

Chicopee Register

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Community celebrates Chicopee Day at the BIG E

TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

The Chicopee Braves cheerleaders get in formation.

By Kristin Rivers and Brendan Rooney
Editor, Correspondent

WEST SPRINGFIELD – On Sept. 23, the element of ‘Chicopee Pride’ was not only felt but exemplified on full display as the Big E played host to ‘Salute to Chicopee Day.’

The celebration kicked off the grounds of the Eastern States Exposition, which saw Mayor John Vieau lead the charge as local and state dignitaries followed suit, with members of the City Council making an appearance, along with State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), State Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield)

and City Collector nominee Raj Sanghvi all gathered around the start of the parade.

Near the starting point were the Chicopee Braves cheerleaders, the Chicopee Colleens, along with members of the Air Force Junior ROTC from CHS, who were given command by former ROTC cadet Arriaga, before taking a reprieve to reflect on the overall honor of the experience.

“Chicopee Day is an extremely proud day for all of those who come from Chicopee,” Arriaga said. “This is probably my 20-something time attending Chicopee Day.

Please see **BIG E**, page 9



City Council President/Councilor-at-Large Frank Laflamme, his wife Sue, Jeffrey Trask and Ward 6 City Councilor Samuel Shumsky on the trolley.

Barry School topic of special meeting

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – On Sept. 22, the Anna Barry School Building Commission met with the City Council to discuss the future of Barry School, with 12 possible test designs now narrowed down to three.

The remaining options are two at the Garrity Grove location, where Barry currently resides and remains under Article 97 regulations, and the latter at Szetela Preschool.

It was also reported that the second location at Szetela, which would have been a combined option, was likely to be eliminated due to excessive costs, as part of the conclusions made during the Preferred Schematic Report stage, which will be voted on to be removed at the next Building Commission meeting, according to James Fiore of Caolo & Bieniek Architects.

The Two Barry Options

The two options at the original site is A2 which would be a two-story Addition/Renovation at the Barry Elementary School Site, which is estimated to be \$99,953,506, and would have to abide by the land swap, and A4, which 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.

The final costs do not include “any additional soft costs that will incur with any eminent domain takings that need to happen, with the surrounding hous-

es we may need to acquire,” according to Carissa Lisee, chair of the Barry School Building Commission.

It also does not include the cost of Article 97 regulations, which is in the range of 5.5 to six acres of land that the city would have to return.

Barry School Principal Kate Lambert discussed the process of following the guidelines of a potential land swap and the challenges set to arise.

“So, the problem we are encountering is that before we can even start the land swap process, we need to go to the state legislature to seek approval, and if we don’t act fast enough, we lose our MSBA spot in line, or any of the funding they have provided,” Lambert said. “Right now, in order to get to this point, we had to submit a lot of enrollment documentation.”

Afterwards, Ward 1 Councilor Abigail Arriaga inquired about the role of how the project would revolve around the daily routine of students, Lisee provided this reply.

“It would be done in phases,” Lisee said. “The areas of the school that are being renovated would be segregated from the students, and the students would then occupy other portions of the building, which would most likely have modular classrooms, that would be on site to house the students, and then construction would begin on addition, and then they would renovate the area that they were current-

Please see **BARRY**, page 5

St. Stan’s holds art show

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – St. Stanislaus Basilica held an art show Sept. 25 through 30 in the lower basilica of the church.

Admission into the art show was free.

The theme of the art show, “The Inspiration of God in Our Lives,” reflects the theme of the Jubilee Year, “Pilgrims of Hope.” This art

show provided an opportunity for people of all ages to get involved in the parish community and show off their amazing works of art.

The show accepted all art forms including but not limited to sculptures, paintings, drawings and photography. Art is a therapeutic way to connect with oneself and connect with one’s faith. Attendees could walk around the lower basilica, soaking

in all the inspirational and thought-provoking works of art. There were, also, refreshments, including coffee and donuts, available. Attendees included people of all ages either enjoying time alone or with their friends and family.

Mary Wroblewski, one of the volunteer organizers for the art show, shared details on her own journey with art and what it was like taking part in organizing the art show this year.

“The theme is Pilgrims of Hope. We’re trying to bring hope to the world and bring people into the church. So, coming out of that theme, we came up with the idea of the inspiration of God in our lives for the theme of the art show. There’s so much violence, there’s so much sadness, there’s so much illness in the world, I think showing people that there is a way you can communicate with God through all different sanctions and in the church brings comfort to that,” Wroblewski said.

Wroblewski shared how the art show began.

“About 10 years ago they used to have an art show annually, but for some reason it stopped, and so, we’re resurrecting that art show. Again, on the premise that it’s the Jubilee Year. We’re trying to welcome people into the church and show them that no matter your vision, your talents were given



TURLEY PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

This art display is called “Welcome to the Jungle.”

Please see **ART SHOW**, page 5



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

From the left, Sgt. Matthew Goonan, Sgt. Przemyslaw Szura, Lt. Jeffrey Couture and Capt. Edward Hitchcock look on as Police Chief Patrick Major recognizes the newly promoted officers on Sept. 25.

CPD celebrates four promotions

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE – The police department celebrated four promotions in a ceremony at City Hall Auditorium on Sept. 25.

Lt. Edward Hitchcock was promoted to captain, Sgt. Jeffrey Couture was promoted to lieutenant and Ofcs. Przemyslaw Szura and Matthew Goonan were promoted to sergeants.

With family members, friends and fellow officers in attendance, Hitchcock, Couture, Szura and Goonan were sworn in by City Clerk Keith

Rattell as they accepted their new roles.

The following information on the officers was shared on the police department’s Facebook page later in the day.

Hitchcock, a transfer from the Springfield Police Department, joined Chicopee in 2003 and served in the Investigations Unit, Training Division, and Narcotics Unit. In 2017, he was promoted to sergeant and assigned to the Patrol Division, followed by moving up to lieutenant that same year and working in the Narcotics Division.

As captain, Hitchcock will be in charge of the Office

of Professional Standards.

Couture, meanwhile, joined in 1996 and was in the Patrol Division until 2013, moving into the Training Division next. In 2021, he was promoted to sergeant and stayed in the Patrol Division.

He will now be part of the Patrol Division with his promotion to lieutenant.

Szura, who joined in 2018, was also part of the Patrol Division. In 2022, he became the School Resource Officer at Dupont Middle School and Bellamy Middle School and then, in 2023,

Please see **PROMOTIONS**, page 6

IN THE CITY

Chicopee Public Library hosts programs for kids and families

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

Terrific Twos will be held on Tuesdays, Oct. 14 and 28 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, Oct. 16, and 30 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.

Saturday Playgroup will be held at 1 p.m., on Saturdays in October. 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, Oct. 8 and 22 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, Oct. 9 at 4 p.m. Unstructured building time for kids ages 6 and up.

Create Art with Crayons on Saturday, Oct. 11 at 1:30 p.m. Join Marie Manley Tucker for a monthly drawing lesson this fall. Each month will have a different theme. October's theme is Let's Get Spooky. Draw things that are ghostly, creepy, silly, or trick-or-treaty! Recommended for ages 5-12.

The library will host a **Halloween Party** on Wednesday, Oct. 15 3:30 to 5 p.m. Come celebrate Halloween at the Chicopee Public Library! We will have games, activities and a scavenger hunt! Costumes Encouraged! For kids and families of all ages.

The library Homeschool Meetup will be on Thursday, Oct. 23 at 11 a.m. Homeschooling families with kids of all ages are invited to meet up. This group does different activities each month.

Check out the kid's

room's new **Art Cart**, Wednesdays at 3 p.m. October 8, 22 and 29.

Join us in the kids room for a free creative time, where we provide the materials and you create whatever you want! For all ages. The Art Cart will be available on Wednesdays this month, but you can also ask about it at other times, too!

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, building blocks, or the art cart.

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.

Superhero Hangout

Who's the best Spider-Man? Is Batman actually good for Gotham? Is My Hero Academia better than Marvel and DC? Whether you're a fan of the comics, the movies, the animated series, or even superheroes outside of the big two, join fellow fans on Wednesday, Oct. 29, at 3 p.m. for our Superhero Hangout! This event is open to teens ages 11+.

Visit the library website for more info about all of the library's events! www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org.

Bowl-a-Thon fundraiser returns to Chicopee

CHICOPEE – The long-awaited Joseph D. Freedman Bowl-a-Thon to Benefit Camphill Village returns to Bowlero Chicopee on Saturday, Nov. 8, offering raffles, games, and family fun—all to benefit the 100 adults with developmental disabilities of Camphill Village.

Since its inception, the Bowl-a-Thon has welcomed hundreds of families and sponsors who have helped us raise almost \$600,000 for this amazing organization. Now, after a five-year hiatus, we're ready for a comeback with big impact!

"We've seen firsthand how Camphill Village changes lives—not just for residents, but for their families here in Western Mass and Northern Connecticut. These are our neighbors, our friends, and our loved ones," said John Freedman, a Springfield business owner whose sister Susan has lived a fulfilling life in Camphill Village for decades. "Supporting and organizing this event means supporting a community that continues to care for these individuals throughout their lives."

