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TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee) and Monica Torres, community and special projects liaison for the City of Chicopee, pose with the Latino Excellence Award. Torres was nominated by Arriaga for the award.

Monica Torres receives Latino Excellence Award

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE - Monica Torres, the city's community and special projects liaison, has received the Latino Excellence Award.

Nominated by State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), the award is presented by the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and dedication to uplifting their communities.

During a ceremony at City Hall Auditorium on Oct. 17, Torres was surprised with family members, friends, colleagues and more to celebrate the occasion,

with remarks from Mayor John Vieau, Lamari Jackson, legislative director for State Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield), Rachel Beaudoin, communications and special projects liaison for the City of Chicopee, Jessica Collins, executive director of the Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts, City Council President/Councilor-at-Large Frank Laflamme, Willimansett C3 Unit Sgt. Alan Blankenship, Arriaga and Torres herself reflecting on receiving the award.

Vieau said to Torres, "We are here to celebrate you."

"I couldn't be more proud of you. I know that

See **TORRES** page 5

CFD receives pet masks donation



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

A group photo with members of the Chicopee Fire Department and members of the Connecticut River Valley Golden Retriever Club and their dogs after donating pet masks to the fire department on Oct. 15.

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE - The fire department received a donation of pet oxygen masks from the Connecticut River Valley Golden Retriever Club on Oct. 15.

The masks will help the fire department assist pets in an emergency and keep them safe.

Members of the club also came with 12 of their dogs to bring smiles to the members of the fire department.

Phil Mugford, one of the club's members, came with his dog, Autumn, for the visit.

"This is the fifth golden retriever that my wife and I have owned. We were looking for a golden retriever back around the days of COVID. We were on the list for over a year and a half and couldn't

find one," Mugford said.

Mugford then called his aunt who used to breed golden retrievers who then made a call for him, leading to a phone call a couple days later about a litter of puppies.

"We ended up with what turned out to be the pick of the litter," Mugford said. "She and I go to the Suffield Schools. She's a comfort dog for Suffield Schools—I work security at the school—so a year after we got her, I found out that her sire—her papa—representing all golden retrievers in the country at the Westminster Dog Show. So, she's really royalty."

Mugford's aunt also connected him with the club.

"We're learning more about golden retrievers. I consider myself still a novice

See **PET MASKS** page 5



Golden Retrievers adorned with Chicopee Fire Department hats.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY BRENDAN ROONEY

Kelsey Davey and her business, Pearl and Company

Craft fair raises funds for Relay for Life

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE — On Oct 11, the Moose Family Center played host to the 4th annual Relay for Life Craft Fair as more than 40 vendors showed up to offer their products, with some driving as far as two hours away, to join in on the festivities, and a massive crowd followed, as the entire parking lot was filled and stories were told.

Providing a bit of insight into how the event came together, while sharing some plans about next year being the big '5-year' anniversary, was Vicky McAndrew, a member of the event leadership team, and a participant of Relay for Life as a 9-year cancer survivor.

"I do craft fairs twice a year, this one in Chicopee, which is outdoor, and another in Belchertown, which is outdoor, and it's like a big family here, and we never had a problem running the event," McAndrew said.

"Everyone who attends offers a donation, which is a gift from their table, and we have a variety of vendors from jewelers, chocolate makers, and others who knit, sew, and crochet, and they all bring beautiful items."

As mentioned before, some drove a long distance to partake in the community experience, such as 22-year-old Danielle Moreira, who is the owner of Dandycrochet-goods.

"It felt good, but I admit the invite was very last-minute, and I got everything all ready this morning, and drove about two hours to get here," Moreira confessed.

She also took a minute to discuss how her business came together, along with offering insight into the importance of craft fairs.

"I started making blankets my freshman year of High School, and then after that I started making plushies, and doing craft shows, and I decided to do this full-

time after opening up my own business," Moreira said. "I think craft shows are very underrated, and I feel people would enjoy them a lot more if they gave them a chance."

Also in attendance was Kelsey Davey, owner of Pearl and Company Natural Candles, who revealed a story of finding a sense of new life after a major tragedy, exemplifying a will of determination to keep moving.

