

# Chicopee Register

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COMMUNITY

## Chicopee Athletic Hall of Fame inducts 2023 class

By Kristin Rivers  
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CHICOPEE -- The Chicopee Athletic Hall of Fame honored the 2023 class on Sept. 30 in a banquet at the Portuguese American Club.

This year's inductees include the 1987-1988 Chicopee Comprehensive High School Basketball Team, the 1983 Chicopee High School Boys Soccer Team and athletes who left a mark in football, gymnastics, track, baseball, hockey and softball.

Mike Loudon served as master of ceremonies, with remarks provided by Mayor John Vieau, former Athletic Director Jim Blain, Chicopee High School social studies teacher and football and track head coach Adam Tanguay and Chicopee Comprehensive High School Principal Andrew Lamothe.

Allie O'Shea was part of the Chicopee High School Gymnastics Team for three seasons and selected for the Massachusetts National Team in 2011, becoming the first Chicopee gymnast to make the national level in over 10 years.

O'Shea credits her mom for signing her up for gymnastics, explaining she fell in love with the sport from there.

"I think it's one of the harder sports that you can do. There's so much complexity. There's four different events. It requires a lot of strength and flexibility and technique, so it



TURLEY PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY

A group photo highlighting the Chicopee Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2023 inductees. Left to right are James Koske, Sarah Fratessi, Glen Bogdanovich, Frank Nadeau, Alex Niemiec, Allie O'Shea and Robert Parent.

just stood out as my favorite and I always loved it," O'Shea said.

James Koske, recognized for his achievements in football and baseball at Chicopee Comprehensive High School, was nominated by his friend and teammate, John Griffin, a 2011 inductee.

After sharing his favorite memory of playing football was the Colts winning the Sword Game in 1985, ending the Pacers' 10-year winning streak, Koske reflected on why

athletes should get involved in sports during high school.

"You learn so much about teamwork. You learn about strife, how to handle adversity and how to translate that into life as well, how to be disciplined, regimented, listening to your coaches and taking directions and also being an individual as well while you're out there on the field," Koske said. "And, you know, having that sense of responsibility for your teammates and your coaches. There's a lot of life

lessons and I definitely used those throughout my life."

Sarah Fratessi was part of the Chicopee High School Softball Team, throwing five no-hitters and recording her 500th strikeout during a league game against Belchertown in May 2010.

Fratessi said the records came through long hours of practice and hard work.

"Getting to those milestones, it's a great payoff be-

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COMMUNITY

## Should the mayor serve a two or four-year term?

The non-binding question will be on ballots this election day

By Dalton Zbierski  
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CHICOPEE -- A non-binding question enters the discussion this election day, as residents can weigh in on the ideal term length for future Chicopee mayors.

City Council voted 8-5 Tuesday to implement the question on the Nov. 7 ballot. Aimed at gaining the public's perspective on the issue, the question will inquire if the mayor's term should be two or four years.

The vote does not represent a final decision but is designed to further the conversation.

City Council is considering amending the term of office for mayor from two to four years at the start of the mayoral term beginning January 2026. Currently, the Special Acts of 1917 defines the term of office for Chicopee mayor as two years.

For the rule to change, the city must hold an election for a Charter Committee or City Council must pass a home rule petition to be sent to the state legislator and governor for adoption. The idea was initially

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COMMUNITY

## 'Human error' caused to Chicopee to overpay \$226,826 in insurance premiums

Vieau holds press conference; López responds

By Dalton Zbierski  
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CHICOPEE -- Mayor John Vieau held a press conference in his City Hall office Tuesday to acknowledge that the City of Chicopee overpaid \$226,826.56 in insurance premiums between 2017 and 2023 to former city employees who either died or resigned.

This year, the city has recovered some of the funds through insurance providers, as the total loss improved from roughly .2% to .1%. Several steps have been taken to avoid a future mishap.

Vieau chalked the mistake up to "human error" and a "breakdown in process" that was identified in late November 2022 when a dental audit was completed by

HUB International, the city's insurance broker. The dental census revealed 85 names that could not be found on payroll pension, direct bill report or in the Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System.

During the Oct. 3 press conference, Vieau also responded to accusations of corruption by fellow mayoral candidate and Ward 3 Councilor Delmarina López.

**Timeline**

The HUB audit was completed and delivered to the city on Nov. 29, 2022, and a spreadsheet with the 85 names was sent to the city's Department of Human Resources. In early December, the city began investigating further to see if the members were indeed paying and did not show up on deduction reports or if they should have been terminated.

"That is when we decided we had to do additional research," Vieau said. "It was discovered that 30 of those we were paying under a different last name (or

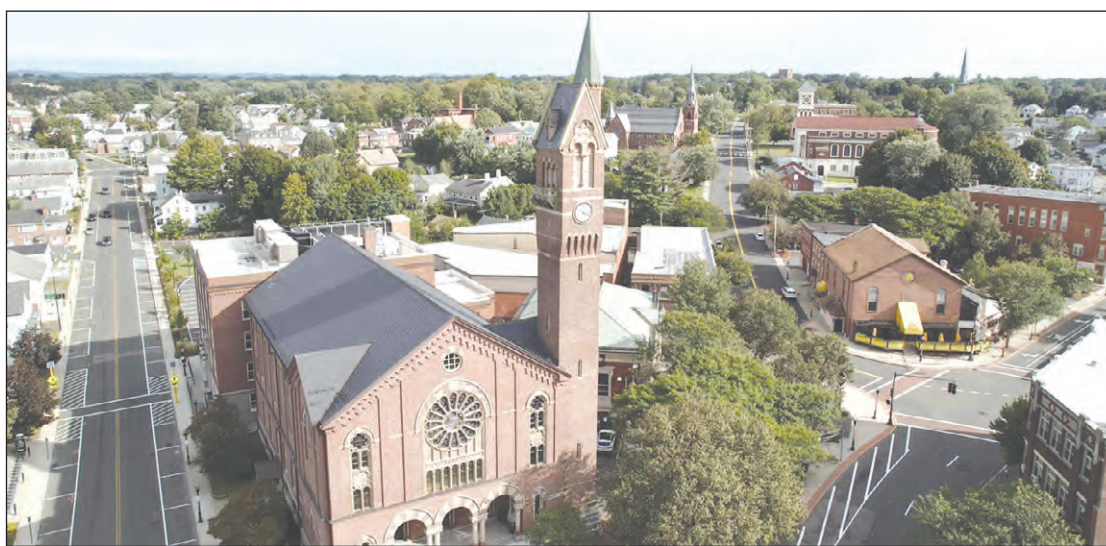


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MAYOR'S OFFICE AND THE PANDA DRONE

Mayor John Vieau held a press conference in City Hall on Oct. 3.

were surviving spouses of deceased or retirees, 43 were terminated retroactive to November 2022, and the 12 remaining were given the option to remain on the plan and were billed for being on the dental plan."

Vieau noted that the city is

self-insured, and the dental trust has over \$1 million. There were dental trust holidays in the past where premiums were allowed to be skipped "because it was being managed so well," Vieau said.

On Dec. 6, 2022, the city chose to examine the "medical

side" and started an audit of its medical plan. Vieau said HUB followed the same procedure, comparing the enrolled census with Blue Cross Blue Shield and Health New England against payroll, MTRS, retiree pensions and direct bill.

# Revitalize CDC, Blue Cross Blue Shield volunteers repair Chicopee homes



A group of volunteers clear out shrubbery at 123 Pendexter Ave. during the Volunteer Service Day with Blue Cross Blue Shield and Revitalize CDC on Sept. 28.



Volunteers work together in front of a house on State Street during the Volunteer Service Day with Blue Cross Blue Shield and Revitalize CDC.



Volunteers work on repainting a back deck on 74 State St. during the Volunteer Service Day with Blue Cross Blue Shield and Revitalize CDC.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

The project was part of a Volunteer Service Day event

By Kristin Rivers  
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CHICOPEE -- Revitalize Community Development Corporation and employees at Blue Cross Blue Shield teamed up for a Volunteer Service Day on Sept. 28 to revitalize four houses in Chicopee.

The properties included one home on Pendexter Avenue and three on State Street.

The service day took place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. with hundreds of volunteers replacing windows, cleaning up and replanting shrubbery, building or adding improvements to front and back decks, painting projects, abatement work and more.

Colleen Shanley-Loveless, CEO and president of Revitalize CDC, explained the projects are part of the organization's annual #GreenNFit Neighborhood Rebuild event.

The organization focuses on critical

repairs in homes of low-income families with children, the elderly, military veterans and people with special needs.

"We improve the health and wellbeing of community members by addressing poor housing conditions; performing assessments and interventions for adults and children with asthma; making home improvements that allow seniors to safely remain in their home; and offering Nutrition Rx program in conjunction with local health care partners to address food insecurity and chronic health conditions," Shanley-Loveless said.

Shanley-Loveless said Revitalize CDC has worked with Blue Cross Blue Shield since helping revitalize Springfield after the 2011 tornado. For Chicopee, the city approached the organization "because of our successful and unique model of preserving affordable housing, volunteer engagement and community spirit."

