiving your monthly SS payments: you will (on your application) be able to specify how you wish your monthly payments to be made. The preferred option used by most beneficiaries is to have your monthly Social Security payment deposited into a financial (e.g., bank) account, details for which you will specify when applying. However, you can also choose to receive your monthly payments in the form of a debit card called "Direct Express," which will be replenished monthly. If you choose to have your payment deposited in your bank account, be sure to have your bank account information ready when you apply. Note that Social Security no longer issues payments via printed checks except in rare circumstances.

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

A Brimfield resident reported he visited Lake Wallace in Belcher-town with a friend last week and saw a great egret.

They also saw a great blue heron, at least three green herons, a few Phoebes and an Eastern kingbird. There were also several ducks, mallards and wood ducks. The two male wood ducks were in eclipse plumage.

The great egret is slightly smaller than the great blue heron, but they are still large birds with an impressive wingspan. They hunt in the classic heron way standing immobile or wading through water to capture fish with their bill. At one point, egrets were hunted to near extinction for their feathers for hat decoration. The great egret is the symbol of the National Audubon Society.

Rivalry among nestlings is common and the larger chicks frequently kill their smaller siblings. The great egret is white with a yellow bill and black legs. During breeding, a patch of skin on its face turns neon green and long plumes grow from its back called aigrettes. These aigrettes were prized for ladies hats.

Great egrets fly slowly, but powerfully with just two wingbeats per second at a speed of about 25 miles per hour. The oldest known Great Egret was 22 years, 10 months old and was banded in Ohio.

#### Eagle sighting

A New Braintree resident and a friend went bass fishing on Brooks Pond in North Brookfield in a canoe recently. Half way out on the pond, they started to hear the seagull like calls of an eagle. As they rounded a little peninsula on the left side up in the top of a broken pine was a large eagle's nest.

The broken pine made a perfect platform for them to build a nest. They then saw the two mature adult pair with their white heads on a stump near the water. Up in the pine near the nest were two juvenile eagles, all dark brown. They weren't flying, but just squeaking for food.

They actually looked quite big for baby eagles. His friend said it was because they still had their fluffy feathers and developing new feathers.

They fished nearby and watched them hop around. They seemed unbothered by them being about 60 feet from the shore of the peninsula. Eventually the two adult eagles flew off probably in search of a meal for their big babies. So neat to be able

to see eagles fairly common now in Massachusetts.



By Ellenor Downer

#### Male cardinal

I received this email, "I was just walking the dog after dark and my flashlight came upon this guy (male cardinal). I have seen him every night since. We just stare at each other for a few seconds and say good night."

#### Loon census

The Loon Preservation Committee reported on Saturday, July 19 from 8-9 a.m., 566 volunteers simultaneously surveyed 135 lakes across New Hampshire for loons. Together, they counted 541 adult loons and 109 loon chicks during the census hour. The New Hampshire loon census is part of a larger regional effort. While N.H. participants were out surveying for loons on their lakes, hundreds of volunteers in Maine, Vermont, and New York were doing the same. This simultaneous survey of so many lakes helps create a "snapshot in time" of not just the loon population here in New Hampshire, but across the Northeast.

#### Helping birds

A reader from South Hadley suggested I include a section about ways to help birds. She even provided several tips for future columns. Some people also continue to put out suet and that is so dangerous. It gets rancid in the heat and that's bad for birds. Perhaps even worse, it gets their feet and chest feathers greasy and when the preen, they spread the grease all over their bodies. This interferes with a bird's natural waterproofing and can also cause their nestling to be covered in grease.

#### Sandhill cranes

An Oakham resident saw two sandhill cranes in Barre on Aug. 14 in a field across from the Listening Center. Sandhill cranes also visit his field in Oakham as well.

#### Warren birds

The Brimfield resident said, "In Warren this week there are still adult ospreys about, on two visits I saw and adult on or near the nest. I have not seen a juvenile out of the nest so am not sure if any young fledged this year. I saw



Great egret

one chick in the nest earlier this summer and there is an eBird report from July with a picture of a fully grown chick in the nest with an adult. It's unknown if the chick fledged successfully?" In Warren at the pond on New Reed Street the past several years I had seen Great Egrets there in August but none have been seen there this year.

#### Cedar waxwings

The Brimfield resident in referring to recent mention in this column about cedar waxwings, said a large part of their diet is fruit based. He read an article that stated that because their diet is mostly fruit based that if a waxwing nest is parasitized by a brown-headed cowbird the cowbird chick is not likely to survive because it can't survive on the fruit based diet.

I visited the section of Ware River recently where my daughter has seen cedar waxwings and I was not disappointed. I stood and watched them fly over the water and into nearby trees. They moved so quickly I was unsuccessful in watching them through binoculars.

#### Bird bath

The Brimfield resident reports the bird bath in his yard is getting lots of use, especially by catbirds and blue jays. Goldfinch show up and drink from the drip as well as black-capped chickadees, chipping sparrows and house finches.

Four juvenile raccoons are regular visitors to the bird bath. He has a trail camera near the bird bath and it captures lots of pictures of the raccoons in the bird bath. Not sure what they are doing, it doesn't look like they are drinking and sometime the stones in the bath are moved around. A couple of times he's seen a pickerel frog in the bird bath.

*People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing [mybackyard88@aol.com](mailto:mybackyard88@aol.com) or [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com) or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.*

## Chicopee Register

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24 Water Street,  
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or email  
[chicopeeregister@turley.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 [journals@turley.com](mailto:journals@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.

## Gardening tasks best accomplished now

The mornings have been a little cooler this last week or so. I must admit that after the summer we had, the respite from the heat is a welcome relief.

With the unofficial end of summer just a few short days away, folks are starting to think about winterizing their pools, getting their boats in storage, closing up their cottages and the like. There are a number of things that we gardeners can do now to ease winter's blow and set the stage for a successful garden next year!

Here is a replay of a timely column that lays it all out there.

Order spring flowering bulbs now. I ordered mine just last week!

For the widest array of tulips, daffodils, crocus and the like, consider making your selection from a mail order company. Most have great web sites, offering photos of pretty much everything they sell. Our bulbs will arrive in early October – the perfect time for planting!

We get them into the soil prior to the ground freezing so that they will have a chance to send out roots, perfect little anchors for winter heave/thaw cycles. Once spring comes it is all about flowering. Yippee – a welcome sign that brighter days lie ahead!

Cure squash and pumpkins well prior to storage. Give your cucurbits a couple of weeks in the sun up off of the ground before you bring them indoors. This will harden the vegetable's skin and improve its longevity.

If temperatures dip below 50 degrees at night consistently, find a dry, sunny spot inside to complete their curing, otherwise chilling injury may occur. It's also important to remove them from the garden if bugs or disease threaten.

In my garden I am vigilantly squishing the gray colored squash bugs that like to

accumulate under the fruit. Once curing is complete, store squash and pumpkins



where there is good air circulation and where temperatures stay around fifty to sixty degrees, with relative humidity between fifty and seventy percent.

Under these conditions most will last eight to twelve weeks depending on variety.

Dig up tender plants. Did you buy rosemary, bay tree, lemon verbena, French lavender or scented geraniums this spring? Unfortunately, not one of these favored herbs is winter hardy in our area.

I usually get them out of the ground once frost threatens, and will bring them in-

side overnight and back outside during the day for a few weeks until it gets too cold. From that point most of them will thrive in a bright but cool room of the house.

Don't be surprised if the lemon verbena loses its leaves soon after you pot it up or that the French lavender doesn't look all that zippy during the winter – both are normal responses. New leaves will sprout and luster will return come March.

Instead of digging tender plants up, some folks prefer to take tip cuttings. During the rooting process, mist a few times a day to prevent wilting. You will have especially good luck rooting scented geraniums – it should take just about a month.