Though located on the Berkshire border in Columbia County, NY, Camphill's impact reaches deeply into our Western Massachusetts communities, where local families have loved ones living there or have been touched by its model of life-long care.

The needs of Camphill's elders are evolving

as they age alongside a network of extended family and lifelong friends, and the Bowl-a-Thon is a great way to bring the energy and enthusiasm this community of all abilities needs to meet their funding goals.

Since 1961, Camphill Village has provided a peaceful setting for adults with developmental disabilities to garden, farm, create, and live alongside residential service volunteers from all over the world. Now, as Camphill's residents who entered in their 20s have now surpassed their 50- and 60-year anniversaries of making their home in Camphill, the Joseph D. Freedman Bowl-a-Thon remains a major funding source for Camphill's residents.

Register and learn about sponsorships at camphillvillage.org/bowlathon.

Details

Event: Joseph D. Freedman Bowl-a-Thon to Benefit Camphill Village

Date: Saturday, November 8, 2025

Time: 12:30 to 3 p.m.

Location: Bowlero Chicopee, 291 Burnett Rd, Chicopee, MA

Website: camphillvillage.org/bowlathon



Green & Gold Classic golf tournament set for Oct. 10

CHICOPEE – Whether you're a hacker, a duffer, a stick or a scratch, whether you hook, slice or reliably find the fairway, here's your chance to be a Blazer and help student-athletes at Elms College.

For the first time in five years, Elms College Athletics is bringing back the Green & Gold Golf Classic tournament. The day-long, four-person scramble tournament is planned for Friday, Oct. 10, at Westover Municipal Golf Course in Granby, Ma. Proceeds will benefit the Men's and Women's NCAA Division III athletic programs at Elms College.

Registration: 9 a.m., tournament starts at 10 a.m.

Cost: \$150 per person/\$600 per foursome.

Special rate: \$100 to any Elms alumni graduating in the Class of 2020 or later.

Entry fee includes greens fees and a cart, lunch on the course, an Elms College gift bag, admission to an evening social hour, and dinner at the clubhouse. There will also be raffle prizes and awards given to teams and individual golfers.

Please contact Rob Southall at southallr@elms.edu or (413) 265-2328 with any questions.

To register or to be a paid sponsor, follow this link: <https://www.elms.edu/events/green-gold-golf-classic/>.

Library announces upcoming October news and events

CHICOPEE – Here are some of our upcoming library programs.

Mondays at 3 p.m. during October and November Tech Hub will be offering classes at the Chicopee Library. Participation is free, however registration is required. Go to chicopeepubliclibrary.org/computer-help

All classes are Mondays at 3pm -5pm. The second hour will be tech questions and help.

10/6: Email Basics

10/20: Social Media Basics

10/27: Avoiding Misinformation

11/3: Intro to Google Workspace

11/10: Designing with Canva

Tuesday, Oct. 14 at 6:30 p.m. • Poetry and the Spoken Word

Do you write poetry? Do you love the spoken word? Come join us to share your-

favorite poems, do a dramatic reading, share a favorite monologue or just listen.

The featured guest is playwright Betel Arnold. Betel is a Dominican playwright and advocate for people with disabilities with an MFA in Creative Writing from Western New England University. Her plays include Tight Pants (Majestic Theater), The Building (Silverthorne Theater), Good Friends (BAM Productions), It Is Finished (Northampton 24 Hour Theater Project), and El Colmado (Western New England University). This program is free and open to ages 14 and older.

This program is hosted by local poet, Don Fisher. Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. The program starts at 7 p.m.

This program is supported by the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the

MA Cultural council, a state agency.

Tuesday, Oct. 21 at 10:30 a.m. Needlecraft

Join us for our Needlecraft Circle in the Meeting Room behind the Circulation Desk. Bring a craft you're working on and chat with other crafters. No registration is required.

Tuesday, Oct. 21 at 6 p.m. Author Talk with Dr. Andrew Lam

Join us for an author talk with Dr. Andrew Lam. He will be discussing advances in medicine in a talk "The Only Winner in War Is Medicine"

The history of medicine is replete with advances made by hard-working maverick doctors who, through intelligence, serendipity, and

perseverance, made astonishing progress against humankind's deadliest diseases. Yet surgeon and best-selling author Andrew Lam, M.D. says one factor spurred more medical breakthroughs than any other -- War.

Dr. Lam will discuss riveting stories from his latest book, "The Masters of Medicine: Our Greatest Triumphs in the Race to Cure Humanity's Deadliest Diseases" and reveal how D-Day, Luftwaffe bombing raids, and top-secret Liberty ship cargo during WWII bequeathed humanity innovations in surgery, cancer treatment, and trauma care that still serve us today. He will also share about his career balancing medicine and literature.

Armenian Food Festival Oct. 11

INDIAN ORCHARD – The Armenian Food Festival will be taking place on Oct. 11 from Noon to 7 p.m. at Saint Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church at 135 Good-

win St. in Indian Orchard.

Admission is free.

Join us for a day filled with authentic cuisine, baked treats, music, entertainment and community spirit.

Chicopee Comp Class of 1974 Plans Casual Gathering

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Comprehensive High School Class of 1974 will be holding a casual and informal gathering of classmates on Thursday, Oct. 23, at the View Street Tavern in Chicopee.

Starting at 3 p.m., come to enjoy conversation and laughs with classmates and friends. There will be a cash bar available, and pizzas will

be available, compliments of the class treasury, at 5 p.m.

No reservations necessary, but if you think you can make it, it would be helpful if you could email either Linda Parlengas at lparlengas@hotmail.com; Mona Marciel Friberg at tinker245@aol.com, or Lynn Provost Larrabee at penrose43@comcast.net. Come for fun!

Dr. Fletcher's coroner's logbook presentation

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Historical Society presents a fascinating look at Chicopee from 1918 through the 1930s as told through the unique perspective of entries in the medical examiner's logbook of Dr. Samuel Fletcher.

Presented by Society Vice President and local author Jacqueline T. Lynch, this "book of the dead" gives insight into the quality of life in Chicopee in that era, when industrialization brought both

progress and danger, a world before vaccines and antibiotics. The quieter horse-and- buggy era dwindled in the mechanized "Roaring Twenties," and Prohibition brought its own challenges to public health.

The event is free and open to the public, 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 15 in the Bazan Community Room of the Chicopee Public Library, 449 Front Street, Chicopee, Mass.

The 9th Annual Indian Orchard

Food Truck Festival!

Friday, October 10 – Sunday, October 12

12PM-7PM FOOD TRUCKS • VENDORS • MUSIC

Friday, October 10

Community Wide Tag Sale (All Day)

Car Sound Show • 6 PM

117 Main Street • MYRTLE STREET PARK

Hosted by The Indian Orchard Citizens Council

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Games • Crafts • DJ • Dancing • Raffles

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or call 413.301-2533 for more information

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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.

Halloween Harvest at RiverMills

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Council on Aging will host to performance "Halloween Harvest" on Monday, Oct. 20 at 1:30 p.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St.

Davis Bates will be at RiverMills for his Halloween Harvest performance. This is the perfect way to celebrate the fall season, with traditional ghost stories, supernatural tales and songs about the harvest and turning of the earth. This program is sponsored in part by the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

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

Polish Center of Discovery & Learning curates a display

CPL honoring Major General Chester E. Gorski

CHICOPEE – In recognition of Polish Heritage Month, the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning, located at 33 South Street in Chicopee would like to recognize one of the city's well known, long-time resident who had an exemplary military career, Major General Chester E. Gorski. This display is on loan from its permanent display at The Polish Center of Discovery & Learning.

Chester, known to many as "Chet", was born in Chicopee and graduated from local schools. He also pursued higher education, obtaining a Bachelor's degree from Anna Maria College. A dedicated athlete, he ex-

celled in both basketball and baseball in the local semi-pro leagues.

Chet embarked on a distinguished career with the Massachusetts Army National Guard, ultimately rising to the rank of Major General. He served as the Commander of the 26th "Yankee" Infantry Division and retired with full honors in 1991. Throughout his 42-year career, he earned numerous military decorations and commendations including the Distinguished Service Medal, and the Meritorious Service Medal, reflecting his steadfast dedication and leadership. In 1993, Chet was inducted into the Massachusetts Military Academy Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame. His service and sacrifice are remembered as a testament to his character and patriotism.

A proud member of the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning in Chicopee, Chet served on its board and was a long-time supporter. In his honor, a display commemorating his long and meritorious service as Commander with the Massachusetts Army National Guard's 26th "Yankee" Infantry Division stands in the Armed Forces gallery at the Center, a testament to his dedication to both country and community.

The Polish Center of Discovery and Learning would like to thank the Chicopee Veteran's Services Department for making this display possible.

Visitors are welcomed and encouraged to tour the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning, Monday through Friday 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or by appointment.

Front St. and Academy St. traffic concerns

CHICOPEE – With school back in session, the police department have been getting several complaints about the traffic on Front St and Academy St during drop off and pick up times. Below is a map of where drop off and pick

up is allowed. The areas marked in red should be free of motor vehicles, this means no idling or waiting for students.