"I ended up starting my business about three years ago, when I was injured in the line of duty as a police officer for the town of South Hadley, when I was saving a life," Davey said. "I received a 911 call for an unresponsive individual in the Big Y parking lot. During that call, I used my baton to smash a car window to gain entry into the motor vehicle, I narcanned the individual twice, and saved his life; he

See **CRAFT FAIR** page 8

Downtown property eyed for new school administration headquarters

The city is looking to acquire 219 & 225 Exchange St. for \$2.36M

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - The excitement was palpable during Tuesday's City Council meeting, as Chicopee's elected officials expressed optimism about potentially relocating the School Department's headquarters downtown.

Mayor John Vieau shared that the city is eyeing the 219 & 225 Exchange St. property, which is being appraised at \$2.36 million. The 27,000-square-foot space in Chicopee Center currently operates as a Westfield Bank branch and served as a furniture store before that.

Vieau said Westfield Bank has made its employees aware of the development and emphasized that the property

is everything the city could ask for.

"I do believe it's a home run. It's really checking all the boxes, and I'm asking you to give me the authority to start moving this forward," Vieau said to the council.

Ultimately, at the request of Council President/Councilor-at-Large Frank Laflamme, a meeting of the Finance Committee was scheduled to discuss the item further, but multiple councilors praised the idea.

That came after Vieau's thorough presentation on why the Exchange Street location meets the School Department's needs, as well as those of the city.

For the past several years, the school administrative offices have operated out of a leased property on Dulong Circle. Vieau said this is disadvantageous for several reasons.

"Right now, we're pay-

ing \$280,000 to rent annually at Dulong Circle. It is not on a bus route. Frankly, it's a locational challenge for many," he said, noting that the lease at Dulong Circle expires on June 30, 2026.

In March, the city sent out a request for interest, or RFI, for anyone who has enough space available to meet the needs of the School Department. The Westfield Bank Exchange Street branch property owner was the only one who replied.

During the process, the city established a committee to highlight what the School Department would need at a new site.

Vieau stressed that one of the main goals is creating a headquarters in an area that is easily accessible, especially for those who don't have vehicles.

Now, Vieau wants to begin conversations with the city's financial team to develop a potential funding strategy to support the acquisition and property improvements.

The council appeared quite enthusiastic about the proposed location and acquisition. Ward 2 Councilor Shane Brooks spoke about how it could contribute to the "revitalization of downtown," as it adds more employees who will need local places to eat, shop and recreate.

"For me, it checks all the boxes because it essentially addresses two issues that we've had historically in this city," Brooks said.

See **HEADQUARTERS** page 8



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

An exterior shot of 219 Exchange Street in Chicopee.

IN THE CITY

City Council Ward Candidates Questionnaire

By **Brendan Rooney**
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – 12 candidates are on the ballot to serve as ward representatives on the City Council in the upcoming Nov. 4 election.

Six of the ward races are uncontested, while three of them are: Ward 2, Ward 3 and Ward 5.

Ward 5 has two newcomers vying for the seat after Ward 5 Councilor Frederick Krampits announced he would not seek reelection. Ward 8 has a newcomer running as Ward 8 Councilor Gary Labrie is not seeking reelection.

Candidates were delivered the following questions, and 11 were able to respond. Each answer has a 150-word limit.

Question four was reserved for the contested races, while uncontested races received the first three questions.

Question 1 - What inspired you to run for the City Council?

Question 2- What is one major goal you hope to accomplish with the City Council as Councilor?

Question 3 - Name one improvement you'd like to see if elected to the City Council?

Question 4 - What separates you from your opponents in this election?

Abigail Arriaga - Ward 1 candidate (unopposed)

Q1: Through my involvement in several political campaigns and ongoing volunteer work in our community, I discovered a deep passion for service and civic engagement. Volunteering at local food drives and neighborhood clean-ups showed me firsthand the challenges many residents face. These experiences opened my eyes to the real needs in our neighborhoods and the power of collective action. I saw how local leadership can make a meaningful difference in people's lives, inspiring me to take a more active role in advocating for positive change. I am especially motivated by the desire to build a stronger, more inclusive community where every person has the chance to succeed. My commitment to public service comes from a genuine belief that lasting change begins at the community level, fueled by dedicated and compassionate leadership working alongside residents.