"Thanks to the City of Chicopee and Community Development Block Grant funds, we have partnered together for the last four years to work on nine homes. Revitalize CDC has recruited about 250 volunteers during this time. That in and of

itself demonstrates the generosity of people wanting to give back to the community despite the challenges during COVID," Shanley-Loveless said.

Lisa Courville, senior account executive at Blue Cross Blue Shield, a not-for-profit organization, explained the entire workforce gets involved in the Volunteer Day and, additionally, in other Blue Crew events with smaller groups throughout the year.

"We're rooted in the community, and we live in the communities, so it's important to us to be able to partner and give people a better quality of life and the smallest of improvements make the biggest difference," Courville said.

Marcia McFarland, who previously worked at Blue Cross Blue Shield for 33 years and is now with Revitalize CDC, including serving on their board, shared the importance of team building at these volunteer events.

"The team building is wonderful too because you get to meet associates from different parts of the company that you might not normally have a chance to interact with and just to work in a team

environment outside of work and talking about other things," McFarland said.

McFarland said that the revitalizations also inspire neighborhoods.

"We've often found that when we do a number of houses on a street — there's several houses on State Street being done — that the neighbors are actually inspired to do more on their properties as well," McFarland said. "We found that, over time, it's neighborhood building. Literally, people come out, see what's happening, meet the neighbors that they might not have met."

Courville, who was moved by the many volunteers who came out for the event, wants the community to know it's okay to reach out for help.

Additionally, Blue Cross Blue Shield is happy to volunteer and serve the community.

"If you are living in the community, it's okay to ask for help, you know. It is okay to ask for help, it's okay to reach out to organizations like Revitalize CDC and they partner with organizations like Blue Cross Blue Shield," Courville said. "It's a great opportunity to help those in need."

## Another fatality on Chicopee Street

49-year-old woman dies in two-car collision

By Dalton Zbierski  
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CHICOPEE -- Chicopee Street is earning a reputation as the city's most deadly roadway after another fatal crash Monday.

"It's no secret that there's been pedestrian accidents on Chicopee Street," Mayor John Vieau said on Tuesday.

Three pedestrians have died there since January 2022 after being struck by vehicles, and a 49-year-old woman

was killed in a two-car collision near the street's 600th block around 7:20 p.m. on Oct. 2, according to Chicopee Public Information Officer Travis Odiorne, as was reported by MassLive's Greta Jochem.

The woman, who was unnamed as of Oct. 4, was driving south when her vehicle collided with a car going northbound. Two people in the northbound car were treated for minor injuries, and Chicopee Street was closed until nearly midnight, Jochem reported.

Vieau spoke on the reoccurring crashes during a press conference he held in his second-story City Hall office on Oct. 3. He said he has gone to two of

the wakes for the Chicopee Street victims and is heartbroken to learn about the latest fatal crash.

"I lose a lot of sleep when I hear about people losing their lives. It's not just the impact of that family, but it's also the person who's involved in the accident or whoever it may be that's taken a life and has to live with it," Vieau said.

Vieau said Chicopee has created a comprehensive safety improvement project that is analyzing the entire city. Organizers asked residents, city councilors and school committee members to point out high volume areas of pedestrian crossing.

"What we really focused on is slowing down traffic," he said.

Vieau said every city vehicle that drives in Chicopee and isn't responding to an emergency is now a "pace car," and that department heads have been informed their vehicles "are setting speed limits."

Vieau also said the traffic bureau is out in full force passing out tickets. He said the city has done some "street diets," a technique in which the number of travel lanes or effective width of a roadway is reduced to achieve improvements.

"When you create a refuge island, I believe there are three locations on Chicopee Street with rectangular rapid flashing beacon lights that we've installed. The first one was done at City Hall. There was a supply chain issue, we couldn't get parts or the components to install them. They're finally up and operating, and the goal is to slow down traffic. Those create diets... it narrows the street and makes you pay attention," Vieau said.

Vieau said he was unable to talk



TURLEY PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

Mayor John Vieau addresses erratic driving on Chicopee Street in his office on Oct. 3.

further about Monday's crash and that it is in the hands of the Hampden District Attorney's Office. He said it is a sad situation and he will share details as soon as they come out.

"There are circumstances that I wish I could tell you right now, but again, there was a fatality. I was told by our law department I can't share details, but I don't think it's what people expected when they think of what happened. It's a very sad situation. Condolences to those who lost a loved one," he said.

While he said he does not know the cause of the Oct. 2 crash, Vieau said impairment and distraction are the leading reasons why vehicles drive erratically.

"Now, cars are so smooth, and they drive so fast and they're very dangerous. People are distracted," he said. "When you pull over someone watching a movie while they're driving, that's not okay. You have to pay attention. It has to be your top priority."

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# James Street zone change not recommended by Zoning Committee

Numerous residents protested the proposed change

By Kristin Rivers  
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CHICOPEE -- The Zoning Committee recommended not to approve on Sept. 27 a heavily protested proposed zone change on James Street.

The parcel in question, split as Residential A and Business A, is located at 523 James St. and 0 James St. If approved, the zone change would create one zoning district by extending Business A, allowing a proposed Starbucks to be constructed.

This item is notable for being presented for the fourth time, the prior occurrences happening in November 2021, February 2022 and June 2023.

The discussion began when Ward 4 Councilor George Balakier read the report from the Planning Board, explaining the vote was split 2-2, followed by a Sept. 18 letter requesting to withdraw the zone change from R. Levesque Associates on behalf of the applicant, DDM Property Group, LLC c/o Daniel Hannoush and the protest petition.

Following these reports, Ward 3 Councilor Delmarina López read into the record another document received on Sept. 26, containing four pages of a protest petition from the abutters on James Street highlighting public safety, health risks and property management concerns.

Additionally, it addresses excessive requests for the zone change.

"Numerous attempts to force the passing of the zone change despite continual city votes against it keep occurring. Nothing has changed since the last three instances resulting in the maintenance of the residential zone to be allowed to con-

tinue this quest for financial wealth at the expense of the abutters is becoming wearing. Homeowners in the abutting neighborhood expressed their dissatisfaction and frustration with an ongoing battle to maintain the residential nature and safety of the neighborhood they sought when they purchased their homes," López read.

When Balakier asked if the applicant or a representative was present, no one was accounted for.

Planning Director Lee Pouliot later clarified the current applicant is different from prior instances and applying for the first time.

As the discussion continued, there were questions about how the withdrawal motion could be voted on and who had the power to decide, whether the committee or the City Council, with Attorney Tim Riley and López reviewing the city ordinance and special permit laws.

Riley also shared the withdrawal procedure for applicants.

"After the Planning Board hearing, any petitioner seeking a leave to withdraw must notify the City Council secretary at least but not less than three working days prior to the Zoning Committee public hearing. The petitioner shall pay for certified mailing to abutters notifying them of the petition for leave to withdraw. Said mail shall be delivered to abutters not less than 24 hours prior to the hearing. If these procedures are not followed, the petition for a leave to withdraw will be at the discretion of the City Council," Riley said.

This led to questions about how to verify, if procedures were being followed and if certified letters were sent to the abutters.

Sue Nimchick explained during public input the mailman never delivered certified letters to the abutters and that the 20% petition threshold was reached, telling Riley that it could be verified.

Nimchick said the residents of James Street are "heartfelt individuals that have invested in their lives in everything and they're not here by a whim."

"It's dangerous. Some people will say that other parts of Chicopee are as dangerous as other parts. That's not a reason for enabling worse situations occurring to create what becomes a problem for traffic, for everyone in Ward 9 and especially the abutters," Nimchick said. "We don't make Chicopee worse just because it exists in different parts of the city. These are heartfelt people. They don't lie. They come to represent their area and we hope that you will represent in here the impact on their lives."

Dan Apollo read the last line of a public hearing notice.

"It says, 'Notice to applicant, the applicant and/or the applicant's representatives must be present in the chambers or attend the hearing via teleconference Zoom. Failure to appear may cause the committee to postpone or deny your request,'" Apollo said. "The way I read that, since they didn't show up tonight, it seems like the committee has the power to deny this request, prevent this from going to the full City Council and end this matter."

Apollo added how the residents have "come out multiple times over the years to protest this" and "they don't need to keep coming down here."

"If we could finish this tonight, I think that would be a great service to the community," Apollo said.

Diane Martin wrote the protest petition, passionately pleading for the zoning change not to happen.

"This would be right in my backyard. When they wrote up the proposal, the line was going into my backyard. It's so close that all day long I'm going to hear 'Welcome to Starbucks, what would you like

to order please?'" Martin said.

Martin stressed how scary and dangerous the zone change would be for families and seniors, including herself. She also shared the pressure the continuous fight has put on her, including not being able to mourn her late husband.

"I can't even mourn my husband because I have to fight this. This is the fourth time I have to fight it since I've been living there," Martin said. "It's going to affect me so badly."