If you are dropping a student off on Front St. please have your child cross in the marked cross-

walks. We realize that this area gets congested and it may be difficult to see a child if they step out from behind a vehicle. Crosswalks have crossing guards assigned to them to assist with safely crossing the road.

Interactive STEM activities set for Oct. 1-Nov. 5

CHICOPEE – Join us for exciting and interactive STEM activities designed to ignite curiosity, creativity and critical thinking in children 2.9 to five years old and their families.

Explore, experiment and discover the wonders of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math through

hands-on experiences!

Location: E.N. White Elementary School

Time: 1 Jefferson St., Holyoke 4 to 5 p.m.

Dates: Wednesdays, Oct. 1 through Nov. 5

Children must attend with an adult.

The programs are offered by the Holyoke Chi-

copee Family and Community Program.

Funded by the Coordinated Family & Community Engagement Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

To register, contact Shane at 413-310-1632.

Early morning crash leads to arrest

CHICOPEE – On Monday Sept. 29 at approximately 8:41 a.m., Officers were dispatched to the 0-100 block of Providence St. for a report of a motor vehicle crash.

As the Officers arrived on scene, they spoke to the reporting party who told them that they had just returned home and a motor vehicle was blocking their driveway. In an attempt to get the motor vehicle to move the resident sounded their horn, this caused the operator of the other vehicle to accelerate forward and strike another parked vehicle.

The operator of the suspect vehicle was reported to appear out of it or sleeping, he was slumped forward and would not respond to attempts to wake him. The Officer was able to get his attention and asked for his license and registration. The operator, still seemingly out of it could not answer simple questions. He was asked to step out of the vehicle to preform standardized field sobriety tests. He exited

the vehicle however, he refused any testing. Based on the Officers observations he placed the male party under arrest. Once in custody the Officer was able to identify the male party as Raymond Adorno. It was determined that Raymond had a suspended license as well as a warrant out for his arrest.

While conducting an inventory of the motor vehicle an Officer located a loaded Smith & Wesson .357 Magnum revolver. When asked if he had a valid license to carry for the firearm Raymond stated he did not. A check of the firearm revealed that it had been reported stolen out of Agawam in 2017.

Raymond Adorno, a 35-year-old male from Southwick was arrested and charged with the following:

OUI- Liquor, Warrant, Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Suspended License, Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle, Firearm, Carry Without License, Loaded Firearm, Carry Without License, Receive Stolen Property and Improper Storage of Firearm.

Grow your parenting skills

CHICOPEE – This six-week parenting class will help parents or caregivers:

- Navigate behavior challenges
 - Teach emotional regulation
 - Use effective discipline techniques
 - Cope with stress and more
- Parents can also connect to other parents with similar experiences!

Meets weekly on Thursdays for six weeks.

Childcare provided. At-

tendance Prizes.

Begins: Thursday, Sept. 25

Ends: Thursday, Oct. 30, 6 to 7 p.m.

Where: Lincoln Grove Head Start, 216 Broadway St., Chicopee

To register contact: Silvia Durand: Durands@head-start.org or 413-505-9053.

Funded by the Coordinated Family & Community Engagement Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.



9th Annual Indian Orchard Food Truck Festival, Oct. 10-12

INDIAN ORCHARD – The 9th Annual Indian Orchard Food Truck Festival takes place on Friday, Oct. 10 through Sunday, Oct. 12 from noon to 7 p.m.

There will be a Community Wide Tag Sale all day on Oct. 10 with a Car Sound Show at 6 p.m.

This event is held at Myrtle Street Park, 117

Main St., Indian Orchard and is hosted by The Indian Orchard Citizens Council.

There will be food trucks, vendors and music.

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets.

Email: iocc.council@gmail.com or call 413.301-2533 for more information.

Polish Settlers in Chicopee

CHICOPEE – The Council on Aging will offer the presentation "Polish Settlers in Chicopee" on Friday, Oct. 17 at 1:30 p.m. at RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street.

Ronald Lech, former Executive Director of the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning at Elms College, will be at RiverMills to give you a look at

the Polish community in Chicopee, from the first large immigration in the 1880's through the 1920's. This presentation will highlight the contributions of several immigrants to the city and its business community.

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

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IN THE CITY



Should my spouse be getting half of my Social Security amount?

Dear Rusty:

I was referred to you to ask a question about Social Security benefits.

I receive about \$1,700 a month from Social Security while my husband receives only approximately \$750 monthly. Is he entitled to file for half of my Social Security as a monthly benefit without touching my amount?

Signed: Curious Wife

Dear Curious Wife:

For information, spousal benefits are one of the most misunderstood areas of Social Security. A spouse does not always get half of their partner's Social Security benefit how much the spouse gets is determined by their age when the spouse benefit is claimed and it is always based upon both partner's Full Retirement Age benefit, regardless of when they actually claimed Social Security.

The partner with the lower SS benefit can only get half of the other spouse's FRA amount if that partner takes the spouse benefit at or after their personal SS FRA. And each spouse's FRA may be different depending on the year they were born. FRA today is somewhere between age 66 and 67, depending on the person's year of birth.

Here are two basic rules for a lower earning marital partner to get spouse benefits:

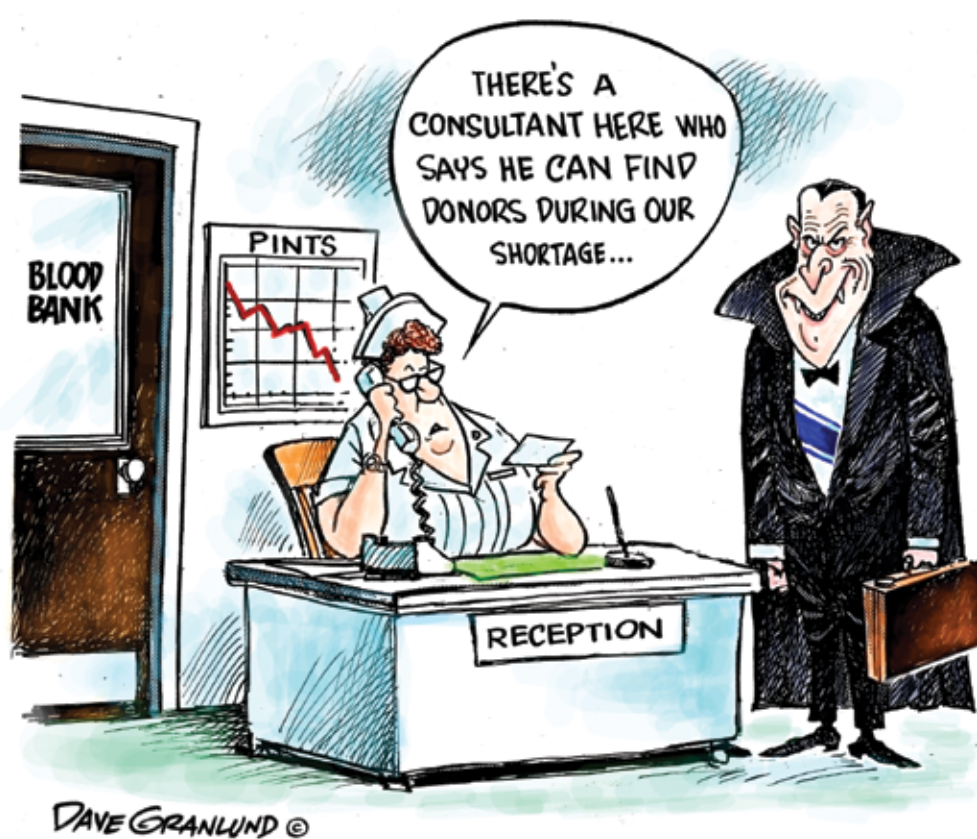
The lower earning spouse's FRA entitlement must be less than 50% of the higher earning spouse's FRA entitlement. FRA amounts are used, even if SS benefits were claimed earlier than or later than, full retirement age, and FRA amounts are frequently different than the monthly amounts actually being received.

If one spouse's FRA amount is less than 50% of the other spouse's FRA amount, the difference between those two amounts can be added to the lower earning spouse's SS retirement amount, to become their spousal benefit. That may, or may not, equal half of the higher earning spouse's FRA amount.

So, if you claimed your Social Security exactly at your own full retirement age and your husband also claimed his Social Security exactly at his own full retirement age, then based on the numbers you provided your husband is likely entitled to about \$850 per month, instead of his current \$750. And that would not affect your own SS benefit in any way.

Your FRA entitlement would need to be more than twice your husband's FRA entitlement for him to receive a spousal boost from you. But if either of you claimed Social Security before (or after) your respective full retirement ages, your husband would not get 50% of your benefit.

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



George Carter



Candice Somar



Bree D'Amours



Chris Schultz



Nick Restivo

Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity welcomes five new board members

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

WEST SPRINGFIELD - Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) is poised to make even grander strides in combating the affordable housing crisis in Hampden County. This past summer, the Board of Directors welcomed five new members to bring fresh perspectives and energy to its mission.