Q2: My top priority as a Councilor is to ensure that residents are at the center of every decision made in our community. I believe that true progress happens when we listen closely to the people who live here—understanding their needs, concerns, and hopes for the future. Residents know their neighborhoods best, and their voices must guide our actions. I am committed to

creating open channels for communication, encouraging everyone to participate and share their ideas. By working together with residents, we can identify the most urgent issues—whether it's improving safety, upgrading infrastructure, or enhancing local services—and find solutions that truly make a difference. I want to build a community where every resident feels respected, valued, and empowered to contribute. When residents lead the way, our city becomes stronger, more inclusive, and better prepared to meet the challenges ahead.

Q3: One important improvement I would like to see in our city is the growth and support of the local business community. A strong, vibrant business environment is essential for creating jobs, increasing financial stability, and attracting new opportunities. By fostering an open and welcoming atmosphere for entrepreneurs and established businesses alike, we can encourage innovation and sustainable growth. Supporting local businesses strengthens our economy and improves the quality of life for all residents. With focused efforts—such as offering resources and reducing barriers—we can build a city that embraces growth, opportunity, and long-term financial stability.

Shane Brooks – Ward 2 candidate (Incumbent)

Q1: Having come from a family of public servants, I have always felt it is important to try and give back to the community that has given so much to me. I had the pleasure of serving on both the School Committee and City Council for over 20 years. I served on the School Committee when my kids were in the public school system and then made the transition to the City Council to make an impact on the quality of life for Chicopee residents first as an At-Large councilor for 4 years and the last 14 years as the Ward 2 representative.

Q2: I will also remain steadfast in my opposition to relocating Barry School to the Szetela Park location. This will create addition safety issues along the Granby Road corridor for vehicle and most importantly pedestrian traffic on a road that has one crosswalk and constantly has speeding traffic issues. Also, the additional expense for the needed infrastructure that is not reimbursable from the Massachusetts School Building Authority will be borne on the back of the residential taxpayers, which in my opinion is unacceptable.

Q3: I will continue to strongly advocate for additional business development in the city to help offset the residential tax rates that home owners



Abigail Arriaga



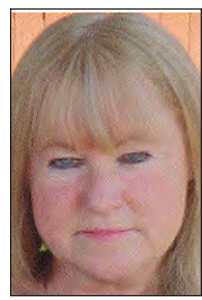
Shane Brooks



Joseph Breton



Darrin Breault



Susan Goff



George Balakier



Joe Pasternak



Julie L'Heureux



Samuel Shumsky



Douglas Girouard



Mary Beth Costello

experience as the values of their homes continue to increase. Without new business development adding addition tax revenue to the city coffers, the prospect of increased property taxes will adversely affect Senior home owners and others who own homes on a fixed income.

Q4: I have held various elected positions in the city for over 20 years. I hold a Master's degree in finance from American International College and Serve as the Vice President of Residential Services at the Gándara Center in Springfield managing a \$26 million dollar budget, providing residential supports to youth and adults with varying degrees of mental health and medical challenges. I believe my formal education and work experience provides me with the needed skill set to continue to serve on the City Council.

Joe Breton – Ward 2 candidate (challenger)

Q1: Hello ward 2 and the residents of Chicopee. My name is Joseph Breton and I'm running for Ward 2 City Council. What inspired me to run for City Council is I'm a lifelong and proud resident of Chicopee. Being a coach of sports and mentor to these kids who have grown into fine young men, I'm tired of hearing them looking to start families in other and better cities. There is no better city. My inspiration to run comes from the heart to make and take our Chicopee and make it our Chicopee again. Make it a place our kids and families want to stay. No hidden agendas, proud to be here. This political nonsense of city government fighting our city employ government fighting what they deserve is preposterous. Enough already. I don't post I'm done in city government and come back out and run again. Passion for our city is what inspired me.

Q2: This is a difficult question. One major goal to accomplish doesn't make sense when there are so many important issues that have

been falling on deaf ears. But to choose one, we have amazing teachers, DPW workers across the board, police, fire and essential workers being grossly underpaid. It's an insult to all of these employees to not be paid for their work ethics and hard work to bring them to a fair working salary. I will work diligently to bring a reasonable pay grade to our city employees. I nor do we want to hear "I've secured a 10, 20 or \$30 million-dollar rainy day fund" any longer. It's not raining anymore, it's pouring in Chicopee and it's time to be fixed. Once again, I will work diligently to start that process in the right direction. Our employees should not have to fight as hard as they do to get fair contracts.