After the committee heard from numerous residents, Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello thanked them "for their patience and for their stamina to keep coming back here."

"This is not the way we should be operating where the stress and the pressure of a zone change that affects your life keeps coming back. We've got to try to fix that if we can, and this is the fourth time this application has been presented to the council," Costello said.

Vice President/Councilor-at-Large Robert Zygarowski agreed.

"I've been on the council 20 years now and I've seen this thing come through to us about four, five times and we've always denied it. We try to take care of business in our city of Chicopee, but I believe the residents are right on that particular property," Zygarowski said. "I feel bad that the residents have to come with this every two years, whatever the case may be. But I will vote no for the letter on that."

The withdrawal was defeated 4-0, with the zone change application defeated 4-0.

When presented to the City Council on Oct. 3, the motion to accept the leave to withdraw the zone change application was defeated 10-1, and the motion to accept the zone change being denied was accepted 10-1, with one abstention.

# City Council term length question will not appear on ballot

By Dalton Zbierski  
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CHICOPEE -- City Council is considering amending the term of at-large councilors from two to four years, but the non-binding question won't appear on ballots Nov. 7.

Councilors voted 9-4 against adding the question to the ballot on election day.

The proposal, made by Mayor John Vieau's Chief of Staff Mike Pise, entailed that the 2025 municipal election would provide the two at-large candidates receiving the highest votes with four-year terms; the other two at-large councilors would receive two-year terms.

Those two-year terms would be up for election in 2027, then receiving set terms of four years.

For the rule to change, Chicopee must hold an election for a Charter Committee or City Council must pass a home rule petition to be sent to the state legislature or governor for adoption.

Like the item pertaining to the mayor's term length, several councilors felt the item was brought to attention too near election day to be properly considered by residents. Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello said the following before voting no.

"Basically, it's a situation where we got this

literally at the last minute because this is the last day that we can vote on it. To me, that's a little bit concerning," she said. "I'm also serious about the fact that this is a little rushed. I would have preferred to have it debated a lot earlier than now. This is definitely the midnight hour. You can't cut it any closer than what it is."

Ward 5 Councilor Fred Krampits identified that the recommendation wasn't put forward by the Charter Review Committee. He said it would make most sense to bring the item to the ballot during next year's presidential election when the city has more time to prepare.

"I think the public should have a right to review this when it goes on the ballot, but I'm just not comfortable trying to get this onto the upcoming one, especially since this is one that wasn't even in the committee report," he said.

Ward 8 Councilor Gary Labrie said that if the at-large councilors receive four-year terms, all councilors should as

well. He also didn't love the language of the proposition.

"It's just a little complicated. People are going to get to the polls and have questions so I'm not in favor of this one," he said.

Ward 1 Councilor Joel McAuliffe voted yes on the item, although he acknowledged it was a "conversation piece" that was not part of the Charter Review Committee's formal recommendations.

McAuliffe felt that there is plenty of time to spread the word in the next month. He disagreed with the idea that the item was being rushed.

"Again, (this is) a non-binding question to get a chance for the public to have 30 days to debate. There will be news

articles written about this. That's how they'll know about this," McAuliffe said. "I don't think we need to delay this any further. Doesn't hurt to hear from (residents) once, doesn't hurt to hear from them twice."

Robert Zygarowski, a councilor-at-large, believes that all councilors-at-large should have four terms. However, he voted no after responding to McAuliffe.

"This is as confusing as can be to some people. Once they get in the ballot box, they're going to get even more confused," he said. "Will people read the paper? A lot of people don't even buy the paper anymore so educating the public, we'll do the best we can, but I'm not in favor of this at this point."

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## GUEST COLUMN



### Taxpayer asks about federal taxation of Social Security benefits

Dear Rusty

Why are my Social Security benefits being taxed at all? The Social Security FICA payroll taxes taken out of my paycheck while I was working were paid with taxable income.

Signed Disgruntled Taxpayer

Dear Disgruntled Taxpayer

Many Americans share your belief that federal taxation of Social Security benefits is unfair because we pay into the program through payroll taxes on our taxable earnings. Unfortunately, Congress took a different view in 1983 when taxation of Social Security benefits was first enacted at a time Social Security was having financial issues.

Congressional logic back then was that a beneficiary only personally pays 50% of the Social Security contributions made, the other half is paid by the employer, so, since your Social Security entitlement was only half paid for by you and the other half by your employer, the portion of your benefit attributable to your employer's contributions should be taxable. So, it's that other half, the portion of your benefit which resulted from employer contributions, which the 1983 Congress decided should be taxed. So, starting in 1984, if a beneficiary's overall annual income from all sources exceeded \$25,000 for a single filer or \$32,000 for those filing married-jointly, half of that person's Social Security benefits became part of their income taxable by the IRS.

That was how it worked until 1993 when a new and different Congress added another threshold which, if exceeded, resulted in up to 85% of Social Security benefits received during the tax year becoming taxable. The logic used for the 1993 law was that beneficiaries, on average, would only personally pay for about 15% of the lifetime benefits they would eventually receive, leading that Congress to conclude that if your combined income from all sources exceeded the higher threshold, \$34,000 for single filers and \$44,000 for those filing married/jointly, up to 85% of your benefits should be taxable.

Please understand that I'm not defending nor endorsing those historical Congressional views, but I have researched why Social Security benefits are taxable at all and the above is what I've learned from that research.

For information, the Association of Mature American Citizens has long advocated for eliminating federal taxation of Social Security benefits or, at the very least, raising the thresholds at which benefits become taxable. The income thresholds for taxing Social Security benefits were established in 1983 and 1993, but those thresholds have never been adjusted for inflation.

When taxation of Social Security started in 1984, less than 10% of beneficiaries paid income tax on their benefits, whereas today that percentage is over 50% and growing. If you want to add your voice to those who oppose federal taxation of Social Security benefits, you may wish to contact your Congressional Representative to do so. And it is worth noting that eleven U.S. states, to varying degrees, also levy income tax on Social Security benefits.

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 [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

## GUEST COLUMN



### What I know about Jumping Worms

I recently saw a comment on social media about a woman that had so many night crawlers in her yard she thought she'd go into the fishing bait business.

I question if she really had night crawlers or the Jumping, Dancing or Snake Worm.

This worm has been getting a lot of attention lately and for good reason. It is seemingly showing up everywhere!

Amyntas species are the worms that are a cause of concern. The common name of Jumping, Dancing or Snake Worm is logical due to the fact that these worms thrash about when disturbed; some would even call it violent slithering, hence the snake connotation.

But worms are a good thing, yes? Not in this case.

This particular type of worm differs from the European earthworms that we like to see in our garden, happily aerating the soil and leaving behind nutrient rich worm castings.

Invasive worms live in the first few inches of soil only and devour organic matter at an alarming rate, leaving behind large castings that look like coffee grounds or gravel but are devoid of nutrients and literally soil altering.

If you think about your tomato or marigold plant and the depth of their roots: what organic matter is left for the plant if the worm eats it all?

Likewise, what is left for other, less aggressive worms. Not much.

This time of year, Jumping Worms are easily identified. First and foremost, look for their crazy movements.

If you suspect you have them, pick one up and examine the ring (clitellum). If it is about one-third of the way down from the worm's head, is smooth, whitish and goes all the way around the body of the worm, you've got them.

Earlier in the season the ring will not completely encircle the worm; identification then is a little trickier. Worms tend to be reddish-purple in color with a slight iridescence.

Unlike European earthworms, Jumping Worms do not survive the winter. Beginning

in August and going into the fall months, they lay eggs (no mate needed!) in cocoons that do have the ability to overwinter.

The cocoons look like small, round soil aggregates. In a recent experiment where researchers looked at the effect of heat and cold on the cocoons, there is promise that heat will kill the eggs and young in the cocoon.

What does this mean for us? I think a lot about solarization and how to do that effectively. One research document I read indicated that cocoons die at 104 degrees; worms at 85 degrees.

The recommendation was to lay clear plastic (1 mil thickness for a home garden) on the soil for at least two-to-three weeks or until the soil temperature reaches 104 degrees for three days. This is thin plastic, mind you, but it should be OK in most garden settings free from animal visitors.

Weighting it with would prove helpful for windy situations. Clear is better than black for this purpose.

There is little else pesticide-wise that experts are recommending to combat these pests. Hand picking the adults is an option.

The best way to combat them is prevention. Too late for some of us, but for those of you who do not have them or have them in one part of your yard and not in another I can make some recommendations.

Be careful about garden inputs. Plants you pick up at swaps or from a friend may unknowingly have cocoons in the pot.

Compost you bring in or move around your yard may affect areas that aren't infested. Make sure your compost pile gets hot, hot, hot!

Consider unused bait.

A friend thought she was doing a good thing by releasing bait into her garden. In the spring the worms looked like average night crawlers, but they were simply immature invasive worms...talk about wanting to cry.