George Carter, Candice Somar, Bree D'Amours, Chris Schultz, and Nick Restivo are the newest faces to the GSHFH team. Candice, George, and Nick are longtime supporters. They have attended countless fundraising events. George and Nick have also volunteered on the build site, while Candice helped plan Fall Festival and

Building Dreams. Bree came to the home dedication on Dwight Street in Springfield this past June; and board Vice President Tiffany Tranghese recommended Chris.

"We all have different experiences, come from different upbringings, and have different professional skill sets that I believe can bring a different perspective to finding solutions and problem solving," said George, a resident of Springfield, who works at Chicopee Electric Light as a systems administrator.

George's peers come from backgrounds in banking, finance, education, and human resources. While most are originally from Western Massachusetts, Candice immigrated to the United States from Guyana as a teenager. Chris moved to Westfield from Florida at 9 years old.

Despite their differences, their desire to propel Greater

Springfield Habitat's mission forward is steadfast.

"Housing is such a fundamental need and I've seen firsthand how GSHFH transforms lives by providing stability and hope for families," said Bree, who lives in West Springfield and serves as the director of Admissions and Communication at Pioneer Valley Montessori School in Springfield. "After attending a home blessing and witnessing the impact on a new homeowner, I felt inspired to be a part of that change in a more active way."

Nick agreed. "I want to give homeowners hope to obtain a decent home and to improve our communities by building more affordable housing," said Nick, a resident of Enfield, Connecticut, who works

Please see **HABITAT**, page 6

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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 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.

Live in the moment but plan for winter!!

Hasn't the first week of autumn been beautiful weather-wise? Warm and sunny days will have us completely spoiled!

Summer annuals continue to bloom even as we harvest our pumpkins and corn stalks. But alas, while we are enjoying, we must simultaneously prepare for what inevitably will come.

My big task for today was deconstructing a combination planter so that I could (hopefully) overwinter the summer plants indoors. These included a Hypoestes (Polka dot plant), two Fuchsias, and an Ivy Geranium.

Over the years I've had good luck overwintering regular geraniums, Gerber daisies and fuchsias, but I have never tried ivy geraniums or the finicky polka dot plant. According to my research, ivy geraniums are handled in a similar manner as regular or zonal geraniums.

I typically overwinter them as a houseplant, in a bright sunny window. Sometimes they delight me with flowers through Christmas!

When I was trying to separate the plants from my big planter, though, the amount of roots I was able to get from the

ivy geranium was honestly pathetic. The plant looked big enough on top to fit in a ten inch pot, but the root ball, maybe enough roots to fit in a four inch pot.

What am I to do? First thing would be to prune the top growth. So few roots would have a difficult time supporting all of that foliage. I will take off one third to one half of the top growth. And from this foliage, I will take some cuttings.

Regardless of my predicament, cuttings are a good option if you are short on space in front of sunny windows - you can root them in a three or four inch pot placed in indirect light until they begin to grow!

You can also store geranium stock plant out of your living space. Here is how: Cut the plants back to a couple of inches above the crown and set them in the cellar, unheated rooms, enclosed porches or other spaces that don't freeze and aren't too damp. Check them every few weeks and water sparingly if necessary, never letting the soil dry out

completely. When spring comes, gradually begin to introduce sunlight and the plant will commence growth. Once the threat of frost has passed the plants can go outside for the summer months. If last year's potting soil is "exhausted" of nutrients, carefully repot the plant into new soil. Prune away any weak branches and give it some liquid fertilizer. For this situation, storage temperatures can go as low as 45 to 50 degrees. My fuchsia extraction went much better than the geranium one did. I have equal roots to foliage and flowers. I am going to try and overwinter this plant in a northeast window, knowing that fuchsias don't like bright sun.

The last time I overwintered one of these I got the

plant to live into the late winter, long enough to take a cutting. The offspring thrived! The mother plant looked pretty woody, but apparently, if I had waited a little bit longer and gave it a light fertilization, new supplement would have ensued.

Live and learn.

Aside from a part sunny window, fuchsias can also be overwintered out of the main living space, following my recommendations above.

The polka dot plant is another story all together. The roots were massive and the top growth the same. Although the plant looked diminutive at purchase, there was no saying that now. It became the "hog" of the pot.

I pruned both the roots and the top growth, cutting it back to healthy growth just a four inches tall, settling on an eight inch pot for the three original cuttings that made up the one plant. I don't have high hopes for overwintering, because, I guess, this plant has always been a finicky one as a seedling in the greenhouse.

In the Garden
by Roberta McQuaid





The Design Alternative A2 Design scope.



This scope for A2 showcases what community use and security would look like.



Map of the A4 Design.

SLIDESHOW PHOTOS COURTESY OF BERT GARDNER

BARRY from page 1

ly in the current school.” Lisee noted that if option A4 were chosen, things would differ.

“If we did a brand-new building, the students would stay in the current building while construction was going on behind the existing building, the students would then move into the completed building, then we would demolish the existing school,” Lisee said.

In addition, similar counterpoints that arose were centered around the decision of which option would be chosen, as Ward 6 Councilor Samuel Shumsky questioned the median difference of \$4 million separating the renovation option from crafting an entirely new Barry Elementary.

“It just seems ridiculous that we would even be considering a redesigned school if we have a new school that’s state-of-the-art in every capacity, and it will only cost \$4 million more,” Shumsky said.

“It just seems like a no-brainer to me,” Lisee said. “I can tell you that add-renovations are typically more expensive, as it’s a lot more difficult to bring up an existing building up to energy code, instead of building something new, and it’s not an easy task to do.”

Shumsky then questioned the element of possibly redistricting as a way to save potential future costs for taxpayers, to get ahead of other elementary schools that are set to follow the same routine in the near future, and in return, Lambert offered input.

“First, I think your idea of redistricting has value, but I think we are way too far within the process with the

MSBA to do that for this project,” Lambert said.

Pivoting to the point of insular traffic concerns set to arise was Ward 8 Councilor Gary Labrie, who was quickly answered by Lambert, who broke down the newly proposed drop-off process and offered insight into how things could differ.

“I will tell you we have had lots of discussions about what traffic looks like,” Lambert said. “We had clickers outside counting how many kids are being picked up or dropped off, and I want to make a point that right now we line up cars through Holly and Laurel Street, all the way by Arnold’s, and at this moment they are blocking a key area in the neighborhood.”

Labrie responded that currently ‘no parking’ signs are in place, and in response, Lambert replied, “At this moment, there is no parking accessibility,” citing urgency for a new Barry to be implemented, while revealing that both options will fit 100 cars, compared to the current number of 67. In addition, she also discussed the inclusion of a rolling pickup.

“Currently, we already have a rolling drop-off, which means parents stay in their cars,” Lambert said. “But for pickup, we would have them (parents or guardians) wait in their car with a sign in their window, that would then be used to signal to us to walk to the cafeteria, ‘the kid is ready’, and they would go right out.”

President/Councilor-at-Large Frank Laflamme shared that there should be a way to resolve the ongoing traffic conundrum.

“I really want to understand Holly, Brightwood, because we have to solve that



The A4 Design scope shows what the first and second floor would entail.



The Design Alternative for the B3 Design.

problem on those streets,” Laflamme said. “And you can tell me until I’m blue in my face that they don’t care, if they sit in their car and wait for their kid to get out, and all I ask on all of these plans, there should be some way that they go inside the property, drop off their kid, and pull back out.”

Lisee noted in response that pickup will be directed down Mercedes Street, and parents will be directed to a designated area to reside until pickup occurs, and buses will be in the front.

The Szetela Site
The final option for the Szetela site is B3, 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.

Fiore discussed that the inclusion of a rotary, possibly implemented, has been pitched to help alleviate traffic concerns and added, “Our traffic engineers are currently studying this and working on some solution options.”

Fiore also discussed another remedy being proposed via the procurement of 562 Macek Drive by eminent domain.

“We can fit a rotary in that location, just from architects putting a circle on the plan, but our traffic engineers will study that much more thoroughly,” Fiore said.



Showing down to three options now.



B3 Design shows what community use and security would look like for this design.

The response left many puzzled, with Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello commenting here.

“You’re going to use a new road to accommodate the traffic into both schools?” Costello said.

Fiore noted that the plan in place is to propose a one-way loop through the new Barry site, which would have cars enter via the north side, while looping around, and buses would be separated from each other, and another 200 vehicles could fit in the parking lot.

Fiore explained this would get all traffic off Granby Road, according to recent data from ongoing traffic studies.

As the presentation drew to a close, Laflamme extend-

ed a point of lingering concern, positioned around the School Committee getting the same level of attention and presentation that the City Council received.

Lisee noted that the current plan is to keep all parties informed and reiterated that the City Council has final say, to which LaFlamme issued a response.

“I understand where you’re coming from,” he said. “However, the fact is clear, the (School Committee) knows what the kids need and we don’t, but at the same token, we are the ones voting to fund this, and we need to know as well, but let it be known we’re still quite a ways from reaching the final say.”



“Drakes Island Driftwood” by Nancy Michon.



An art display at the St. Stanislaus Basilica Art Show.



“Peaceful Angel” by Roma Wilk, a pencil drawing.



“A Visitor” by Roma Wilk.