Take cuttings now, before the plant starts prepping for winter (yes, plants do, too!), and you'll have better luck.

Plant some autumnal color. Mums and kale are at their peak at local garden centers now. Choose a plant that is healthy, free of brown leaves and with a root ball that fills

## IN THE CITY

### Volunteer drivers needed

CHICOPEE - RiverMills Center is looking for volunteer drivers at the senior center. Volunteer drivers transport older adults to doctor's appointments, the bank, shopping to the senior center and back to their homes.

Those interested in becoming a volunteer driver must have a good driving record and fill out a volunteer application, which includes a CORI check. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Rivermills Volunteer and Activities Coordinator Brandon Dumas at 534-3698, ext. 130.

### Chicopee City Hall announces Phase II office relocations

*Front Street entrance reopening*

CHICOPEE - Three offices within Chicopee City Hall have been relocated, and the front entrance has been restored to its original position on Front Street as part of the ongoing City Hall Phase 2 renovations.

The City Clerk's office, the Registrar of Voters and the Facilities Department have all been moved during this portion of the project. These changes coincide with the reopening of the front entrance to its original location on Front Street.

Occasional alterations and closing to the Front St entrance may occur as needed. The front entrance from 274 Front Street will open

at 9 a.m. on Monday morning. As a result, the alleyway entrance will be closed to public entry. Door monitors will be stationed at the main entrance to assist in guiding the public to where current offices are if needed.

These modifications and office changes were implemented to ensure the building complies with current building codes and the Americans with Disabilities Act, while also preserving the historical integrity of the structure, which dates back to 1871.

The City Clerk's office has officially returned to its former second-floor space in the original City Hall. The Registrar of Voters has resumed operations in its original annex building first-floor location on the left side of

the front entrance on Front Street.

The Facilities Department has relocated to the former City Council office on the annex first floor, on the right-hand side of the entrance.

These relocations, along with the new drive-thru style Clerk and Collector drop off boxes now located within the Front St. parking lot, have been designed with residents in mind to facilitate ease of access when visiting City Hall.

For questions regarding the new office locations, the public is encouraged to contact the appropriate department: Registrar of Voters at (413) 594-1550, City Clerk at (413) 594-1466 and City Facilities (413) 594-1404.

### First Central Bible Church of Chicopee hosts 'Top Ten Finds in Biblical Archaeology'

CHICOPEE - First Central Bible Church today announced that it is hosting Scott Stripling, PhD, who will be presenting a guided journey through the top ten finds in Biblical Archeology.

The program is open to the community and will take place at the church, 50 Broadway Street in Chicopee, on Sept. 13 from 10 a.m. to Noon. Registration is required on the church website at [www.firstcentral.church](http://www.firstcentral.church). Childcare is available.

Biblical Archaeology is a combination of archaeology and Biblical studies that confirms the historical context of the Bible. In this seminar, Dr. Stripling presents the top ten finds in the history of the discipline. Each find demonstrates the reliability of Scripture and illuminates the Biblical text.

Scott Stripling, PhD, is the Director of the Archeology Institute at The Bible Seminary. He has overseen excavations in the West



Bank, Jordan, and Jerusalem. Stripling serves as President of the Board of Directors of the Near East Archaeological Society and has published widely in peer-reviewed journals, magazines, and books. He is a popular speaker at churches and conferences around the world and has been featured by Fox News, The 700 Club, The New York Times, TBN, History Channel, and Discovery Channel.

For questions, please call the church office at 413-592-5353.

### First Central Bible Church launches Awana Program

CHICOPEE - First Central Bible Church today announced the kickoff of Awana, a global, Bible-based discipleship program that helps churches and families raise children and youth to know, love, and serve Jesus Christ.

The program is open to

the community and will be held at the church located at 50 Broadway Street, Chicopee.

Weekly sessions run on Wednesdays from September 10, 2025 to May 20, 2026 from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm and are for children ages two through fifth grade. Registration is required on the church website at [www](http://www.firstcentral.church).

[firstcentral.church](http://www.firstcentral.church). There is no charge.

All families looking for a positive activity for their kids are welcome.

Awana combines Scripture memorization, Bible teaching, fun activities, and mentorship to help young people build a lasting foundation

of faith. The program provides a safe, structured environment where kids can make new friends, build confidence, grow spiritually, and explore how God's Word applies to their everyday lives.

If you have questions, please call the church office at 413-592-5353.

### St. Stan's Rosary Society to celebrate 125th Anniversary

CHICOPEE - We welcome all to the joyous celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the Rosary Society at the Basilica of St. Stanislaus 566 Front Street Chicopee, MA on Sunday Oct. 5, 2025.

Commencing with the Recitation of the Rosary at 10:30 a.m., a Mass will follow at 11 a.m. The celebration continues at the Castle

of Knights Meeting and Banquet House 1599 Memorial Drive Chicopee with a cocktail hour starting at 12:30 p.m. and dinner served at 1:30 p.m.

The guest speakers, Rev. Michael Heine, OFM Conv and Sr. Andrea Ciszewski, FSSJ will share relevant messages and reflections during this special Jubilee

Year. Entertainment will be provided by Joey Dziok.

Tickets for the dinner can be purchased for \$40 per person at the Basilica of St. Stanislaus Parish Office 40 Cyman Drive Chicopee, MA. Honoring or memorializing previous members can be facilitated by offering a donation and filling out a form at the Parish Office.

Come celebrate with us and make this event in honoring our Blessed Mother memorable. For any questions, contact (413) 594-6669 or email [Basili-caofSSRS@gmail.com](mailto:Basili-caofSSRS@gmail.com).

### Electrical safety presentation at RiverMills Center on Sept. 4

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will offer the presentation "Electrical Safety" on Thursday, Sept. 4 at 10 a.m. at RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street.

Safety Consultant Ray Gouley along with a representative from Chicopee Electric Light will be at RiverMills Center for his annual electric

safety chat. There will be free giveaways and raffle prizes for some lucky attendees.

Though you do not need to be a Chicopee resident to attend the program, you must be a Chicopee resident to be able to enter the raffle. You must register in advance at RiverMills or by calling 534-3698

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4. Each completed delivery using the promo code **BIGE** between now and Sept. 9, 2025, will automatically earn you one (1) entry into the sweepstakes. Limit one entry via this method per person, per day.

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BlazeXpress "Big E Blaze to Win" Sweepstakes, PO Box 6403, Holyoke, MA 01041. Mail-in entries must be postmarked by Sept. 9, 2025, and received by September 10th, 2025. Limit one mail-in entry per person.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BERT GARDNER

DESIGNS from page 1

**The Four Designs**  
Bert Gardner, an architect attached to the project from Caolo & Bieniek Architects, revealed that the two options at the Barry location are A2 and A4.

A2 would be a two-story Addition/Renovation at Barry Elementary School Site, which is estimated to be \$99,953,506, and would have to abide by the land swap. He also noted that this variation wouldn't satisfy the education program, citing a variety of lingering issues in place such as the gymnasium which is smaller than the MSBA's guidelines, along with it being a two-story building with an additional floor.

"It supports 82% of key elements, and we all know the pros and cons at this point, but it would likely have one access drive to enter the building; we are trying to keep traffic off the residential streets," Gardner said.

He then took a moment to update the public on when the traffic study will be conducted, explaining that it usually takes place during the PSR stage, but stressed the urgency that was moved up to have it completed during the start of school due to the outpour of community concerns.