Since cocoons are in the first few inches of soil, think about your tools, tillers, shoes or wheelbarrows and such. Although the worms are bad for the garden, they are not poisonous to pets or other animals.

It's hard to look at this subject optimistically, but we gardeners are an optimistic lot.

Otherwise, would we do it all over again year after year despite blights and infestations, floods and droughts, early frosts or scourging heat? Of course, we will!

Maybe with a little more caution, but we certainly will.

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

## WE CARE ABOUT YOUR NEWS!

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

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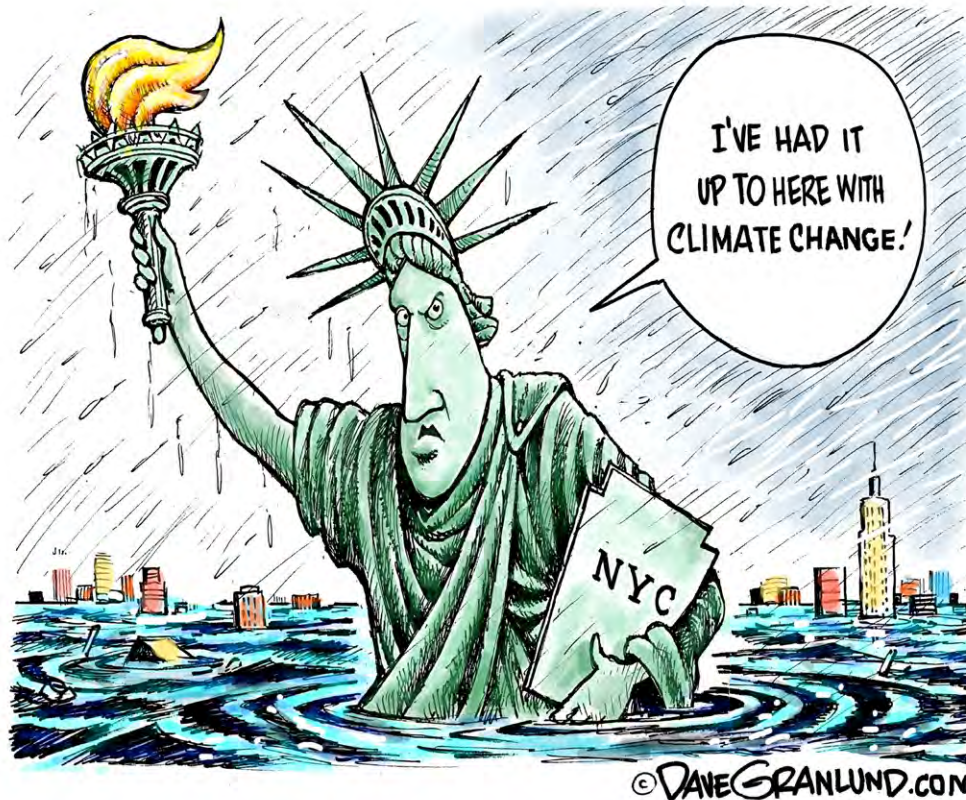
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## Events and announcements

### Parade Committee plans Comedy Night

CHICOPEE -- The Chicopee Parade Committee has announced that tickets are now available for their second annual Comedy Night, "Marty Caproni and Friends", to be held Friday, Oct. 13, at the Portuguese American Club, Exchange Street, Chicopee. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the show begins at 8 p.m.

The team will bring their hilarious brand of comedy to the area for a great night of laughs to benefit the Chicopee Parade Committee. Caproni has toured extensively, performing in Comedy clubs throughout the U.S. and Canada. He has opened for acts like Vic DiBitetto, Michael Rappaport, Jessimae Peluso and many others. He also helps manage The Loft Comedy Club in Chicopee and can often be heard as a guest host on Rock 102's Bax & Nagle morning show.

Proceeds from this event help to fund scholarship opportunities that are awarded every year, as well as support events the Committee hosts during parade season, such as the Colleen Coronation Ball.

Tickets are \$25 each and can be purchased online through EventBrite. Advanced purchase is greatly appreciated and will help the committee better prepare the seating arrangement for the show. Tickets can also be purchased at the door the night of the event.

The ticket covers admission to the show. The bar will be open, and a limited menu will be available for purchase. Outside beverages are not permitted, but patrons may bring in snacks. Parties who purchase eight or more tickets will be able to reserve a table.

This is one of several events planned by the Chicopee Parade Committee for its 70th anniversary year. The Committee was formed in 1954 to organize the Chicopee contingent in the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade and strives to promote Irish pride and culture through its many events.

The Committee meets throughout the year, and new members are always welcome. Sponsorship opportunities are

also available. Anyone interested may contact the Committee through its Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/chicopeesp/>, or website [www.chicopeesp.com](http://www.chicopeesp.com).

### St. Rose de Lima Designer Purse Bingo Fundraiser to occur Oct. 13

CHICOPEE -- St. Rose de Lima Designer Purse Bingo Fundraiser will be held on Friday, Oct. 13 in the church hall, 594 Grattan St. in Chicopee. Doors open at 5 p.m., and games start at 6:30 p.m. A \$35 donation includes 10 games (Kate Spade, Michael Kors, Coach, Dooney & Bourke purses) a bingo marker, door prizes and light refreshments. Hot food will be available for purchase. Many raffle baskets, including a lottery tree and a Blackstone grill! Tickets/Questions contact Chris at 785-477-9536 or the Parish Office at 536-4558. All proceeds benefit St. Joan of Arc School.

### Ward 1 Candidates Night planned for Oct. 16

CHICOPEE -- The Willimansett Heights Improvement League will host a Candidates Night on Monday Oct. 16, 2023, at 6 p.m. in the hall at 118 Mount Vernon Road. Candidates for elected office who will be appearing on the Ward 1 ballot in November have been invited to attend.

Those running for contested offices will each be asked to make a five-minute presentation at the beginning of the program. Following this, voters will be able to pose questions to any candidate present. At the conclusion of the formal program, candidates will have the opportunity to mingle and speak with voters individually.

This year, Ward 1 will elect a new City Councilor and a new School Committee Representative. Candidates for City Clerk and two Assessors are running unopposed. There are two candidates for the office of Mayor.

Information on this event will be posted on the organization's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Willimansettheightshall> or by calling 413-206-9574.

## St. Stan's to hold Parish Bazaar on Oct. 14

CHICOPEE -- St. Stanislaus Basilica will host their annual Parish Bazaar on Saturday, Oct. 14, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. in St. Stanislaus School, 534 Front St., Chicopee.

The Bazaar will feature a Polish-American kitchen serving a Polish plate, pierogi, golumbki, kapusta, hot dogs, hamburgers and home baked pastries. Various activities including games of chance, raffles, items from Poland, religious items, magic show and chil-

dren's games will be available. Heritage "Pops" Polka Band and Sarah the Fiddler will provide entertainment.

Representatives from the Wreaths Across America and Polish Center of Learning and Discovery as well as other parish and community organizations will provide information about their activities. Everyone is invited to the Bazaar with free admission and parking. For more information, contact the Parish Office at 413-594-6669.

## REGION

### Holyoke shooting results in death of infant

HOLYOKE- On Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2023, at 12:38 p.m. members of the Holyoke Police Department responded to a reported shooting in the 100 block of Sargeant Street, according to the Hampden County District Attorney's Office.

It appears three male suspects were involved in an altercation, during which a shooting occurred. It is believed one of the rounds from that altercation struck a public transportation bus and an uninvolved female occupant, who was seated in the bus.

This victim, who was pregnant, was transported to a nearby hospital in critical condition. The infant, who was delivered, and needed life-saving medical services, tragically passed away.

All involved suspects are believed to have been identified and transported to nearby hospitals and are in custody.

This incident is under investigation by the Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit assigned to the Hampden District Attorney's Office and the Holyoke Police Department.

## Donald J. Fesko

Donald J. Fesko, of Dawsonville, GA, died of natural causes on Sept. 17, 2023. Born in 1943 in Chicopee, MA to John and Mabel Fesko, he attended Chicopee High School. Don was always a star athlete, devoted family member, leader and patriotic American. He was a track team high jumper ranked third in Western Massachusetts, swam freestyle, anchoring relay teams on the school's first swim team, setting records unbroken for decades.



Don received a Bachelor of Science degree in business/marketing from the American University in Washington DC. While there, he was active in business clubs, Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity and rowed on the school's crew team. Always industrious, he worked part time in both Chicopee and Washington DC to help with school expenses.

After college, Don was accepted as a cadet in the Naval Aviation Flight Training Program in Pensacola, FL, where he received his commission as a Naval officer and wings as a Navy pilot. He was assigned to an early warning squadron flying the E-113 from the aircraft carriers WASP and ESSEX with deployments to the North Atlantic and Mediterranean. He also was the maintenance officer in charge of aircraft readiness for the detachment, commanding a staff of seven officers and 70 enlisted personnel. He helped make history as part of the recovery team for Apollo 7 space capsule, in preparation for NASA's first moon landing.