The art show was called “The Inspiration of God in Our Lives.”



An art display at the St. Stanislaus Basilica Art Show from September 25 to September 30.

ART SHOW from page 1

by God, God recognizes all of that. These art shows make people feel good about themselves, to share their art with other people. We’re hoping that out of this will come a grant from the Cultural Council in Chicopee to invite families to come do art together,” Wroblewski said.

She highlighted the artists who displayed their work this year.

“We have art from the youth of our parish. I think the youngest is five. We have young adults who take classes in Chicopee that belong to our parish. Then we have adults who are beginning—especially quite a few from the senior center in Chicopee—who brought their art to display formally,” Wroblewski said.

This is what she hopes attendees took away from this year’s art show.

“We’re hoping that people will be inspired to talk to God, and it can be through the visual arts to be closer to God, be closer to their faith and be on that journey with them. The message that we’re giving is, talents from God, and to use those talents to express yourself, share them with the world,” Wroblewski said.

Art shows like these are fantastic events that help bring the community closer together to celebrate each other’s talents. By creating a welcoming environment like this it becomes simple for community members to put themselves out there and share their passion of art that is very dear to their hearts. It’s clear this event was organized with an extreme level of care. Art is one of the great passions of humanity and it is meant to be shared and appreciated. The church community is trying to spread hope and send out a call for people to share their talents with the world.

To learn more about the parish and other upcoming events, visit ststansbasilica.org.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCI



A group shot of the members of the Chicopee Police Department as they celebrate the promotions of four of their officers.

PROMOTIONS from page 1 became part of the Investigations Unit.

He also served in the United States Air Force from 2013 to 2022.

Now, as sergeant, Szura will be part of the Patrol Division as a supervisor.

Goonan also joined the police department in 2018 and was part of the Patrol Division. In 2022, he was part of the Bike Patrol Team and is, also, a member of the Crash Reconstruction Team.

Additionally, Goonan served as a Field Training Officer and helped the Training Division as a background investigator for new hires. He will now be in the Patrol Division, also serving as a supervisor.

Mayor John Vieau congratulated the four on their latest accomplishments in the police department.

"I share this with everyone. The wonderful opportunities to have in the city of Chicopee to start out as a Patrolman and work all your way up to chief," Vieau said. "I encourage every police officer who's here—sergeant, lieutenant, captain, deputy chief—those opportunities are yours if you want them, you just have to put in the work."

Vieau's message to the foursome was this.

"I just want to congratulate you on these new leadership roles and that I will ensure that you will have the tools that you need to keep yourself safe and to protect this community," Vieau said.



Sgt. Matthew Goonan in a family photo was also joined by C3 Center Street Unit Sgt. Thomas Gazda.

"I've tasked that to Chief Patrick Major and I think he's doing a really tremendous job and I know that he's very humble about always saying it's not just him, it's that group of police officers."

He also praised the relationship between the community's support of their police department, noting events including National Night Out that forge those bonds.

"So, for those who are being promoted today, we hold you to very high regard and those very high standards that you already hold yourself to that while in and out of uniform that you represent not only the police department, but this community and you are the leadership we are looking up to, so I encourage you to be the best that you can be and I'm very excited for your promotional opportunity today," Vieau said.

Police Chief Patrick Major said the four are "outstanding individuals who have demonstrated unwavering commitment to the call of service and are now stepping into enhanced leadership roles in our police force."

"This ceremony is not just about acknowledging promotions, it's a recognition of the profound dedication, hard work and embodiment of core values found here in



Police Chief Patrick Major provides remarks.

our department. The journey to leadership in law enforcement is multi-faceted and containing continuous growth and steadfast commitment to our community," Major said. "Each officer being promoted today has showcased these essential qualities, reinforcing the trust and respect that we hold in the community."

Major said how these promoted officers also consistently demonstrate "their ability to critically evaluate their performance, identify areas for development and proactively seek opportunities to enhance their skills and knowledge."

"This commitment to continuous improvement is



Police Chief Patrick Major and Lt. Jeffrey Couture smile for a photo.



Sgt. Przemyslaw Szura in a photo with Ofc. Pereira.

vital for personal growth, for setting a high standard for those that will lead, maintaining operation and compliance and adhering to the highest present standards are non-negotiable in law enforcement," Major said. "The leaders we celebrate today have consistently upheld these principles, ensuring that all actions are of the legal frameworks and active guidelines. Their dedication to these standards reinforces the integrity of our department to build public confidence."

He added these officers also demonstrated the values

of honesty, transparency and ethical conduct, the components of integrity that ensure "fairness, accountability and the maintenance of public trust, which is paramount to our mission."

"As we congratulate these outstanding individuals on their well-deserved promotions, we also express our profound gratitude of their continued service and dedication. We have no doubt they will excel in their new roles, further contributing to the safety and well-being of our community," Major said.

HABITAT from page 4

for HSA Bank as an employee benefits administrator, but has previous experience in the mortgage industry. "I know the importance of helping people find housing."

Candice and Chris both volunteer for other organizations as well, but are committed to Habitat.

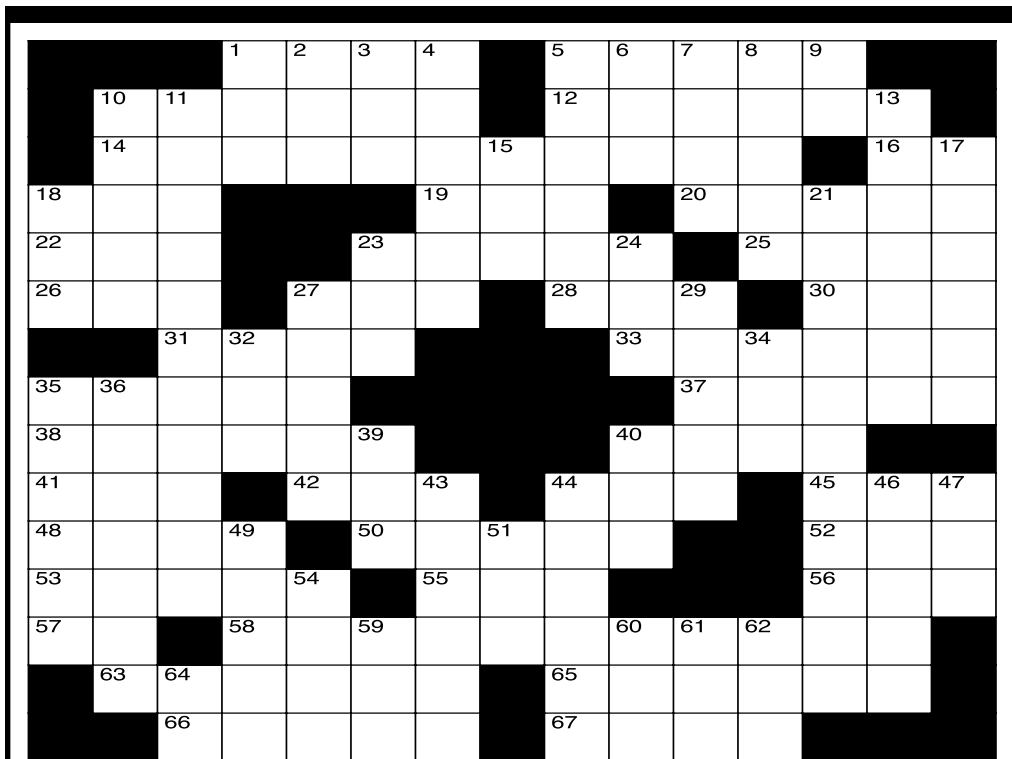
"When I changed careers, I found more time at home with my family and more free time. I wanted to find some-

thing to do with my free time that was both productive and meaningful," said Chris, who lives in Easthampton and is a financial representative at Northwestern Mutual. He also coaches a varsity boys soccer team at a local high school. "I have always loved the work that Habitat has done for the community and was glad to find a spot here in Greater Springfield."

Candice agreed. "Joining the board of directors allows me the oppor-

tunity to learn more about the mission and the ways GSH-FH can provide affordable housing for the community," said Candice who is a banker at Florence Bank and lives in Springfield. She volunteers with five other nonprofit organizations, including The Gray House, Junior Achievement, and Revitalize CDC.