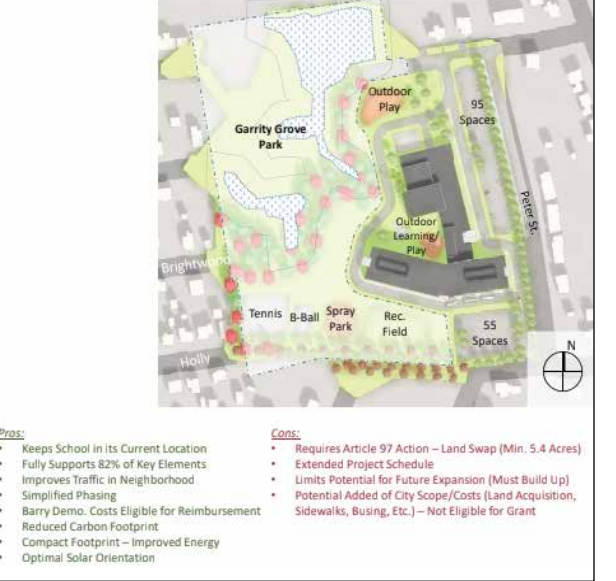
"In this case we have asked our traffic engineers to come out and study the traffic early, so that will happen in September as part of the PSR phase is what we are targeting right now," Gardner said. "I want to add that the typical MSBA traffic study will identify your existing conditions along with the impact of the proposed project, which in turn would yield a conclusion telling us if we have challenges or not with bringing the school to the chosen location, however that wouldn't include solutions."

A4 is a three-story new rebuild from the ground up, with costs estimated to be in a similar range of close to \$104,284,031. Pros are under the same umbrella Barry would stay in the same location, retain tennis court, improve traffic, demo costs are covered by the MSBA reimbursement, and fully support

**Community Concerns:**

**Traffic:** Heavy traveled artery for commuter and commercial traffic.  
**Added City Scope:** Traffic mitigation, sidewalks (especially on east side of Granby Road), and crosswalks needed to ensure student safety.  
**Student Transportation:** Additional bussing may be required based on hazard of Granby Road.  
**Construction Traffic:** How will construction traffic access site to maintain separation from Szetela Early Childhood Center?  
**What is considered a Driveway, Street and Right-of-Way?**  
**Neighborhood Buffers:** Can buffers be added to shield the school from property abutters?  
**Has Shawinigan Drive been considered?**  
**Traffic:** It is anticipated that the traffic study will be moved forward to this phase to inform site selection.

**Added City Scope:** Both sites will require additional City scope. Garry Grove involved Article 97 costs and land acquisition. Szetela involves traffic and property acquisition.  
**Student Transportation:** The District's transportation policy will be followed.  
**Construction Traffic:** It is anticipated that construction traffic will access the site via 562 Granby Road, while students remain in the Szetela ECC (Accessed via Macek Dr).  
**Driveway vs. Street vs. Right-Of-Way:** Neighborhood Buffers: It is anticipated that a planted buffer will be provided (coniferous species), in addition to fencing.  
**Shawinigan Drive:** The vast majority of the acreage along Shawinigan Drive is likely undevelopable because its within riverfront, has steep slopes, and my also be impacted by wetlands and buffer areas.



the 82% of education costs.

The cons, however, require involvement of Article 97, and potential city scope adjustments, but won't be covered under the grant.

The question of what would happen to Barry if the Szetela location were chosen was raised, and as was reported before, the building would be deemed abandoned, and the next step to follow would be for the School Committee to vote to relinquish control of Barry back to the City Council, who would then have to file a request for proposal (RFP) which would be proposals for other companies or properties to come in and have the building be refurbished to then be used for another purpose by the entity which would move in.

Now, in terms of the Szetela final two options, they were B3 and D3.

B3 is also a three-story design, which is estimated to cost around \$104,220,466. Pros in this case are the avoidance of Article 97 Impacts, but cons are Granby Road Traffic Concerns, storm sewer backups at surrounding houses, and the potential addition of city scope costs such as land acquisition, sidewalks, busing, etc.

Gardner did reveal that the number of fully supported key elements fluctuates from the range of 88 to 91%, while admitting the building would offer the same amount of public zones and everything

would be locked up when the building isn't in use.

D3, which would be an entirely new rebuild from the ground up, would see the old Szetela building be demolished, with a newly renovated institution take its place, along with the consolidation of both programs being implemented, and services would house PreK-5, and the estimated cost would be around \$136,000,591.

Also, offering similar pros and cons to the options before, except for the addition that the demo costs for Szetela would be covered under the MSBA grant, along with up to 88% of key elements being fully supported.

**Community Reaction**

The conversation then shifted towards the point of frustration, beginning to boil over as Ward 2 Councilor Shane Brooks, who spoke with the Chicopee Register about his worries of the traffic being unmitigated, raised the question if whether the Szetela site was chosen and the consideration option was the path utilized, and the realization acknowledged that the PreK Program was not eligible for reimbursement under the grant.

"So that will be born on the back of me, and every taxpayer in the city of Chicopee, as a city councilor, I can only speak for myself, and others are here, but we have worked exceedingly hard to attract

new business, such as Point to Pilot, which is anticipated to bring up to \$890K thousand dollars in additional tax revenue annually to offset the very thing everyone in this room as a homeowner is worried about our tax bills increasing," Brooks said. "And when you indicate that no residential streets will be affected by the traffic pattern, that's because there is an eminent domain at play, where there will be a vacant lot, that could potentially be taken to create an additional in-road."

Brooks then cited the lack of crosswalks along Granby Road, and called to attention the maturity of the neighborhood, while reinforcing the actions and countless initiatives put forth by the city to keep tax bills as low as possible.

He added that the inclusion of additional infrastructure could increase and drastically affect the level of income and finances.

Brooks then concluded by alleging that the committee noted that Gardner had stated that Article 97 regulations were manageable, before disclosing the fact that Chicopee is considered 'land poor.'

Gardner responded that things changed and additional sites were looked at due to the discovery of the wetlands at Garry Grove, putting a wrench in the original plans.

"Let me be very clear on this: I don't have a stake in what the project is in this neighborhood or wherever in the city," Gardner said. "I

will design whatever the city asks us to design, ok, when we came in, and talked about our expertise regarding Article 97, that was before the discovery of the wetlands, and we had every intention of pursuing the project on this site (Garry Grove) and this site only."

Gardner then addressed Brooks' comments on Chicopee considered "land poor."

"You are absolutely right, Chicopee is 'land poor', because when the wetlands came up, I asked the question, 'if Chicopee is really land poor'? And you know who studied it, we studied it (Caolo & Bieniek Architects), and that's how we discovered the Szetela site, we also found about 15 other sites just as well, that we looked at and worked with the city Planning Department, and that's how we came down to these two," Gardner said. "And let me be clear I am absolutely not leaning towards the consolidation, but it might end down there, or it might be that's the way it goes, but it won't be my decision and I don't really have a stake if it's that option or another."

During the fallout, Kate Lambert, Barry School Principal, then stressed the urgency that if a decision isn't made 'quick' enough and the project is pushed past MSBA deadlines, the entire project could fall apart, and the city would be liable for the price tag.

"If this project goes under, all the stuff we have done is not reimbursable," Lam-

bert said. "So, there is a point that if we can't get to Article 97 quick enough, which also happens to be with the legislature, not us."

Gardner noted that it's about a year for that drop-off to occur.

Before the meeting concluded, Laflamme provided additional input about the traffic concerns at both locations.

"One of the biggest things here—and it happens at Szetela—that parking signs saying 'you will be towed' doesn't work," Laflamme said. "I've been working with the police and fire department, and you go out onto Holly and Laurel Street, it's clear parents don't follow the rules, and I'm sorry to admit that. They drop off their kids, leave their doors wide open and I want to add that there was a firetruck one day that couldn't get by. So, I'm hoping that wherever we place the school, it comes equipped with access to get the cars off the streets, but I'm more worried about a parking study, and it's critical for everyone who lives there."