Following active duty, Don continued to serve his country in the Naval Reserves. He was selected to attend the Naval War College in Newport, RI and served as commanding officer of a reserve unit at Oceana Naval Air Station in Virginia Beach, VA, completing his military service of 23 years at rank of Commander with 284 carrier landings.

Don's leadership experience did not end with the military. He returned to American University and earned an MBA in Finance, then began a successful career in purchasing management involving domestic and global markets with Virginia Chemicals, as division purchasing manager for C.R. Bard in Georgia, and as a purchasing manager of Anheuser-Busch Cartersville. He was president of the Georgia Chapter of the National Association of Purchasing Management and Director of National Affairs. He authored the negotiating chapter in the Association's study guide and led major fundraising efforts. He represented Anheuser-Busch as Executive Vice President on the Georgia

Minority Supplier Development Counsel, which assists minority and women-owned start-up companies. He also led several of the Counsel's fundraisers.

Don believed in giving back to the community. He joined Cobb County's Habitat for Humanity chapter as a volunteer and later became a Site Project Manager and Co-Chairman of Construction and member of the Board of Directors personally supervising two to three houses annually as project manager. He played on tennis teams with ALTA and USTA. He was actively involved as an usher in his parish, Holy Family, in Marietta GA.

Around 2004, he moved to Dawsonville, GA on Lake Lanier - fulfilling his dream to own a home on the water - and joined Christ the Redeemer Parish. He retired a few years later to enjoy fishing and relaxing with family and friends. He lived life to its fullest. He was a DIY-er, including restoration and repair projects and pushed himself to excellence and inspired his family to do the same - encouraging them to excel in education and careers.

Don's idea of a perfect day would be cheering on his beloved Atlanta Braves with fresh Maine lobster and a good single malt scotch together with his family and friends after having spent the day fishing and swimming off his dock. Don was also the perfect friend and neighbor - always willing to offer a hand or advice to those in need. He loved to read spy novels, study military history and could identify nearly any military plane flying overhead by the sound of its engine.

He leaves behind the love of his life, Donna Schuster. He is survived by niece Simone Vinocour McKeever, husband Kevin, and their son Nathaniel and daughter Arielle and by his nephew Daniel Vinocour, wife Kristen, daughter Rachel and son Andrew. He also leaves behind dear cousin Leslie Degan and husband John. Don is also survived by cousin Shirley Danasko.

A visitation will be held on Friday, Oct. 20 from 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. at Dahlonga Funeral Home on 20 Gibson Road, Dahlonga GA. An additional visitation will be held Saturday, Oct. 21 at Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church, 991 Kilough Church Road, Dawsonville, GA, from 10-10:45 a.m. A funeral Mass will follow at the church at 11 a.m. For those who cannot attend, the Mass can be viewed online by accessing the parish website at: <https://ctccc.net/> and clicking on the livestream link. Don will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

In his memory, contributions can be made to the Veteran's Association, Tunnels to Towers and Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church. Services in care of Dahlonga Funeral Home, 0 Gibson Road Dahlonga Ga, 30533. 706-864-DOVE (3683)[Dahlongafuneralhome.com](http://Dahlongafuneralhome.com)

## Louise A. Hebert

Louise Alice Hebert, 66, entered into eternal life on May 29, 2023 in Palm Beach, FL after a long illness, surrounded by her children. She was born on Aug. 29, 1958, is the daughter of the late Armand and Alice (Houle) Hebert of Chicopee. Louise lived most of her life in Chicopee and attended St. George School and Chicopee High School.



She was an unusually generous, sweet and loving person, who always wanted the best for her entire family. She loved visiting with her grandchildren and great grandchildren in person and facetimeing with them long distance. She treasured her family photos, being a book club member, watching old movies and loved everything that was associated with

Paul McCartney. She leaves her children, Joylene, John, and Kimberly, eight grandchildren, Kaylene, Dylan, Taylor and Savannah Hebert, McKenzie, Skylar, and Olivia Ladouceur and Nathan Ladouceur, and three great-grandchildren, Maylene, Logan and Ayria.

She also leaves four siblings, Dee Blackwood and husband Tom of Chicopee, Suzanne Beliveau of Chicopee, Daniel Hebert and his wife and Louise's very dear friend Jean of Erving, and Mark Hebert and his wife Elaine of Westfield, and brother in law, Mitchell Lata of Gill.

She also leaves numerous nephews, nieces, cousins and friends. She was predeceased by her sister Janet Lata of Gill, both brother Donald & sister-in-law Paula Hebert of Chicopee and brother-in-law Bill Beliveau. Her greatest loss was the love of her life, Ted Holly, whom she will now share eternity. A day of celebration service was held on July 8. She is already terribly missed and loved by so many.

**Have Something to Share?**

Send your stories and photos to [dzbiarski@turley.com](mailto:dzbiarski@turley.com)

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

# IN THE CITY

## HALL OF FAME from page 1

cause you worked really hard to get there and you're seeing the results," Fratessi said.

On the next generation, Fratessi encouraged athletes to keep going.

"There's going to be games where you're doing really good and there's going to be games where you're doing really bad. There's going to be days where you feel like you're not growing and there's going to be days where you feel like you're making leaps and bounds of progress. It really is a team sport," Fratessi said.

Blain helped create the Athletic Hall of Fame in 2009 to honor athletes, teams, coaches and contributors at both high schools for their impact in sports.

He explained Chicopee "is steeped in athletic tradition."

"We felt it was important back in 2009 to create something that we could display in the schools, and we could have a night like this so that people knew and we remember them and honor them in a very special way that, you know, they meant something to their high school and they brought distinction," Blain said.

Blain wants the community to know, including athletes, "there is something that they can shoot for when they're competing."

"Our athletics are a front porch to Western Massachusetts, and we need to support them because it provides such a great outlet for so many people," Blain said.



James Koske, Chicopee Comprehensive High School Class of 1985, and Coach Rich Raymond hold up the plaque honoring his achievements in football and baseball. Koske was a four-year letterman in football and a two-year letterman in baseball.



Ashley Ziemba smiles alongside Chicopee Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2023 Inductee Glen Bogdanovich, who was recognized for his achievements in basketball, soccer and track.



Allie O'Shea, Chicopee High School Class of 2011, and her mom, Donna O'Shea, hold up Allie's plaque. O'Shea was on the gymnastics team and received many accolades during her high school career, including 3-time All Scholastic, 2-time Super Seven and 1-time Athlete of the Week.



Sarah Fratessi, Chicopee High School Class of 2010, holds up her plaque with Coach Mel Sasser at the 2023 Chicopee Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet. Fratessi played softball and was a 2010 Brian Piccolo Award Winner and four-year varsity player for the Lady Pacers.



The 1983 Chicopee High School Boys Soccer Team, with Coach Paul Whalley, pose for a group photo with their plaque during the Chicopee Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet on Sept. 30.

## MAYOR from page 1

proposed by the Charter Review Committee, which analyzed more than 100 years' worth of documents and ordinances.

"All it simply does is gauge whether or not the public supports this. I firmly believe that there is no negative to that... This would really, really help direct this council on how to go into the future," Ward 1 Councilor Joel McAuliffe said, encouraging councilors to vote for the item.

McAuliffe asked how one could argue against including the question, noting, "This is the most transparent thing the council has ever done. Rarely do we put

ballot questions on the ballot."

Ward 3 Councilor Delmarina López voted no on the item, stating that she was conflicted due to a lack of transparency, which she said fails to promote accountability. López, a former member of the Charter Review Committee who stepped down when entering office, took issue with the fact the item is being added only one month prior to the election.

"I don't think this is enough time to provide information to the residents about what this non-binding question even is," López said, noting that the committee submitted its findings to the council last month if not earlier.

López supports having the conversation because it is a "healthy one," but she said now is not the time.

"If we wanted to do this, we should have started to have these conversations weeks ago. It's very rushed for the city to have this conversation at the very last second," she said.

Ward 8 Councilor Gary Labrie voted yes; he is excited to receive input from people "who really

care about the city."

He said that the council wasn't voting to change a term length on Oct. 3 and that the ballot question would be the easiest way to discover what people who vote in city elections want from their government. He also noted that the committee would like its recommendation to be considered sooner than later.

"Non-binding is the key word here," Labrie said. "We're not here to debate the four-year term tonight even though there's been some... debating about whether we agree to have a four-year term, but what's the harm to put it on this ballot and discuss it?"

Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello pointed out that it might be better to wait until next year's presidential election, when more voters enter the polls. López agreed.

"I think we should have as much voter turnout and as much resident input (as possible)," she said. "We want the most voters to have the most input, and it's clear as day we get the most voter input during the presidential election."

Ward 2 Councilor Shane Brooks said it is paramount to democracy that voters have an opportunity to weigh in on the issue now. He also said there is a distinction

between the voters who vote in every election compared to those who only vote in the presidential election.

"Building data to help us make informed decisions is important. The data is going to be driven from the rank-and-file voter who comes out on that day in November to cast their vote for not only their candidate of choice but have the option at least to weigh in on the ballot question," Brooks said.