To learn more about Greater Springfield Habitat and its mission, visit habitatspringfield.org.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Native American people of CA
- 5. Long periods of time (Brit.)
- 10. Classroom tool
- 12. Rods
- 14. One who renews
- 16. They start the alphabet
- 18. Periodical (slang)
- 19. Smooth singer Cole
- 20. Dorsal sclerites in insects
- 22. One from Utah
- 23. The world of the dead
- 25. Singer Redding
- 26. Mafia head
- 27. Wrongly
- 28. Unhappy
- 30. Anger
- 31. Dark olive black
- 33. Places to sit and eat
- 35. Made a mistake
- 37. Damp
- 38. Banned fuel type
- 40. Actor Damon
- 41. What thespians do
- 42. A polite address for a woman
- 44. Disallow
- 45. Swiss river
- 48. A banana has one
- 50. Afrikaans
- 52. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 53. Agave
- 55. Journalist Tarbell
- 56. One-time tech leader
- 57. Incidentally (abbr.)
- 58. Intestinal bacterium
- 63. Loose sheats around the spinal cord

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Witch
- 2. Utilize
- 3. Writing utensil
- 4. Where rockers work
- 5. Becomes less intense
- 6. Consume
- 7. Type of catfish
- 8. "Horsetown, U.S.A."
- 9. Atomic #50
- 10. The Muse of lyric poetry
- 11. Brings back to life
- 13. Humorous critiques
- 15. Cool!
- 17. Worst
- 18. Wet dirt
- 21. Useful
- 23. Hebrew unit of liquid capacity
- 24. High schoolers' test
- 27. Internet device
- 29. City in India
- 32. A place to rest
- 34. Chat responder
- 35. A way to move on
- 36. What consumers are given
- 39. Digital audiotape
- 40. More (Spanish)
- 43. Disfigured
- 44. White (Spanish)
- 46. Church building
- 47. Georgia rockers
- 49. Surgeon's tool
- 51. "Much ___ about nothing"
- 54. Make by braiding
- 59. Local area network
- 60. Unit of work
- 61. Indigenous person of Thailand
- 62. Liquefied natural gas
- 64. Distance to top

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SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

Wrisley's hat trick leads Pacers to win

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE – Griffen Wrisley has tallied more than 70 goals since joining the Chicopee High School boys' varsity soccer team as a freshman. He hadn't scored any goals against cross-town rival Chicopee Comp prior to this season.

Wrisley, who's a junior, recorded a hat-trick which helped the Pacers post a 7-0 victory over the Colts at Mitchell Kuzdal Field, last Monday night (Sept 22).

"We're off to a great start so far this season and beating our hometown rivals is even a better feeling," Wrisley said. "Scoring three goals in tonight's game is also a very special moment for me and

my teammates. It helped seal our victory."

When Wrisley was a freshman, the Pacers lost to the Colts three times on the soccer pitch.

"That was a rebuilding season for us," said Wrisley, who scored a team-high 12 goals in the first seven matches of this season. "We've pretty much dominated this series since then and we really want to keep the Cup again this year. It really means a lot to our team and to the entire school."

Their first meeting of last season ended in a 1-1 draw, but Chicopee High pulled out a 3-1 road win in the second meeting. The Pacers also captured the Cup for the first time since 2021 last fall.

The two squads are also

members of the Holley Division.

The Pacers had a 6-0-1 overall record and a 4-0-0 league mark following the first meeting of this season against the Colts (2-5-0, 0-4-0).

While the players and the fans on both sides treat the cross-town rivalry series as a very special event, Chicopee High School head coach Hugo Destapado treats the match-up as just another regular season contest.

"The kids look at this game as the Chicopee Derby, but I treat it as just another game," Destapado said. "Every game that you play during the regular season is very important. It was an outstanding performance by my team tonight. I was able to get some



Brandon Langevin slides a pass away.



Aiden Devlin attempts to evade a defender.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

of the players who don't normally see a lot of playing time into the game in the second half."

While Wrisley will be playing at least three more regular-season games against Comp before he graduates in the spring of 2027, the Pacers seniors will be looking to wrap up their high school ca-

reers with another victory in the rivalry series at Sot Park on October 16.

The seniors listed on the Pacers varsity roster are Tyler Hoar, Jason Gregoire, Dominic Garcia, Lucas Marcelino, Tiago Destapado, Travis Podolski, Yousif Hamid, Brandon Langevin, Chris Guerra Ramirez, Bryce Roberson,

and Evan Tyrrell, who has committed to playing soccer at Endicott College.

First-year Comp head coach Vincent Rodriguez experienced the rivalry series for the first time.

"All of the kids on both teams grew up together," said

Please see **BOYS**, page 8



Arberesha Ibrahim turns play around. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Layla Harnum fights to get around a Ludlow defender.

Colts score win over Tigers

CHICOPEE – In football action last Friday night in Chicopee, the Chicopee Comprehensive High School football team took care of business with a 38-14 win over South Hadley. The offense was able to take advantage of some poor defense during the matchup and helped the Colts improve to 3-0 on the season. Comp has defeated Holyoke and Hopkinton so far this season.

Chicopee Comp will host Putnam Vocational on Friday, Oct. 3 at 7 p.m. Chicopee High School was one touchdown better, defeating Palmer 12-7 last Friday evening at home at Sot Park. The Pacers improved to 2-1 on the season. They defeated Greenfield while falling to Easthampton.

Chicopee will start its Intercounty South scheduled on Oct. 3 against Springfield International Charter at 6 p.m.



Lillian Picard looks to steal.

Comp girls fall to Ludlow, tie Noho

CHICOPEE – Last week, the struggles for Chicopee Comprehensive High School girls soccer continued. Comp won its first game of the season, but has yet to win a game since.

Against Ludlow last Monday evening, the Lions shut out Comp 4-0.

That was followed by a 1-1 draw with Northampton.

Comp is now 1-4-1 on the season with a matchup with South Hadley on the road coming up.

They have a morning game with Chicopee High School on Saturday, Oct. 4 at 10 a.m.



Elianna tries to settle the ball.



Bailey Neuhauser heads up the field.



Julianna LaFond sends away a goal kick.

SPORTS

Robie and Zullo crowned champions at Monadnock Speedway

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Monadnock Speedway closed out its 55th summer of racing Saturday, with a huge crowd cheering as solid car counts in seven unique divisions battled for the final points and bragging rites earned during the long and successful summer of excitement on the high banks of the Great Race Place.

Along with Weekly Racing Series championships and memorable high finishes atop the 2025 divisional points parades to be decided at the speedway's 2025 season finale at the storied quarter-mile, the Teddy Bear Pools and Spas Triple Crown final event, postponed by rain a week earlier, was at stake too.

Longtime pace truck driver Leo Martin led the All States Material Group 604

Modifieds to the green for the final time Saturday, Andrew Brousseau and Joey Jarvis, both 2025 feature winners, sat up front. But not for long.

Blasting off from fourth on the grid, Leary was in front before lap one was completed, and he'd never look back en route to victory. Having early set fast time with a lap of 12.207 seconds, Leary was untouchable.

Ty Leclerc kept him close until giving way to Robie, who'd started at the back after missing qualifying, on lap 32 but Leary would not be denied. Robie's strong run netted him the 2025 track championship as well the Teddy Bear Pools crown, and Leclerc ended his season in third.

A year ago, Chris Rien-deau had a magical season

en route to the Monadnock Speedway Super Street championship. This summer, that magic belonged to second-generation ace Dylan Zullo.

Firing from row three in the Twin State Truck Services 50-lap main event, Zullo took the lead from JD Stockwell Saturday and soared off to his sixth win of the season and, with it, his first career track championship. Justin Beecher's runner-up finish earned him the Teddy Bear Pools title, and Stockwell held strong for third.

Cameron Sontag closed out his Fabian Fuels Mini Stock season with a flourish Saturday. Taking the lead from Claremont regular Dick LaMotte on lap 18, the Sterling, Mass. hot shoe outran Jon Fultz to the checkers and

his second win of the season.

Fultz's second-place run earned him his first Monadnock track championship and the Teddy Bear Pools & Spas Triple Crown championship, and Julia Kendall was a strong third in the season finale.

Markus O'Neil led early in the Brattleboro Towing and Recovery Pure Stock feature, but he had a swarm of potent challengers flying in his shadow, none more ominous than the dynamic duo of Kyle Kenney and Carlos Grenier as the 20-car field went to war.

Kenny held the deuce spot by lap five, but Grenier had plans of his own. Gordon Farnum's bid for four wins in a row fell by the wayside in a lap-three caution, and Grenier - crowned champion of Claremont's Ridge Runners the night before, took charge on

lap 13 and never looked back.

Kenny's second-place finish earned the talented young Green Mountain State pilot his first career track championship, and O'Neil's rock-solid night's work brought him home third, just ahead of Kyle Boniface and Jimmy Zellman. Grenier captured the Teddy Bear Pools & Spas Triple Crown championship.

Travis Hollins earned the 2025 Six Shooter championship by the slimmest of margins. Entering Saturday's season finale, he trailed 2024 champ Michael Yeaton by two points, then pulling even with his heat race win to be dead even as the feature went green.

Hollins led all the way in the Six Shooter main event, holding off the hard charging

Yeaton to win his first career championship. With Yeaton second, Josh Brigham was third in Saturday's 25-lapper.

Matt Robinson took the lead on lap 11 of the Pro V8 Sportsman feature and sped off to his first career win on the high banks. Scott Riggleman - a regular at Wall Stadium in New Jersey, was second, and Stephen Dubois came home third. The exciting full-fendered division will compete eight times next summer on the high banks.

Sofia Rego led all the way in the final Doug's Auto Body Young Guns event of the year. It was Rego's fourth victory in the youth division. Maya Bell was second Saturday, and seven-time 2025 winner Hunter Duquette was third, before later scoring a top ten finish in the Pure Stocks.