Now that Chicopee Schools are back in session, the district is seeking input on which is the viable option, but the project continues forward. The survey is present online here: <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=MIRu4y4ezekW7kSx-3jPy2MVNN5ewasMVPnU-uuFc-ESIU0hTFQOUhXST-NYNDIPMUI5MIJLUJFKRI-hTVC4u&route=shorturl>.

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STUDENTS from page 1

had a suitable experience.

That said, Ware made it clear that his decision was not due to cost. He continued to stress the importance of following the timeline.

Ware said establishing a timeframe allows the district time to fully communicate with the organization and prepare to ensure each foreign exchange student has a seamless transition to life in a new country.

Ware noted that the district views foreign exchange students the same way it does local students who come from other districts. All must go through the rigorous vetting process before being accepted to Chicopee's schools.

"When you take an exchange student, you also consider the social, emotional wellbeing, the cultural exchange piece of it. Then, you work with your counselors to not only work with the organization but to also work with the incoming family to make sure that it is a good fit," Ware said.

Ware fully supports

hosting foreign exchange students when the process is adhered to. He said it is partially on the organizations to make sure that happens.

"There are many organizations that exist that offer exchange programs for students," Ware said. "Working with the district, you would inquire what the timeline is and not just say, 'We have a student, here you go.' Maybe other districts work that way, but since we have a policy on the books, that's why the timeline is in place."

Members of the School Committee asked Ware several follow-up questions, but most of the board agreed with the points he made.

Ward 4 School Committee Representative Sandra Peret voiced her approval of Ware's decision to stick with the policy.

"While I do support the thought of having international students, it can only benefit the student as well as the student body, but it's something that needs to be prepared for in advance; not at the final hour so to speak," Peret said.



# SPORTS

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## Girls soccer gets bronze at Bay State Games

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

FITCHBURG—Both the Central and West girls' soccer teams began the annual Bay State Summer games with losses last month from July 10 to 12.

A couple of hours later, the West squad celebrated a 6-1 victory over the Central team at the Game On Sports and Performance Center in Fitchburg.

"We didn't play very well in our first game this morning," said West head

coach Matt Mosher, who also coaches the St. Mary's (Westfield) girls' varsity soccer team. "Once we got into a rhythm, especially during the second half, we took it to them in this game. We were a lot more aggressive."

The members of the West team, who are from the Turley Publications coverage area, are Allison Fleury (South Hadley), Kiana Ramos (South Hadley), Hannah Haesaert (South Hadley), Kayleen Sullivan (Agawam), Lylia Ellis

Please see **GIRLS**, page 9



Laura Parolo makes her way up the field.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Kallie Tevepaugh clears the ball away for Central.



Alivia Marcello chases down the loose ball.



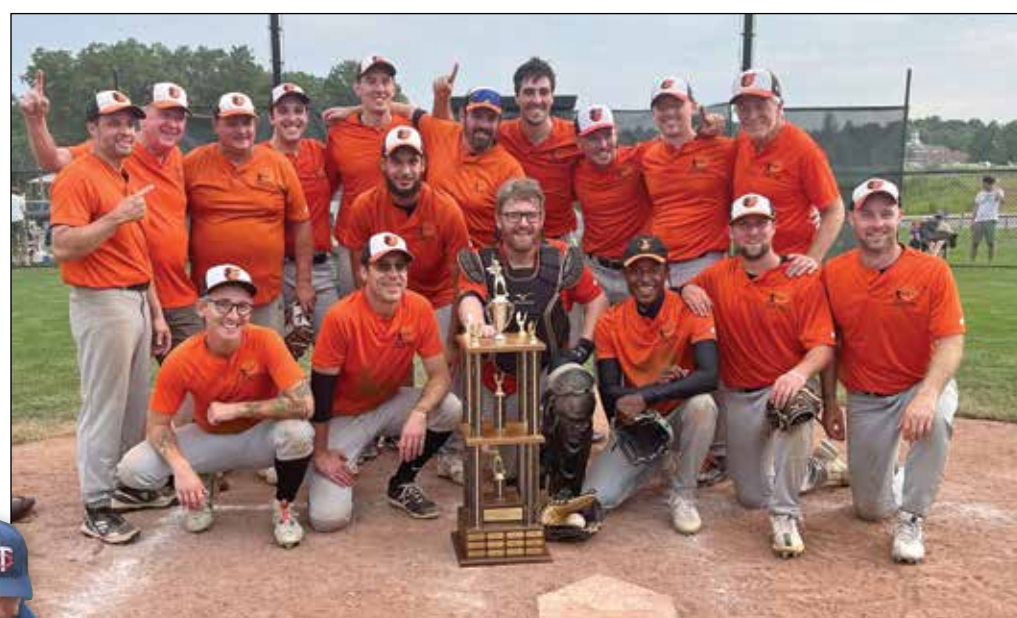
Rylee Joseph sends a pass away ahead of pressure.



Allison Fleury, of South Hadley, socks a shot away.



The Twins Jordan McCarthy fires away.



The Orioles claimed the 2025 Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League Championship on Sunday, Aug. 17, beating the Twins 8-7.

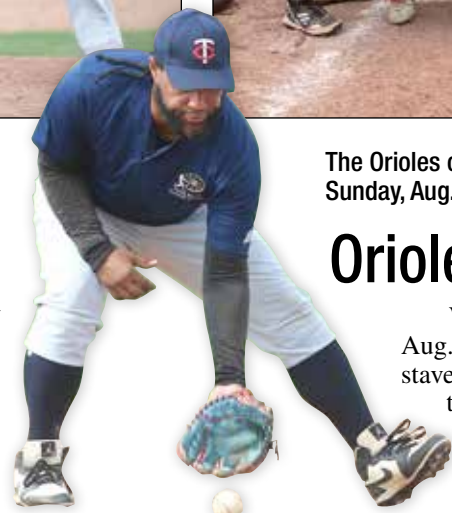
TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

## Orioles hold on for Valley Wheel title

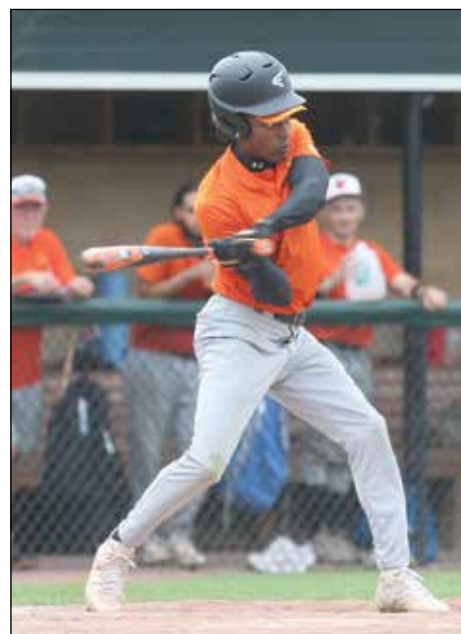
WILBRAHAM – On Sunday, Aug. 17 at Spec Pond, the Orioles staved off a big comeback from the top-seeded Twins to win the Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League championship. The Twins would hold a 4-2 lead

until the Orioles rallied and eventually held an 8-4 lead going into the bottom of the ninth inning. The Twins would score three times and get the tying run to second base before the Orioles were finally able to close it out for the title.

Jorge Figueroa fields a grounder to short.



Todd Bergstrom sends a throw to first.



Henry Henriquez takes a swing.



Mike Burgos delivers a pitch home for the Orioles.

## West dominates Bay State Games

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

FITCHBURG—The West boys' soccer team won the gold medal at the 2022 and 2023 Bay State Summer Games. After finishing in third place a year ago, the West squad didn't have very much trouble capturing the gold medal this year.