Several councilors agreed that the item could appear on the ballot both this year and next year. Ward 7 Councilor Bill Courchesne, who ultimately voted no, said he was torn making his decision.

Courchesne would have liked to see a marketing campaign occur to inform residents that the item will be on the ballot. Like López, he doesn't feel there is enough time to educate the public and said next year would be better.

"I don't think this is the election we get the pulse. Nobody's going to come out and vote because there's just obviously not a lot of turnout on this election versus presidential election," he said. "To say they have 30 days to figure it out; they don't even know they have something to figure out. Again, it's just very rushed."

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# Sports

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## Colts improve to 5-1 with win over Wahconah



Taryn Carriveau sends a pass forward toward the right side.



Danica Dorozynski goes for a shot on goal.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE—Despite finishing the 2022 regular season with a below .500 record, the Chicopee Comp girls' varsity soccer team qualified for the Western Mass. Tournament for the first time in several years. They're hoping to compete in this year's Western Mass. Class A tournament and the Division 2 state tournament with an above .500 record.

The Lady Colts finished the first month of the regular season with a 5-1 overall record following a 3-0 shutout win over the Wahconah Regional Lady Warriors in a Kurty/Fielding league contest held at Mitchell Kuzdzal Field, last Tuesday night.

"We're off to a very good start so far this season," said first-

year Chicopee Comp head coach Molly Burke. "Before the start of the regular season, I knew that this was a very talented soccer team. The players have done an outstanding job of buying into my system."

Burke, who was an outstanding three-sport athlete at Palmer High School, was previously the girls' varsity soccer coach at Holyoke High School. She replaced Matt Mosher, who's currently the girls' varsity soccer coach at East Longmeadow High School.

Comp entered this week's action tied with South Hadley for second place in the league standings behind undefeated Pope Francis with a 5-1 mark. Their only setback was a 2-1 home loss to South Hadley. The Lady

See COLTS page 8



Arberesha Ibrahimli looks to clear the ball before she is interfered with.

## Chicopee girls volleyball holding steady

CHICOPEE – While they are slightly under .500 heading into the second half of their schedule, Chicopee girls volleyball is very much in the playoff hunt with a 4-5 record and three wins in their last four games.

Their only setback was a 3-1 loss at Ware, but the Pacers would rebound to win 3-1 over SICS and 3-2 over Belchertown last Wednesday. Coming up, the Pacers will face Pioneer Valley Christian on Tuesday, Oct. 10 at 5 p.m.



Myah Garcia bumps the ball to a teammate.



Nevaeh Santiago gets the low hit to keep the ball in play.



Maria Fareti makes the hit to her side.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY  
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Jordyn Lemelin goes for the set up.

## Late goal leads to loss for Comp

SPRINGFIELD – Last Tuesday night in a heated battle between Chicopee Comprehensive boys soccer and host Central, the game was scoreless for about 65 minutes. But Central found a small seam on the right side and was able to ground a shot into the Comp goal to take a 1-0 lead. Central would add two more in the waning minutes of the game for a 3-0 win over Chicopee Comp. The Colts dropped to 7-3 on the season. The Colts would rebound with a win over Holyoke on Sept. 29. The Colts are next in action on Oct. 7 against Pope Francis at 3 p.m.



Goalie Frankie Cabrera-Cavette sends the ball away.



Nicholas Byrnes tries to clear the ball.



Austin Micheli fights for possession while being

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

## Owls hold on for first victory

WESTFIELD – Westfield State's Max Margeson (Littleton, Colo./Mul-len HS) and Alec Rodriguez (Westfield, Mass.) combined for a memorable interception return play for a touchdown to lift the Owls to a 17-10 win over Massachusetts Maritime Academy at Alumni Field on Saturday to bring a happy conclusion to Family and Champions Weekend.

Margeson delivered a perfectly timed hit on MMA wide receiver Andrew Brightman (Wareham, Mass./Upper Cape Tech) to jar loose the ball on a catch, with the ball pinging directly to Owls' linebacker Rodriguez for the interception at the MMA 32-yard line. Rodriguez returned the ball a couple of yards before Brightman snagged him by the ankle, and Rodriguez handed the ball off to Margeson, who rambled 30 yards through traffic for the touchdown to give Westfield a 17-10 lead with 9:07 left in the third quarter.

The Owls hung on down the stretch for the win, improving to 1-4 on the season and 1-2 in the MASCAC. MMA slips to 1-3 overall and 1-1 in the league.

The two teams traded salvos in the first half, with the Buccaneers getting on the board on their first drive of the game with a 7-play, 73-yard march that was capped by a 29-yard TD pass to Brightman on deep post route completion from quarterback Marc Murphy (Norwood, Mass.).

Westfield answered on their first drive, getting a big 52-yard kick return from Christian Julian (Hingham, Mass.) to set up the drive at the MMA 32. Seven plays later, Westfield's Jordan Smith (Coventry, Conn.) rumbled four yards up the middle for a game tying TD.

The two clubs traded field goals in the final 10 seconds of the half. MMA got a 24-yard TD from Logan Tsai (E. Freetown, Mass./Appoquonnet) to take a 10-7 lead with eight seconds left in the half.

Westfield got the ball back on the ensuing kickoff, and Owls QB Gabriel

Fernandez (Holyoke, Mass.) found Danny Farrell (Milford, Mass.) on a 25-yard completion and a personal foul on the Buccaneers gave the Owls the ball at the MMA 22 yardline with four seconds left in the half.

Westfield State first-year kicker Cooper Harvey (Niskayuna, N.Y.) booted a 39-yard field goal as time expired to tie the game 10-10 at the half.

Neither team particularly threatened the end zone after the big interception return by the Owls. MMA drove the ball as far as the Owls' 38-yard line with less than two minutes to play, but Tyler Cooley (Randolph, Mass./Arch. Williams) dropped Murphy for a loss on third down, and Murphy's long bomb try to Brightman on fourth down fell incomplete to end the threat, and Westfield knelt on the ball three times to run out the clock.

Fernandez finished 14-25 passing for 138 yards. Farrell finished with six catches for 65 yards, and Smith rushed for 77 yards on 25 carries.

For MMA, Murphy completed 12 of 23 passes for 206 yards with a TD and an interception. Daniel Molloy (Franklin, Mass.) led the rushing attack with seven carries for 22 yards, and Brightman finished with eight catches for 96 yards. Molloy added three catches for 54 yards.

Defensively, Cooley led the Owls with 13 tackles, and Cam Danahy (Kingston, Mass./Silve Lake) added nine. Dylan Clark (Bellows Falls, Vt./BFA) came up with two big plays with two tackles for losses of 12 yards.

Liam Hines (Quincy, Mass./North Quincy) led MMA with seven tackles. Owen Shea (Scituate, Mass./Norwell) made five tackles, 2.5 TFL's and a sack.

Westfield heads into its bye week, before returning to host its homecoming game against UMass-Dartmouth on Saturday, Oct. 14. MMA faces UMass Dartmouth next Saturday, Oct. 7 with a 4 p.m. kick off in North Dartmouth, Mass.

## Cambridge half-marathon registration open

CAMBRIDGE – Registration is open for the Cambridge Half Marathon and 5K at CambridgeSide. The races are scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 5 (race begins 7 a.m. EST) on a gorgeous new course with views of the Charles River along Memorial Drive.

The Cambridge Half Marathon is a 13.1 mile fast and flat course featuring views of the MIT, John W. Weeks Footbridge, Harvard University Stadium, Charles River and more. The new 5K race also offers scenic views alongside the Charles River. Both courses are USATF certified and start and finish at CambridgeSide.

Race registration includes quarter

zip pull over (half marathon participants) or long sleeve shirt (5K participants), five complimentary CambridgeSide parking passes, training plan, race bib with timing chip, and finishing medal. Register for both races at CambridgeSide.com.

Cambridge Half Marathon and 5K at CambridgeSide race proceeds benefit Cambridge Camping (CambridgeCamping.org), City of Cambridge Scholarship Fund (Cambridgema.gov/Services/CityScholarship) as well as other local charities. Cambridge Half Marathon and 5K is sponsored by Canam Group Inc. and training sponsor MYSTRYDE.

## T-Birds make roster moves ahead of opener

SPRINGFIELD – St. Louis Blues President of Hockey Operations and General Manager Doug Armstrong announced today the team has assigned 12 players to its AHL affiliate, the Springfield Thunderbirds, including forwards Mikhail Abramov, Drew Callin, Tanner Dickinson, Andre Heim, and Mitch Hoelscher, defensemen Jeremie Biakabutuka, Joseph Duszak, Marc-Andre Gaudet, Austin Osmanski, and Hunter Skinner, and goaltenders Will Cranley and Vadim Zherenko. In addition, the Blues released forward Nick Ritchie and defenseman Andy Welinski from their professional tryouts.