BOYS from page 7

Rodriguez, who had been a j.v./assistant coach at a couple of high schools in the area. "This is a unique rivalry game between two schools from the same city. I was hoping that we would be able to keep the score close, but things just didn't go our way tonight. Chicopee High is a very good soccer team and we're looking forward to playing them again over at Szot."

It was the final time that the seniors listed on the Comp boys' soccer roster battled the Pacers on their home turf field. They are Iakov Bulatov, Blake Stetson, Mario Lavertue, Aiden Devlin, Dan Gauthier, Dan Andriychuck, Andrew Courchesne, Chase Murphy, and Orion Shearer.

Bulatov, who was the Colts starting goalie, did his best to keep his team within striking distance. He was credited with a total of nine saves.

Down at the other end of the field, Chicopee High sophomore goalie Zach Yarovoy only had to make three saves in posting his third consecutive shutout.

The Pacers got on the scoreboard for the first time during the 13th minute of the opening half.

The scoring play began with Langevin sending a pass to Wrisley. The ball did take a high bounce, but Wrisley was able to flick a shot over the keeper's head into the net. The visiting team took a 2-0 lead five minutes later following a free kick.

The kick was taken by Destapado from the right end line. The hard kick went to Wrisley inside the box who finished off the play by scoring his second goal.

"Right before he took the free kick, Tiago told me that he was going to drill the ball at my feet," Wrisley said. "The ball came into the box as fast as a Corvette going down the street. I just had to make sure that I got my foot on it and score the goal."

Junior Rafael Esteveo Callegari closed out the first half scoring with a header goal following a corner kick taken by Destapado during the 35th minute.

Wrisley recorded his second hat-trick of the season after scoring a goal five minutes into the second half,



Abdulwahhab Alnuaimi clears the ball away.

which was assisted by Podolski.

"Not only is Griffen an outstanding soccer player, he's also a terrific teammate," coach Destapado said. "I've been coaching him for many years, which makes it very special."

In the 69th minute, Tiago Destapado scored a corner kick goal giving the Pacers a comfortable 5-0 advantage.

"That was one of the best goals that we've scored this season," Wrisley said. "It's the first time that we've been able to score a corner kick goal since I've been playing for this team."

Ramirez added his name to the scoring column in the 74th minute by blasting a line-drive shot into the back of the net.

The Pacers final goal of the Derby was scored by sophomore Shawn Murphy, who was congratulated by his teammates after scoring his first varsity goal. Freshman Antonio Marques was credited with the assist.

"Shawn is one of the most likeable kids at our school," Wrisley said. "It was very nice to see him score his first varsity goal in tonight's game."

The Pacers, who are the defending league champions, will be looking to keep the Cup at their school for another year on Oct. 16.

Roster takes shape for T-Birds

SPRINGFIELD – St. Louis Blues President of Hockey Operations and General Manager Doug Armstrong announced today that the Blues have assigned 18 players to their AHL affiliate, the Springfield Thunderbirds, including forwards Nikita Alexandrov, Sam Bitten, Hugh McGing, Matthew Peca, Juraj Pekarcik, Dylan Peterson, Simon Robertson, Jakub Stancl, Sam Stange, Nikita Susuev, and Christopher Wagner,

along with defensemen Michael Buchinger, Quinton Burns, Marc-Andre Gaudet, Samuel Johansson, and Anthony Kehrer, and goaltenders Will Cranley and Vadim Zherenko.

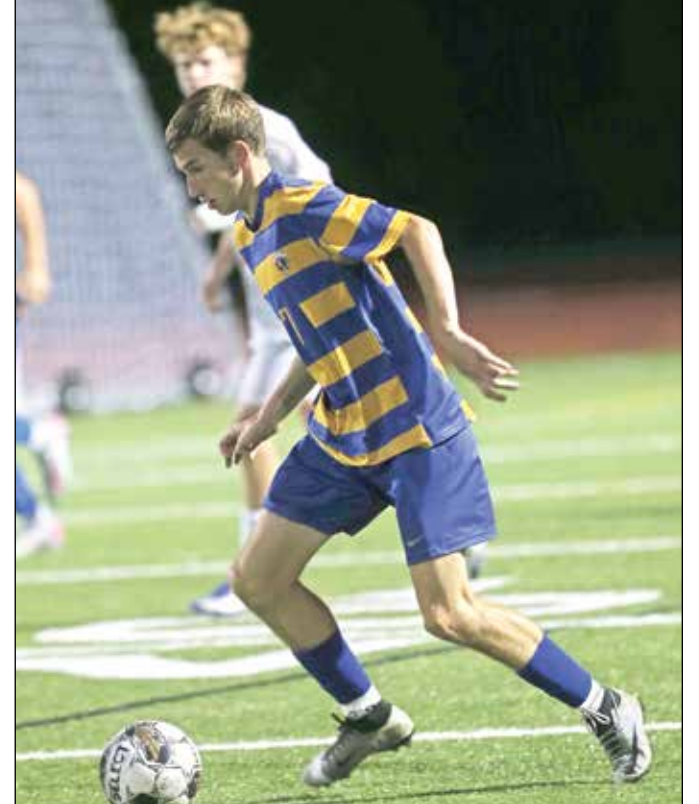
The T-Birds open their preseason slate on Friday, October 3, when they visit the Providence Bruins at 7:05 p.m. at Amica Mutual Pavilion. They host their lone preseason game on Sunday, October 5 at the MassMutual Center, with puck drop set for 3:05 p.m.



Rodney Blanc gets some big pressure as he tries to keep



Travis Podolski clears the ball through the middle.



Camden Anderson heads up the field.

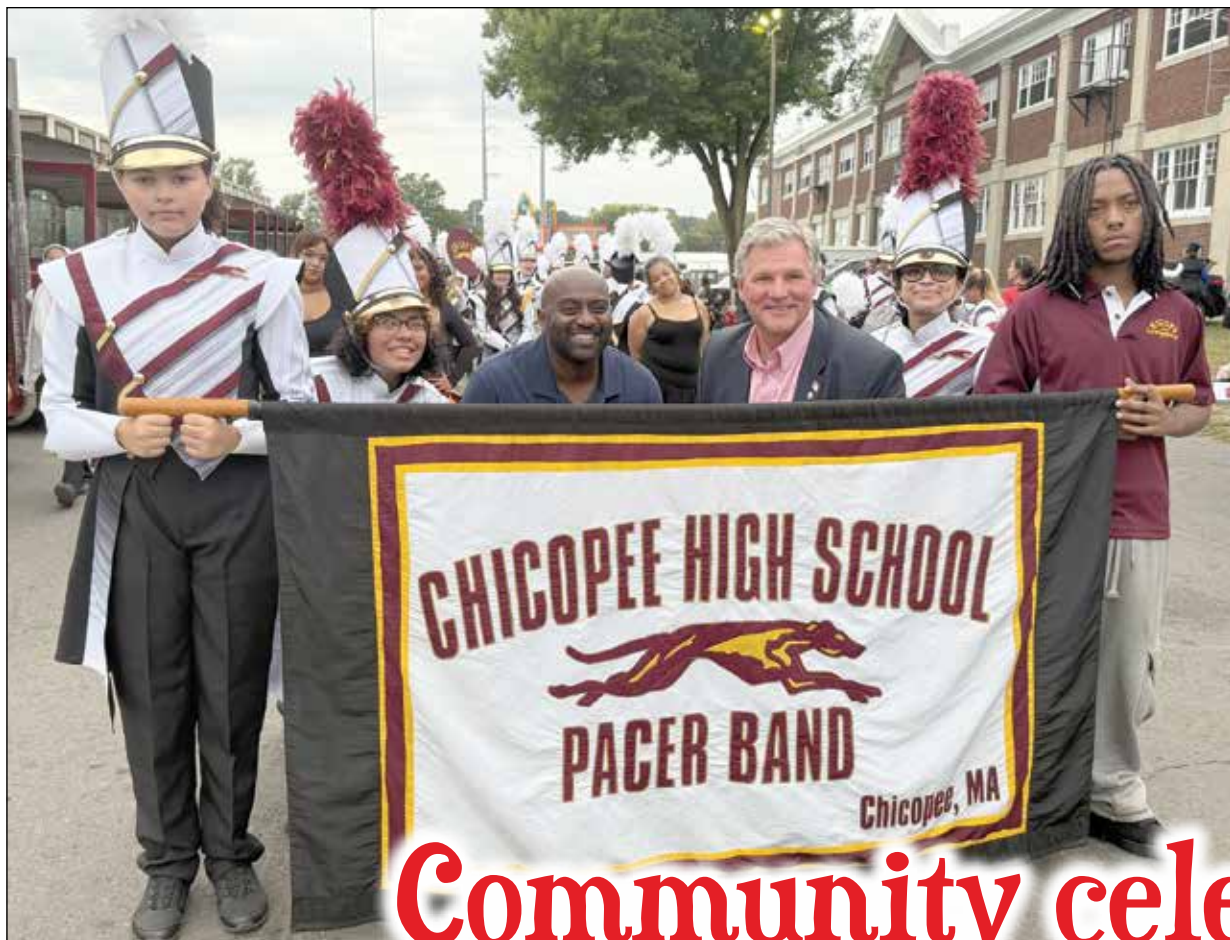


Evan Tyrrell gets the header.