The boys' soccer showcase took place at the Game On Sports and Performance Center in Fitchburg last month July 10 to 12.

The West team began the tournament with a pair of victories.

After overcoming an early 1-0 deficit to defeat Metro, 5-1, in the morning match last Thursday, the West team dispatched the Central team, 6-0, in the afternoon affair.

"We're off to a very

good start in this tournament, but we haven't accomplished anything yet," said Hugo Destapdo, who coached the West boys' soccer team at the Bay State Summer Games for the first time. "We do have a solid group of players, but we're going to be facing some very good competition during the next couple of days."

During the fall, Destapdo is the boys' varsity coach at Chicopee High School. He replaced Marc Atkins as the West coach at the Bay State games.

The members of the 2025 West boys' soccer team, who are from the Turley Publications coverage area, are John Carra (Agawam), Timothy Haley (Belchertown), Yousif Hamid (Chicopee), Spencer

Please see **BOYS**, page 8



Enrique Galfour heads up the field.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

# SPORTS



Shortstop Aiden Breen makes a play.



Bob Eccelston fields a grounder to second.



The Dodgers' Josh Turner attempts to make a backhand.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY  
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

## Quabbin Valley playoffs get underway



The Pirates' Sam Crotto delivers to the plate.



Steven Bilodeau slings a throw to first.

**SOUTH HADLEY** – Last Sunday, the Quabbin Valley Baseball League playoffs got underway with a pair of quarterfinal games. In one matchup, the Tigers defeated the Braves 12-8 thanks to some great pitching late in the game by the Tigers' Brad Bullough. The Dodgers walked off on the Pirates in the other matchup 17-16 when a hit by Andrew Tuck plated the winning run. The Cardinals defeated the Dodgers 9-7 and the Orioles defeated the Tigers 17-7 in the semi-finals held on Aug. 24, setting up a Cardinals-Orioles championship game on Sunday, Sept. 7 at 10 a.m. Booster Field in Easthampton.



Pitcher Mike Afflitto sends a pitch home.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Griffen Wrisley, of Chicopee, heads for the goal with possession of the ball.

### BOYS from page 7

Parsons (South Hadley), Tyler Supczak (Wilbraham), Evan Tyrrell (Chicopee), Griffen Wrisley (Chicopee), Chase Henderson (Wilbraham), Tiago Destapdo (Chicopee), and Braeden Fitzgerald (Agawam/Pope Francis).

“Several college coaches will be attending these games, so this is a very good showcase for the players,” Destapdo said. “There are a lot of talented soccer players in Western Mass.”

The worst part of being a coach of an All-Star team is having to make cuts at try-outs.

“We had 35 players try-out, and we have 20 players on our team,” Destapdo said. “Having to make cuts is very difficult. I wish we could’ve taken all 35 players.”

The duo Henderson and Max Graham (Southwick/Pope Francis) combined to post the shutout against Central.

“They’re different types of goalies,” Destapdo said. “Chase is just tremendous with his feet. If he wasn’t a goalie, he would be a very good field player. Max is a physical goalie.”

Henderson, who’s a raising senior, played the first half against the Central team. Graham, who’s a raising



A Central midfielder is pressured as he stops the ball.



Caleb Iborra sends a pass away for Central Mass.



Brandon Barker is pressured near the opposing goal.

sophomore, played the second half.

The West goalies received plenty of support from a locked down defensive unit led by Fitzgerald, Supczak, Hamid, and Casey Bestler (Frontier Reg.).

The West scored four goals during the first half against Central.

Glodie Manyegezi (Springfield Central) scored two of the goals. The other two first half goals were netted by Brandon Barker (West Springfield), and Will Sean-McNally (Northampton).

The two second half

goals were scored by Cajun Benson (Smith Academy). Sean-McNally was credited with both assists.

The following day, the West team won two more matches against Northeast, 2-0, and Southeast, 5-0.

The West team then captured the Gold medal by squeaking out a 2-1 win against Coastal last Saturday morning.

In their five Bay State matches, the West team out-scored their opponents, 20-2.

Nicholas Jennings attempts to settle the ball.



Tiago Despatado, of Chicopee, goes after the loose ball.



Evan Tyrrell looks up the field as he makes a pass.



Fikayomi Ankitan starts up the field after making a play on defense.

**LORRAINES** from page 1

came out and people would come up to me and say, 'You guys do such a great job at Lorraine's.' 'You being in the community means so much,' Caisse said. 'It really meant a lot to all of us. It's humbling, it really is.'

During the event, Caisse said members of the Board of Directors ran the food table and also walked around to keep things clean.

'The people that came out to the party were so helpful,' Caisse said. 'Everybody was so just grateful to be there and so helpful and cordial. It was just such a nice event. We're just thrilled.'

Caisse shared since federal cuts, there's been 'a huge decline in donations and things.'

'It's expected with everything going on,' Caisse said. 'Rents are so high, medications go up. Right now, we're seeing more elderly coming in than ever because they don't get the increases when their Medicaid goes up or their insurances go up, their housing goes up. These things are going up, but their disability, their income isn't going up, so they're getting hit hard. We're seeing more elderly than we've seen in a very long time.'

She added the numbers of people needing their services have also gone up.

'People are struggling,' Caisse said. 'It's really diffi-



A photo comprising the staff and Board of Directors members of Lorraine's Soup Kitchen & Pantry and attendees at the "Riley's Resort Annual Fundraiser" hosted by Kate and Nick Riley.

cult times, so when an event like this—the people coming in—it helps us to be able to provide more to the community that we need to with seeing more people.'

Besides this recent donation, other supports continue to help, including JimBuddy's. James Robinson, the founder, who passed away in January, had always supported Lorraine's and his family continues to carry on his memory.

'They're continuing what Jim started. He really loved the community. He was a community person, he loved the community, he loved Lorraine's. He used to get so excited when he would come in here and bring us a check. You could just see him light up.

It makes your heart happy,' Caisse said. 'They're another resource and they just donated \$10,000 to us. They had seen our appeal letter and they were like, 'Wow, we need to do something.' So, they did something in the store and donated through that to us. We were grateful for that as well. It just all seems to have come at a good time.'

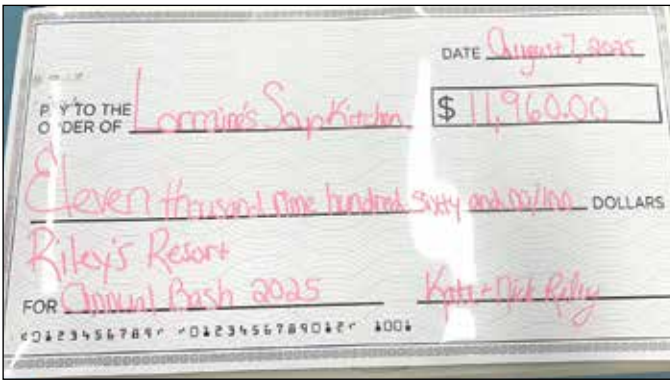
Caisse said the community can continue supporting Lorraine's through food drives, especially with the holidays coming up soon.

'We'll start doing our Thanksgiving bags and then Christmas will be here and we will donate to our families. We donate Christmas gifts to the kids, so those are all things that are going to be



The food table on display.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KIM CAISSE



A shot of the \$11,960 check.

happening here,' Caisse said. Also, the Annual Golf Tournament on Sept. 17.

'We're always looking for not only golfers, but sponsors and donations from businesses and that kind of thing,' Caisse said.

On food donations, Caisse said the current needs right now are mac and cheese,

beans, soup and tomato products.

'So, those are really staple items that we're really in need of right now,' Caisse said.

Her message to the Rileys was this.