The Calder Cup quest begins on Saturday, Oct. 14 for Opening Night presented by MGM Springfield. In the team's annual tradition, fans will be treated to a pregame Block Party on the property of MGM Springfield from 4 to 6 p.m. presented by Community Bank N.A. with the support of the Springfield Business Improvement District (BID).

The outdoor bash will feature live music, food, and drink. Thunderbirds fans will have the opportunity to get their hands on a plethora of giveaway souvenir items this season, beginning on Opening Night with jersey-shaped rally towels on each and every seat at the MassMutual Center.

## Bonsignore heads for Thompson for big event

NORTH WILKESBORO, N.C. – After 150 laps at North Wilkesboro Speedway, Justin Bonsignore brought his No. 51 machine home in third-place on Saturday night. As the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour made their debut at the North Carolina oval in the Brushy Mountain Power-sports 150, Bonsignore ran inside the top-five for much of the race.

A final green-white-checked finish where Bonsignore lined up in fifth was exactly what he needed in the Phoenix Communications entry. Bonsignore followed fellow championship contender Ron Silk up through the field to finish third, just behind Silk.

In the title battle, Bonsignore will hold a two-point lead heading for the final two races of the season.

"The green-white-checked restart

definitely helped get us back to the podium," Bonsignore said. "We got a good jump on the final restart. It was a good night for us. We were just a bit tight on the second set of tires. It's going to go down to the end. It's going to be a championship battle for the ages."

Bonsignore will move to Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park next on Sunday, Oct. 8 for the Sunoco World Series 150. The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour is part of a three-day event at Thompson next weekend.

For more information on three-time NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion Justin Bonsignore, visit JustinBonsignore.com and follow his Athlete page on Facebook for the latest news and updates, including from the track on race day.

### COLTS from page 7

Colts squeaked out a 3-2 victory against the Lady Warriors (2-6, 1-6) in the season opener.

When the MIAA released the initial Division 2 state tournament power rankings last Friday, the Lady Colts were ranked 8<sup>th</sup>. The top 32 teams in each of the five Divisions automatically qualifies for the state tournament. Comp was also ranked fourth in the Western Mass. Class A power rankings.

Comp senior goalie Madelyn Rice only had to make four saves in posting her first shutout of the regular season against the Lady Warriors.

Junior goalie Mo Donoghue, who's sidelined with an injury, also posted a pair of shutouts against Hampshire Regional and Pittsfield.

All three of Comp's goals against Wahconah were scored during the second half.

"I feel like we had chances to score some goals a little bit sooner than we did," Burke said. "We played a lot better during the second half. It just felt great when we finally did score a goal. It gave us a lot more confidence."

Comp junior Taryn Carriveau, who had several scoring chances during the first 40 minutes of the contest, finally broke the ice during the 48<sup>th</sup> minute. After beating a couple of defenders for a loose ball in the penalty box, Carriveau poked a shot into the net past Wahconah junior goalie Edrie Collins (13 saves). The Lady Colts first goal was assisted by sophomore midfielder Eliana Ayala.

In the first six regular season games, Carriveau scored a team-high 12 goals.

"I've known Taryn for a long time and she's an incredible athlete," Burke said. "She's our leading goal scorer right now. She's a very hard worker and is also a great kid."

While Burke has enjoyed coaching Carriveau on the soccer pitch this fall, things will be a little bit different come



Kaitlyn Gilhooly goes for a header to stop a goal.

this winter.

Burke will be entering her eighth season as the girls' varsity basketball team across town at Chicopee High.

"I think it's going to be a lot of fun coaching against some of my soccer players this winter," Burke said. "I'm really looking forward to it."

Carriveau is also a member of the Comp girls' varsity basketball team, along with junior Kaitlyn Gilhooly, and senior Alyssa Caney.

After taking the 1-0 lead, Comp had several more scoring chances.

The home team finally pulled away with the help of back-to-back goals during the last five minutes of the contest.

Caney, who's a forward, gave the Lady Colts a 2-0 lead when her break-away shot deflected into the back of the net off the goalie's hands. Caney's first goal of the season was assisted by senior midfielder Danica Dorozynski.

A couple of minutes later, Carriveau netted her second goal of the game, which was assisted by Caney.

The Lady Colts will be looking to continue their winning ways during the month of October.

Madison Boulanger catches up to a pass and heads up the field.







## 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 October 10/27/2023, at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles

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2003 Ford F250 Super Duty  
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Evaldo Simoncelis  
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Revere, MA 02151

2011 Honda Accord  
VIN: 1HGCP2F42BA111050  
Destiny Kamroski  
40 Price St.  
Springfield, MA 01104

2007 Chevrolet Malibu  
VIN: 1G1ZT57F37F289784  
Shamyia Washington  
119 Main St. Apt. 11  
South Hadley, MA 01075

2013 Ford Transit  
VIN: NM0LS7CN3DT158986  
North East Safety Inc.  
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Portland, ME 04104

2007 Chrysler Sebring  
Touring  
VIN: 1C3LC56K97N547151  
Juan Rivera  
67 Park St.  
Chicopee, MA 01020

2008 Volkswagen Touareg2  
V8  
VIN: WVGC77L98D054185  
Tommy Seidell  
66 Clarence St.  
West Springfield, MA 01089

2012 Nissan Altima  
VIN: 1N4AL2AP6CN405411  
Ruben Lopez  
303 Maple St. Apt. 146  
Springfield, MA 01105

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Clement Mortone  
15 Sogmore Rd.  
West Springfield, MA 01089

2005 Honda Cr-V EX  
VIN: SHSRD78825U327757  
Victor Serrano  
12 Daytona St. Apt. 1  
Springfield, MA 01108

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VIN: KNDJC735995873922  
Heaven Burton-Jordan  
1716 Dwight St. Apt. 5  
Springfield, MA 01107

1999 Honda Accord  
VIN: 1HGCG1643XA028258  
Jason Gurwacki

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Southwick, MA 01077

2000 Ford F150  
VIN: 1FTRF18L1YNA24297  
Paul Brodsky  
37 Hewitt St.  
West Springfield, MA 01089

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VIN: 5XYZDLB3DG079215  
Mark Zhupikov  
524 Springfield St.  
Chicopee, MA 01013

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Gizette Rodriguez  
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Springfield, MA 01104

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Holyoke, MA 01040

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10/06, 10/13, 10/20/2023

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and  
Family Court**

50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD23P2033EA  
Estate of:  
**Fred P James  
Also Known As:  
Fred Paul James**  
Date of Death: 08/13/2023  
**CITATION ON  
PETITION FOR  
FORMAL  
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Mary Louise Getz of Fort Mill, SC** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Mary Louise Getz of Fort Mill, SC** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

**You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/31/2023.**

**This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

### UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: October 02, 2023  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
10/06/2023

## First Congregational Church to hold Annual Roast Pork Dinner Oct. 14

CHICOPEE -- The First Congregational Church at 306 Chicopee St., Chicopee, is having their Annual Roast Pork Dinner on Saturday Oct. 14 from 5-7 p.m.

Roast Pork with all the fixings, including dessert will be available for dine in or take out.

A donation of \$15 is suggested. Call 413-592-0396 for reservations.

### CHICOPEE INSURANCE from page 1

On Jan. 5, 2023, the Department of Human Resources received spreadsheets of members on payroll with no enrolled plan, members enrolled in a plan with no apparent payment method and members requiring a closer look.

On March 9, former Chief Human Resources Officer Paul Winspeare hired an outside organization, the Employers Association of the Northeast, to perform an audit of eligibility, a decision that shocked Vieau. EANE was unable to perform the audit but helped in the 2023 reconciliation.

"I was wowed when I found out that HUB International, our insurance brokers, were told to not work on it anymore without (Winspeare) even telling me that or consulting me. That's just not okay," Vieau said.

Winspeare left his position in May and his Assistant Director Samantha Wilson resigned without notice in June, claiming that Vieau and city leaders blamed her and her co-workers for the mistake, according to MassLive.

"It's no secret we had turmoil and turnover in the second quarter of 2023. The HR Director left in May of 2023, and the Assistant Director left in June with no notice," Vieau said.

Rich Merchant was brought back as interim Human Resources Director for several weeks before current Chief Human Resources Officer Stephen Zajchowski was hired on July 1.

Vieau said Zajchowski took a "deeper dive" into audited material to see if there were any name changes and if payments were made by individuals and not captured on initial audits.

After finalizing internal audits, 14 retirees and 16 employees were identified and removed from the medical plans. The city met with insurance carriers, who agreed to provide some premium credits.

"I can say the final amount of premiums paid between 2017 and 2023 was approximately \$226,826. On that note I can say this is not uncommon. It happens in just about every municipality. It's been sensationalized for political gain, and we finally want to move forward and put this to bed," Vieau said.

### Vieau denies corruption or impropriety by City Hall

On June 1, López announced she would challenge Vieau for mayor this November. Less than a week later, she broke the story that former employees and dead people were receiving improper benefits.

This summer, López continued her calls for transparency, accusing Vieau and city employees of impropriety at worst or being ineffective at their jobs at best. Vieau responded to the criticism multiple times during his press conference.