Daniel Gauthier is nearly tripped as he continues up the field.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS AND BRENDAN ROONEY
The Air Force Junior ROTC with their banner ahead of the parade.

Community celebrates

Chicopee Day at the BIG E

Members of the Chicopee High School Marching Band, Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware and Mayor John Vieau pose for a group photo before the parade takes off on Chicopee Day.



The Chicopee Comprehensive High School Marching Band ready to march in the parade.



Cadet Cameron Ford, Cadet Lilly Forge't, Cadet Andrew Bettro, Cadet Jocelyn Corbin and Cadet Jorja Woods in a group photo enjoying Big E fun post-parade.

BIG E from page 1

I marched as a cadet, and this is my third year as a state representative, and I'm the only state elected official who lives in Chicopee, so this is very personal to me, as this is home."

She also teased a grand surprise as she has eyes pointed to next year.

"I can't wait for next year as I have a little surprise for all of the kids," Arriaga said.

Everyone then boarded the trolley and began the ride around the fairgrounds, partaking in waving to the fervent crowd, as live music was played and performed by the Comp and Chicopee High School Marching Bands who brokered an apparent truce—an olive branch was agreed upon, so to speak—by the cross town rivals as the ensembles joined together and played a variety of tunes, energizing all attendees.

Meanwhile, the Air Force Junior ROTC carried the nation's colors, along with the maroon and gold banner of the CHS Pacers.

Once the parade came to an end, Vieau delivered remarks as he touched upon the experience.

"It's great to march through the streets of the Big E with this huge Chicopee contingent to showcase that pride. That's what it's truly about, the ability of making memories," Vieau said. "You just see all the smiles and how happy people are to be here, and not to mention the parents are happy because their kids got in for free today as well, but this was about the ability to showcase what Chicopee truly embodies and represents."

The fun of the day, however, also extended to the community members.

Alyson Sliwa, daughter of 2025 Chicopee St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee President Kathy Sliwa, has come to the parade since she was little when the schools



The 2025 Chicopee Colleen and her Court; from the left, Hannah O'Neil, Chicopee Colleen Daiana Torres, Emma Caproni and Meghan Oxley. Not pictured but also part of this year's Court is Wilmette Cumba.

gave out tickets.

"It's just a great way to get involved and see everyone from the committee. I'm part of the Chicopee Parade Committee and our float was in the parade, so that's exciting," Sliwa said. "It's just great being here, great to see all the vendors and everything."

Sliwa was thrilled to see the community come out on Chicopee Day.

"It's great. I definitely know a lot of people that I recognize, so it was great to see everyone. The mayor was on his little trolley, so that's great to get the city involved and it's just great to see everyone," Sliwa said.

Sliwa, who is also the Parade Committee's 2025 Vice President, loves seeing the committee and Colleen and her court take part in the parade. She will be taking over as president on Oct. 1.

"The Big E asks us every year to come out, so that's great that our float's in there. Our Colleens were in there,

our Colleen Moms, some of our Parade Committee members, so it's great seeing them on the float and seeing the float—pretty much—for the last time for the year," Sliwa said.

She also shared her favorite Big E memory.

"I always remember my grandmother always taking us on the first day of the Big E. We did that for so many years. Just the first day, getting into the atmosphere," Sliwa said. "She's in Florida now, but we always used to love coming the first day of the Big E."

For members of the Air Force Junior ROTC, the opportunity to march in the parade, whether every year or for the very first time, is an unforgettable experience.

Cadets Andrew Bettro, Jorja Woods, Cameron Ford, Jocelyn Corbin and Lilly Forge't emphasized community, getting involved and hometown—and school—pride as they reflected on Chicopee Day.

"I think it's just a really fun experience for all cadets and for anybody who participates in the parade and it's all over just a great thing to participate in for anybody," Woods said. "Especially because afterwards, it's just so much fun to see everybody's faces."

"I think it's a good experience to have trying something new for once. I think we should do it when we can," Corbin said. "I think doing the flag was pretty good, being able to do it for my first year of being on it."

"For me personally, taking part in this parade during Chicopee Day—because Chicopee is my home, it's where I've been majority of, if not all of my life—so participating in a parade on Chicopee Day, it's like I'm marching for my town, I'm marching for my home," Bettro said. "Every time I do it, it just fills me with confidence, filled with love and a bunch of other stuff."



Big E attendees were excited to wave to the Chicopee contingent during Chicopee Day at the Big E.



Attendees wave as the trolley moves along the parade route.

"I feel like we get to show our integrity, service before self and stuff like that and excellence in all we do. As I said, us as a family, we're a big team, we support each other and taking a part in this is a big thing. We get to show the mayor and the higher-ups what we do and what we're about," Ford said. "So, like I said, we're all a big family, we all have fun."

"It was great to hear all of the positive feedback from everyone, walk in the parade. I think it's a great experience to have and I think what it's turning out to be is really great like the food, the state buildings, everything's really nice," Forge't said. "I think it means so much because everyone's just interacting and talking. It's really nice to see everything."

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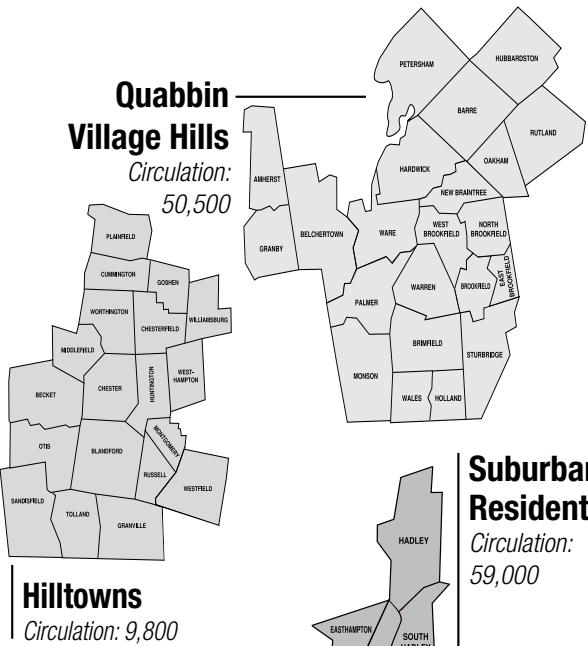
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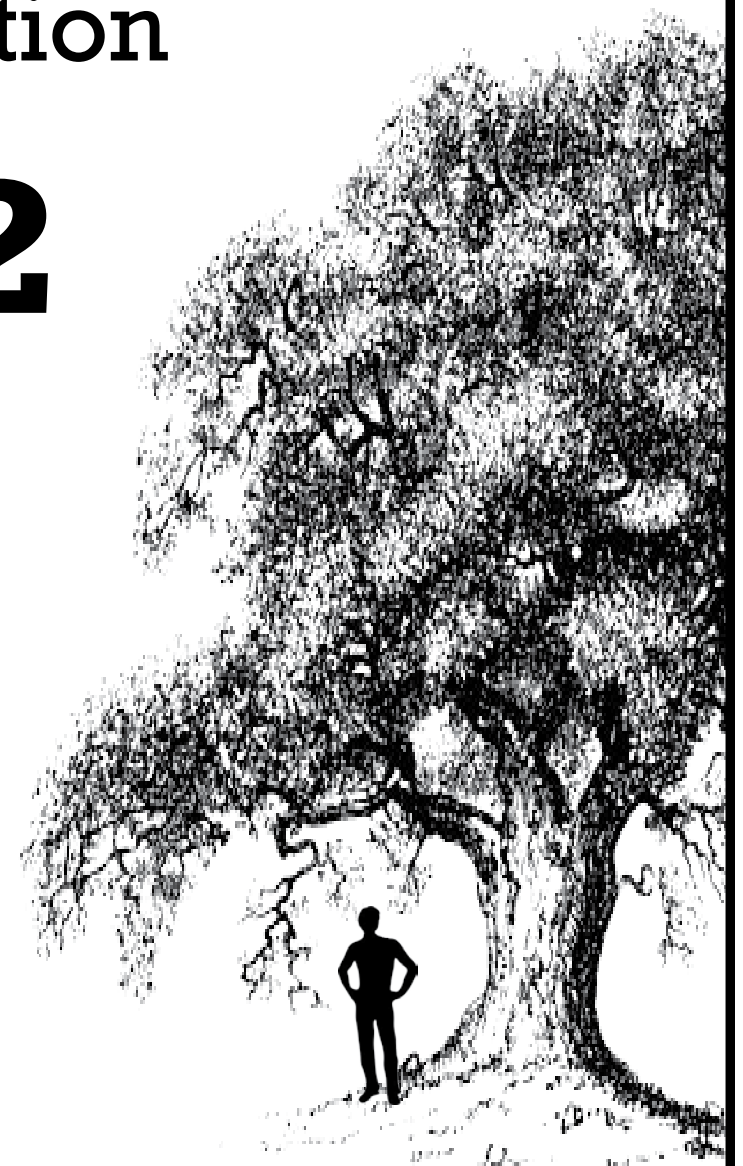
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