'They're amazing. They do so much for the community, they're involved in other

events and other nonprofits like that, so the both of them give back to the community and that's just amazing,' Caisse said. 'We were just lucky to be a part of it this year. We're very grateful for them.'

Also, gratitude to the community for their continued support.

'We are grateful for them and or what the community does for us,' Caisse said. 'If anybody out in the community—businesses—want to step up and do something, we're always willing to be a part of it. We have no problem helping out with these events and things like that. We're definitely on board to help out with different events if somebody had something that they wanted to do.'

**GIRLS** from page 7

(Monson), Kyra Lippmann (Holyoke), Mia Oyler (Agawam), Riley Platt (South Hadley/Williston Northampton School), Kylie Warner (Agawam), Gabriella Ramos (Agawam), Alexis Canoa (Belchertown) and Laura Parolo (Agawam).

Mosher has been coaching at the Bay State Summer Games for the past five years. His teams have won two Silver Medals and two Bronze Medals.

Mosher was assisted by Laura Wray-Ramos, who's the longtime girls' varsity soccer coach at Agawam High School.

'It took Laura and I a game to find out which players play well together. We moved some players around to different positions,' Mosher said. 'A lot of the players have played on the same club teams. It's been a lot of fun coaching at the Bay State Summer Games.'

Both starting goalies in last Thursday afternoon's match attend Agawam High School

Sullivan was the starting goalie for the West team, while Talia Oliveira was the starting goalie for the Central squad, which took home the Gold medal last year.

Because there weren't enough girls' soccer players from Central Mass. to fill the Central team roster, more than half of the players listed on their roster are from Western Massachusetts.

'About five years ago, we noticed that the Central team didn't have enough players,' said Central head coach Eric Wood, who



Hannah Haesaert, of South Hadley, plays the ball off her chest.

also coaches the girls' soccer team at the MacDuffie School in Granby. 'We now fill out the Central roster with the players who don't make the West team. We have 15 players from Western Mass. on this year's team. It's been a great situation.'

The other members of the Central team, who are from the Turley Publications coverage area, were Rylee Joesph (Holyoke/Hampshire Reg.), Eleanor Szlosek (Granby), Taylor Bartosz (Wilbraham/Minnechaug Reg.) Filomena Stellato (Agawam), Brenna Moreno (Granby), Grace Sherman (Holyoke), South Hadley H.S.) and Kali White (Granby).

Even though the Central team went 0-4, it was still an enjoyable experience for the players.

'I just want my players to have a lot of fun here,' Wood said. 'I also keep in touch with the players

throughout the year.

The Central squad took an early 1-0 lead following an unassisted goal by White.

A couple of minutes later, White had another shot attempt that clang off the post.

The West team tied the score at 1-1 with less than two minutes remaining in the opening half.

Willow Claps Northampton) blasted a shot that deflected off the goalie's hands into the left corner of the net.

At the start of the second half, Warner put a shot into the upper left corner giving the West squad a 2-1 advantage. She also scored the final goal of the match.

The other three second half goals scored by the West team during the second half were by Kate Moccio (Longmeadow), Addison Perich (Westfield), and Haesaert.

Central would end up going 0-4 during the Bay



Grace Sherman, of Holyoke, passes the ball up the field.

State Games while the West prevailed in the Bronze Medal Game on July 12, defeating Southeast 3-0. Coastal won the Gold for girls soccer.

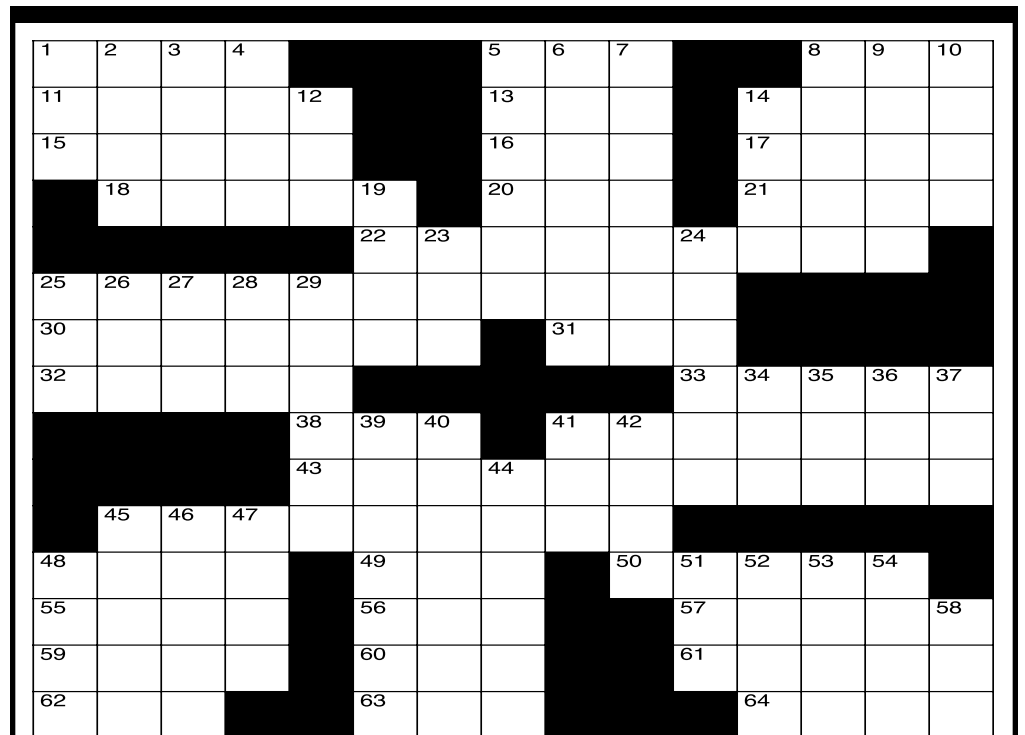
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**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Taxis
- 5. Space Systems Command
- 8. Plant seed by scattering
- 11. Alliances
- 13. Fiddler crabs
- 14. Heroic tale
- 15. Yemen capital
- 16. Misleading gesture
- 17. Cain and \_\_\_
- 18. Simple shoe
- 20. Hundredweight
- 21. Children's toy in the snow
- 22. Gets rid of
- 25. Free of deceit
- 30. Performed a dance
- 31. Chinese philosophical principle
- 32. Exaggerated
- 33. Refrain from inflicting

- 38. A doctrine
- 41. Can be subdued
- 43. A place to bathe
- 45. Land used for pasture
- 48. Curved piece of iron
- 49. Automobile
- 50. Fencing sword
- 55. Breezes through
- 56. Child
- 57. NBA legend
- Iverson
- 59. Horsley and lacocca are two
- 60. Midway between northeast and east
- 61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 62. U.S. leader during much of WW2
- 63. Lair
- 64. Fibrous material

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Home of "60 Minutes"
- 2. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 3. \_\_\_ fide: legitimate
- 4. Immune response
- 5. Assistance and support
- 6. Glared
- 7. Spanish saloon
- 8. Pitch black
- 9. S-shaped lines
- 10. Statistical test
- 12. \_\_\_ Paulo, city
- 14. Graduation garb
- 19. A way to record
- 23. Not good
- 24. Weather events
- 25. A pituitary hormone
- 26. Jamie Foxx film
- 27. Rocker's accessory
- 28. One point east (clockwise) of due north

- 29. One who obtains pleasure from another's pain
- 34. Consume
- 35. Licensed for Wall Street
- 36. Sick
- 37. Israeli city \_\_\_ Aviv
- 39. Removed the husk
- 40. Mass of rocks and sediment
- 41. Two-year-old sheep
- 42. Area units
- 44. Prison overseer
- 45. Walked
- 46. Wartime escort aircraft carrier
- 47. Tax
- 48. 50 percent
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Tattle
- 53. Actor Idris
- 54. Resist authority (slang)
- 58. Egg of a louse



Filloma Stellato fights for possession of the ball.