"It's been creating a media circus; it's been wasting a lot of resources. Even state authorities have been contacted based on hearsay," Vieau said. "The city councilor who brought it to the limelight has never once reached out to me, the HR director, the city auditor, the treasurer and those intimately involved this process."

López has pushed for an outside audit to be completed, but Vieau is hesitant to "waste city resources" to hire a third party now. He noted that all the investigative authorities in the state are aware of the mistake that happened, and he said he isn't listening to López's request.

"If there is a cry for that so be it. I think we've done the right thing, and my

job as mayor is to do what's in the best interest of the people who live here," Vieau said, noting that a third party completes an audit annually anyhow.

Regarding López's claims of corruption, Vieau said they were damaging inside of City Hall. He called López's accusations "disheartening" and said it "demoralized" city employees.

"To think for a second that words like corruption have been used is sickening to the employees who live here, and it's not fair to them; these egregious accusations without any backing just don't make any sense," Vieau said. "You're entitled to your own opinion, but you're not entitled to your own facts. This has been sensationalized to the point where I don't even know why we're doing a press conference today, but we have to because we've been accused of things that frankly I (don't agree with)."

### López responds

Following the press conference, López responded, delivering a press release to the media. She chastised Vieau and his administration for its "lack of transparency and accountability."

"Today's report yet again shows the way that Mayor Vieau wants to operate: in darkness, without any accountability or oversight," López said. "Make no mistake: the administration did not release this report willingly. They only made comments on it after I notified the press and the public about this matter and have continued to minimize the matter."

López reaffirmed that she believes the taxpayers of Chicopee deserve a full external audit to learn what happened, and she said the report released Tuesday is not that. She was also upset she wasn't invited to the press conference.

"Unsurprisingly, the city councilors did not receive notice nor an invitation to today's press conference. I did not even receive a copy of the report from the administration and had to receive it through the media, highlighting again Mayor Vieau's inexplicable desire to avoid transparency," López said.

### Where the city goes from here

In addition to hiring new staff, such as Zajchowski and Benefits Specialist Karen Gay, Vieau said checks and balances have been put in place to ensure a similar mistake "never happens again."

"We've actually decided that it is in the best interest of the city to add another benefits coordinator. That position right now has 80 applicants who are interested in it, and we look to make a hire very soon," Vieau said.

Roughly 4,000 people in the city receive benefits through the City of Chicopee, and they will be assisted by the additional benefits coordinator.

"The other thing that we're also implementing is a new platform that will help with benefits... that will help ensure people are making the right choices when it comes to choosing benefits," Vieau said.

He noted that the human error and oversight was caused partially by a lack of personnel in a time of uncertainty, the COVID-19 pandemic.

In retrospect, Vieau is "proud of how we responded to what we found," which isn't the only thing he's proud about.

"Most importantly, based on a benchmark study, we're right now in the top five percent for lowest premium across the Commonwealth for the most enrolled plan. That's something we're really proud of," Vieau said.

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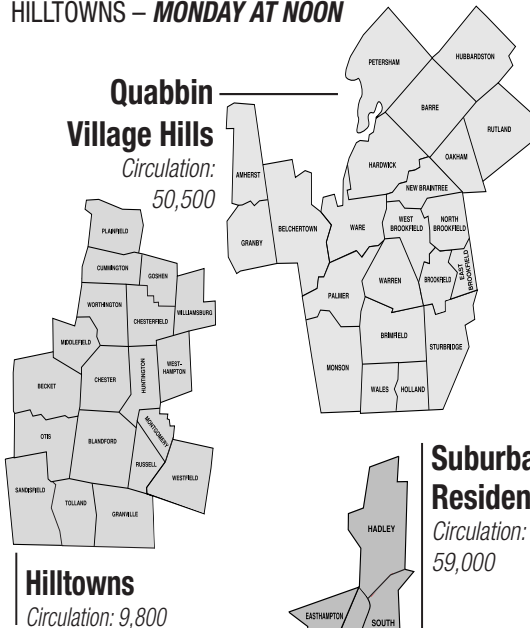
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**OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!**

## The General meets the Super Galaxy!



PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTOVER AIR RESERVE BASE

CHICOPEE -- Lt. Gen. John Healy, Air Force Reserve commander and Chief of the Air Force Reserve, flew the morning local mission with a 439th Air-lift Wing crew on Thursday, Sept 7.

In addition to the General, on board were Col. Greg Buchanan and Col. Travis Board, 439 AW commander and vice commander, respectively.

Healy - a former squadron and vice wing commander at Westover, is visiting the Patriot Wing this weekend, along with Chief Master Sgt. Israel Nunez, Air Force Reserve Command chief.

The local flight was the first time Healy has piloted the M model of the Super Galaxy. Caption courtesy of Westover.

## Seniors celebrate Oktoberfest with evening dinner

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer  
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CHICOPEE -- Seniors visited the RiverMills Center on Oct. 3 to celebrate Oktoberfest with a holiday-themed dinner. Oktoberfest is an annual German festival held in Munich, Germany, for two weeks that ends on the first Sunday in October.

For this well-attended celebration, seniors enjoyed a German-style dinner catered by the Munich Haus, beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages and entertainment from the Happy 5 Oompah Band.

Longtime friends Cynthia Desrosiers, Dorothea Moores and Dorothy Page heard about the dinner through the newsletter and had a wonderful time.

"I like the German music. I used to have German neighbors and they always brought me German dishes and I liked the German music. It's nice," Desrosiers said.

Moores also appreciates the staff for putting the events together and how they support the seniors every time they walk in.

She encouraged people who have not come to the senior center to visit.

"The people that work here are very nice. They really are. They go out of their way to make you feel welcome," Moores said.

Page started coming to the senior center after losing her husband in February and is thankful for the camaraderie with friends.

Additionally, she appreciates the dinners and, also, lunches the senior center serves.

"Good thing I had friends that encouraged me to come here, so that's how I started coming here," Page said.

George Baker of the Happy 5 Oompah Band said the band, which provides varying styles of Oompah music from southern Germany, has been together for 10 years and originated in the living room of band member David Neil.

Baker explained the band and the se-



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

(L to R) Dorothea Moores, Dorothy Page and Cynthia Desrosiers enjoy their German meal and time together during the Oktoberfest Dinner at RiverMills Senior Center.

nior center connected through word of mouth.

"So, (COA Program Coordinator) Casey (Conroy) heard about us from one of the other bands that performs here, and Casey thought it would be a super idea to have for their Oktoberfest Dinner to have an oompah band play. So, she was able to contact me, and this is our second year doing this," Baker said.

Baker shared that Oktoberfest originated during the harvest season and is "a time to eat, drink, be merry and celebrate the end of the harvest season."

He enjoys bringing smiles to audiences when the band performs for events.

"A lot of it is just, like, the joy that we bring, and so sometimes depending on where you go, you're just bringing some joy and happiness and try to make it a little lively for everybody and sometimes it's just like getting out, maybe a routine in some places and just having fun," Baker said.

Sherry Manyak, COA executive director, said 127 people came to the dinner, which had a huge waitlist and sold out in two hours.

Manyak said, "Everyone had a great time," and this event, "has become very popular with the older adults."

She stressed the importance of celebrating all nationalities and cultures.

"A lot of people really wanted to celebrate the German heritage, so they came out to celebrate, so that was exciting," Manyak said. "And it's also just a way for everyone to be social and, you know, get together and enjoy a meal that's economical for them."

Manyak was happy to see the joy on everyone's faces during the dinner, as everyone spent time together.

"Just making everyone so happy and just seeing how they're interacting with each other, enjoying each other, enjoying the music and just, you know, coming out. It's just a good time for everyone," Manyak said.

Manyak encourages the community to visit the senior center and check out what they have to offer.

"There's something here for everyone, and it's a way to meet new people and make new friends," Manyak said.

## All Saints' Church to sell soups, hold tag sale on Oct. 9

SOUTH HADLEY -- Whether you call it Columbus Day or Indigenous Peoples Day, Monday Oct. 9 is also an important day from 9 a.m. on at All Saints' Church, 7 Woodbridge St., South Hadley. Come and enjoy our famous homemade soups such as Vegetable and Sau-

sage, Corn Chowder, Smoked Pepper Soup and lots more made by our talented cooks or take some home for a delicious easy Monday night supper.

All soups are available from 9 a.m. on until we sell out. . . so come early so you don't miss out.

Also, stop in the Church Parish Hall for the annual All Saints' Tag Sale. Lots of interesting Bargains: including books, games, holiday items, a few antiques and modern items for home and yard for folks of all ages. Come and celebrate the holiday with your neighbors and friends.



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# Send Us Your Holiday Event Information

**Turley Publications will print your holiday calendar listings FREE OF CHARGE in our Holiday Dazzler Supplement which publishes Nov. 15th.**

**Deadline for submissions is October 16th**

## Community Holiday Events

**Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public**

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Event Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Time \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Description \_\_\_\_\_

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