Talia Oliveira brings in a save for Central.

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# IN THE CITY

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CHICOPEE – The Council on Aging will host a Goal Setting Series beginning Monday, Sept. 15 at Noon at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St.

Do you set goals and they fall through? Do you want to be held more accountable for things you need to get done and want to accomplish?

Join this five-part goal setting series, led by River Valley Counseling. The dates that this series will meet are Sept. 15, Sept. 29, Oct. 20, Nov. 17, and Dec. 8 at Noon.

During this series, you will learn about goal setting, putting those goals on paper, how to execute your goals. You will also follow up with

the group on your progress and set-backs, and to start to think about future goals for the new year.

You must register in advance by stopping by RiverMills or by calling 534-3698.

### Scam Awareness

The Chicopee Council on Aging will host a Scam Awareness program on Monday, Sept. 15 at 9:30 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street.

Susan Zielenski of Bank of America will be at RiverMills for this talk about scam awareness. During this program, you will learn how to identify and protect yourself from fraud, scams and iden-

ity theft. You must register in advance by stopping by RiverMills Center or by calling 534-3698.

### Affordable Vegetarian Cooking

The Council on Aging will host the program "Affordable Vegetarian Cooking" on Tuesday, Sept. 16 at 10 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St.

Join the Foodbank of Western Mass for a workshop on healthy eating on a budget while on a vegetarian diet. During this workshop, there will be a cooking demonstration on how to make a Mexican Quinoa. This dish is dairy free, glu-

ten free and vegetarian, but is packed with protein and delicious and colorful vegetables. You must register at RiverMills Center or call 534-3698.

### Immunization Clinic

The Council on Aging will host an Immunization Clinic on Thursday, Sept. 25 at 8 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center located at 5 West Main St.

This immunization clinic will offer Flu, RSV, Pneumonia and Shingles vaccines. Pre-registration is required by stopping at RiverMills Center or by calling Leah LaFlamme at 534-3698 ext. 105.

## St. Joan of Arc School welcomes new principal



Ashley Mahan

CHICOPEE - Fr. Robert Gentile of Ste. Rose de Lima Church is pleased to announce that Mrs. Ashley Mahan is the new principal of St. Joan of Arc School.

Mrs. Mahan is a graduate of Westfield State College with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. She received her Masters of Teaching from the College of Our Lady of the Elms College and has been teaching in the Chicopee Public Schools since 2008.

She is a lifelong resident of Chicopee and a proud mother of two sons - Grayson & Lucas. Welcome Mrs. Mahan

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### 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 September 5th 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.

2008 Utility Trailer Base  
VIN: 1UYVS25338M470804  
3C Transport LLC  
5334 Florida Dr.  
Deltona, FL 32738

1988 Ford Mustang Gt  
VIN: 1FABP42E4JF245652  
Ernie E Blocker  
15 Overvale Rd.  
Wolcott, CT 06716

2014 Infiniti Q50  
VIN: JN1BV7AR2EM680843  
Rush Hour Motors LLC  
40 South Street  
New Britain, CT 06051

2020 Toyota Tundra  
VIN: 5TFCCY5F14LX026924  
Ben Ndjock Construction LLC  
435 Washington St.  
Haverhill, MA, 01832  
08/22, 08/29, 09/05/2025

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

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on August 29th 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.

2018 Mack 600 CXU  
VIN: 1M1AW02Y6JM087645  
Bulkmatic Transport Company Inc.

2001 N. Cline Ave.  
Griffith, ID 46319

2007 Toyota Tacoma  
VIN: 5TEUU42N37Z356071  
Roger Caron  
P.O. Box 762  
West Brookfield, MA 01585

2015 Mercedes Sprinter 2500  
VIN: WD3PE7DC2F5963517  
Premier Value Express  
900 River St., Ste. F  
Windsor, CT 06095

2009 Toyota Highlander  
VIN: JTEES41A592145031  
Francisco Rivera  
61 Sargent St.  
Cherry Valley, MA 01611

2004 Toyota Sienna  
VIN: 5TDZA23C44S119100  
Javier Hernandez Umana  
262 S Common St., Apt 3  
Lynn, MA 01905

2007 Subaru Impreza  
VIN: JF1GD61687H514544  
Expedito Delgado Medina  
64 Grosvenor St., Apt. 4r  
Springfield, MA 01107

2008 Honda Accord  
VIN: 1HGCP26838A053283  
Tania Figueroa  
33 Lester St. #1  
Springfield, MA 01108

2015 Nissan Altima  
VIN: 1N4AL3AP6C482379  
Erica Strong  
4 Allen Rd.  
Bloomfield, CT 06002

2016 Honda Pilot  
VIN: 5FNYP6H33GB075483  
Dayanara Negron

205 Country Club Blvd., Apt. 480  
Worcester, MA 01605

2006 Toyota Sienna  
VIN: 5TDBA23C76S058586  
Bryan Ramirez Estrada  
22 Harwood St., Apt. 3  
Lynn, MA 01902  
08/15, 08/22, 08/29/2025

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

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on September 12th, 2025 at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2013 Hyundai Sonata  
VIN: 5NPEC4AB2DH585743  
Jennifer Farmer  
58 Royal St.  
Agawam, MA 01001

2008 Honda Accord  
VIN: 1HGCP26848A031955  
Ivonne Cedeno Ortiz  
34 Mazarin St., Apt. 2  
Indian Orchard, MA, 01151

2013 BMW 328i  
WBA3C1G56DNR49554  
Westlake Financial Services  
Po Box 997592  
Sacramento, CA 95899

2010 Mazda Mazda 3i  
VIN: JM1BL1SG1A1145057  
Melissa Delgado  
194 Pendleton Ave., Apt. D  
Springfield, MA 01109

2011 Volkswagen Jetta  
VIN: 3VW2K7AJ0BM366962  
Lorenzo Tjindaal  
22 Goddard St., Apt. 1RR

Southbridge, MA 01550

2012 Ford Edge  
VIN: 2FMDK4KC2CBA09338  
Jessica Click  
162 Walker Rd  
Norridgewock, ME 04957

2007 Chrysler 300  
VIN: 2C3KA43R07H795598  
Angel Mejias Roman  
245 Kings Hwy  
W. Springfield, MA 01089

1998 Lexus Es 300  
VIN: JT8BF28G6W5032840  
Luis Garcia  
78 Denver St  
Springfield, MA 01109

2017 Nissan Versa  
VIN: 3N1CN7AP9HL905633  
Sasha Perry  
1319 Main St., Apt 5.  
Worcester, MA 01603

2023 Toyota Corolla  
VIN: JTND4MBE3P3200249  
Helen Horsler  
9 Kasper Dr. Apt. A  
Westfield, MA 01085  
08/29, 09/05, 09/12/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103

Docket No. HD14P1506GD  
In the interests of Logan R LeClair formerly of Chicopee, MA now Of: Amherst, MA RESPONDENT

Incapacitated Person/ Protected Person  
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR TERMINATION OF A GUARDIAN OF AN INCAPACITATED PERSON

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Dept of Developmental Services of Springfield, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court:

Terminate the Guardianship of the Respondent.

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the Guardian and/or Conservator should be allowed to resign; or should be removed for good cause; or that the Guardianship and/or Conservatorship is no longer necessary and therefore should be terminated. The original petition is on file with the court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appear-

ance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 09/19/2025. 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 expenses.

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

Date: August 21, 2025  
Rosemary A. Saccomani  
Register of Probate  
08/29/2025

C	A	B	S			S	S	C		S	O	W		
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F	D	R			D	E	N			B	A	S	T	



## 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](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

## SWINGING BRIDGE AUCTIONS

REAL ESTATE AUCTION AT

104 FRANKLIN ST., NORTHAMPTON MASS. 01060

SEPTEMBER 13TH 2025 AT 12:00 P.M.

DAVID BAILLARGEON AUCTIONEER MA. LIC AU0002755

### AUCTION DAY:

Registered Bidders Only will be allowed on site during the auction at the request of the owner.

### BIDDER REGISTRATION & PROPERTY VIEWING

- By Appointment Only
- Preview & Registration: Friday, September 12 – 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.
- Auction Day Registration: 10:00 A.M. to 11:45 A.M.

Walking distance to: Smith College, Northampton High School, Cooley Dickinson Hospital, and Downtown Northampton

FOR MORE INFO. CALL 413-207-1301 OR WEB SITE  
[WWW.SWINGINGBRIDGEAUCTIONS.COM](http://WWW.SWINGINGBRIDGEAUCTIONS.COM)

### TERMS:

PROPERTY IS BEING SOLD AS IS WHERE IS WITH NO CONTINGENCIES SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE SELLER. FOR MORE INFO ON TERMS PLEASE CALL OR GO TO WEBSITE [WWW.SWINGINGBRIDGEAUCTIONS.COM](http://WWW.SWINGINGBRIDGEAUCTIONS.COM). PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS ARE WELCOME TO HAVE INSPECTION AT THERE OWN EXPENSE AT LEAST 48 HOURS PRIOR TO AUCTION.

A FIVE THOUSAND DOLLAR CERTIFIED CHECK IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO REGISTER TO BID ( please call for details of how to write the check out.) ALL BIDDERS ARE STRONGLY URGED TO GET FINANCING IN ORDER PRIOR TO AUCTION. Owner to provide Clear Title at time of closing. Winning bid is contingent upon SELLERS approval.



## Chicopee Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

**PARTY** from page 1

some of my favorite moments of the year. I really value the opportunity to connect with individuals on a personal level," Vieau said. "It's something I genuinely look forward to. I love asking kids about their school life, what sports or activities they're involved in and just taking the time to get to know everyone a little better. These conversations, however small, are meaningful. They help me understand the heartbeat of our community, and they remind me why I love serving as Mayor."

Library Director Laura Bovee was thrilled with this year's Summer Reading participation and shared the staff enjoy holding the event every year.

Bovee read "The Staircase in the Woods" by Chuck Wendig and "Atmosphere" by Taylor Jenkins Reid this summer. Also, she had the opportunity to read an early copy of "Mad Mabel" by Sally Hepworth, which will come out in April 2026.

"We always love having people in the library for any reason, but the ice cream party is an especially fun event. Ice cream, chatting with the Mayor, playing mini golf, who could ask for more?!" Bovee said. "We had over 500 kids, teens and adults in the Summer Reading Program this year."

She was also thrilled with this year's summer programming.

"My favorite thing this summer was being able to hold some of our events outside under the amazing new shade structure in our backyard. The shade structure was made possible with Community Development funds and was constructed last summer and fall. We were able to hold lots of this year's kids events and a few Thursday night concerts under the shade, although there were a few weeks where it was too hot and humid even under the shade and we had to bring things inside. We're hoping to continue to offer events outside through the fall," Bovee said. "I invite everyone to come visit the library's backyard, especially if you haven't seen it lately. We have picnic tables and benches as well as the new shades over the patio area - It's a lovely park like spot, and a good place to relax or eat lunch while using our Wi-Fi." Talyn Rahman-Figueroa was excited to meet Vieau and show the city off to her friends visiting from the United Kingdom.



Mayor John Vieau meets Talyn Rahman-Figueroa and her family and friends.

Rahman-Figueroa shared her family has been enjoying "Chicky Chicky Chirp Chirp" and "Dear Bunny."

"We come to the library often actually—my daughter's five—and she just loves coming to the library. It's a really great resource. So, when I found out there's an event with the mayor and my friends are coming, why not?" Rahman-Figueroa said.

Rahman-Figueroa loves reading to her kids and encouraging them to check out books.

"The one thing I like about this library is there's so much diversity of books, with lots of different cultures," Rahman-Figueroa said. "I want to see cultural diversity that is just outside of American culture, so this library has a lot of that."

Her daughter, Sypha, also loves reading.

"I like it when I get books," she said.

Joe Buckley, event director at Mobile-Mini Golf, said the course included a loop de loop, tunnel, a bridge and other assorted obstacles. His favorite is the Skee Ball hole.

Buckley read "Moby Dick" by Herman Melville this summer.

"This has been awesome. I really enjoyed it. Erin (Daly) does a great job of promoting and publicizing all these activities and she knows how to throw a party!" Buckley said.

Buckley enjoys bringing mini golf to the library every year, especially getting the parents to join the kids on the course.

"First, the Chicopee Library is gorgeous. I do library events all over the place and this one, actually, has some re-



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Allisyn Lopes got a hole in one on the course.

ally nice spaces that I can use. It's a real delight to be able to put some of the golf holes in the kids room where most of the kids go, but also, let them explore the other side of the library where they usually don't get to go all the time," Buckley said.

Buckley encouraged the community to support their local library.

"They're there for you," Buckley said.

Rahman-Figueroa encouraged the library to do more events and for anyone who hasn't stopped by yet to visit and say hi to the staff.

"The library is already

doing such an amazing job because I know that they do a lot of kids activities and they're very engaged with the kids," Rahman-Figueroa said.

Bovee had this message for everyone.

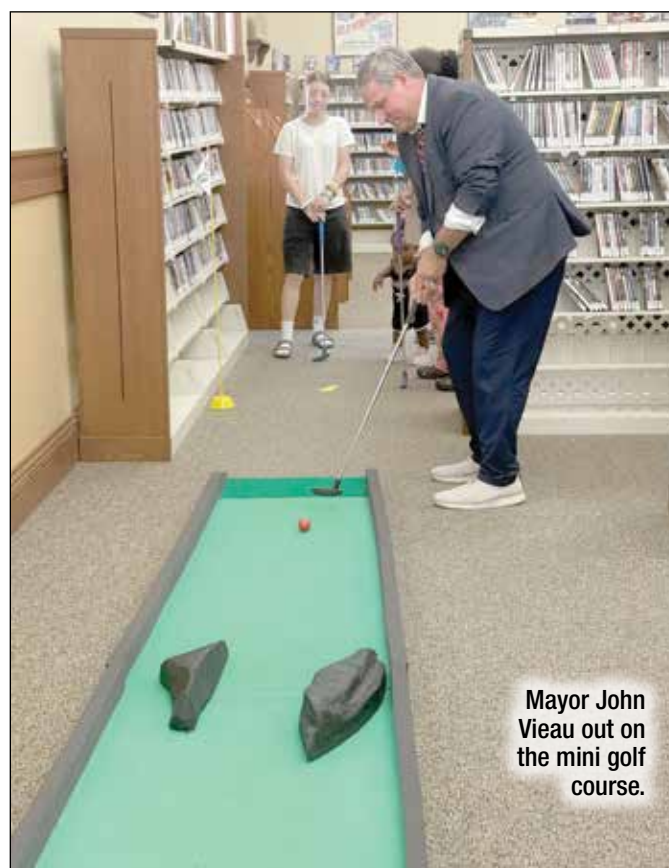
"The library had a great summer with our usual array of programs and activities for kids, teens and adults. The Summer Reading Program is a great way to introduce kids to reading for fun, and it helps them retain all the academic progress they made through the school year," Bovee said. "We're already planning events for the fall, so keep your eyes open."



Teen Librarian Brent Tenerowicz steps out on the course.



The adults also had some fun on the mini golf putting green.



Mayor John Vieau out on the mini golf course.

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