Q3: One improvement I would like to see is in downtown. Not businesses closing at 6 or 7 p.m. Our current administration can make you believe that downtown is flourishing. Well, not the case. As I write this I had just watched another small business packing up their store. One last week. Yes businesses are coming to downtown on broken promises, get a ribbon cutting and then shunned. We need a safe downtown, somewhere families and out of towners want to come to and enjoy shopping, dining and the arts. We need to improve downtown to what it once was being attractive, safe, and enjoyable.

Q4: What separates me from my opponent is we have an amazing C3 Unit that has meetings every Wednesday that I attend. I want to hear what the people of Chicopee have to say and address their issues. The years the meetings have been taking place and maybe one or two visits from our sitting councilor. I will be at our council meetings representing "OUR" ward. I will not be zooming in because of prior engagements. You will never hear me say "I'm done with politics" then show back up. I am not part of the "good old boys club, or little Chi-

cago." Both of which are derogatory remarks towards our great city. What sets me apart? I will be there as one of us, not a career politician. My phone and email will never not be answered. I am asking for your support and vote in November to get our Chicopee back. A safe, affordable, enjoyable place to live. With your vote we can do this.

Darrin Breault – Ward 3 candidate (challenger)

Q1: I became interested in running for the seat when I saw how much trouble my neighbor was having in getting a response from local government. The primary function of government at every level is to be responsive to constituent needs. This is especially true of local government, where the people who serve in these positions are usually people in your very own community. It doesn't mean that you will always get your desired outcome, but your ideas and concerns should always be heard and addressed.

Q2: Last winter, we had a storm where the city's response was so misaligned that many of the side streets were pure ice for weeks. I would like to delve deeper into why this occurred, and perhaps illuminate ways in which this can be prevented in the future. Additionally, the closure of Sarah Jane Sherman Park was unexpected and sudden in such a way that I have heard many residents bemoan the lack of foreshadowing in removing access to this public area. I would like to see greater communication and transparency in executing these kind of planned projects.

Q3: Accountability, efficiency and transparency are the planks of my campaign platform. I think all three are essential to local governance, and I intend to embody these qualities to the best of my ability by being accessible. But regarding something tangible and specific, the low voter turnout of the last few elections is something that I absolutely want to address. I don't think we've ever seen participation quite so low, and to me that signifies a need for engagement so that more residents exercise their rights and choices in electing who represents them.

Q4: I respect anyone who steps into the arena with the intention to serve, and that includes the incumbent. The current occupant had been running unopposed, so part

of why I threw my hat into the ring is to offer residents a choice. I think government works best when you have options in choosing your representation. The city has given me a great deal, and with my volunteer background and experience in customer service I know that I'm ready to give something back and work tirelessly to deliver for the people of Ward 3. You'll find that I'm an accessible, capable public servant and ready to hear out any ideas or concerns you have, and should I be fortunate enough to earn your vote I'll always make sure you have a voice in city council meetings.

Susan Goff – Ward 3 candidate (Incumbent)

Q1: I have lived in Chicopee most of my life, and have owned my home in Ward Three for close to 40 years. My determination to reinvest and rebuild our community, as a whole, is what motivates and inspires me to serve as a member of the City Council. I speak to concerned residents just about every day on issues affecting their quality of life. I bring those concerns and their voices into every meeting. My goal is to make real, positive choices that bring about real positive change. I believe in keeping the lines of Communication open to all my constituents.

Q2: Every election is about vision, leadership, keeping an open mind. It's about having strength to stand firm in decision making for the good of the entire community. We all share the same vision and goals. We all want to keep Chicopee going in the right direction. I plan to continue to promote social, economic, and environmental well-being. Insecure good governance by open, transparent and ethical governance. Food disparity in Ward 3 is one thing I would like to see addressed. With the hiring of an Economic Development Director, I am hoping that residents needs can be met, by opening a grocery store in Ward 3. Residents should have easier access to healthy, fresh food choices without having to travel as far as they do now.

Q3: I would like to see budget preparation taken seriously to ensure not only the department needs are being met, but the city residents are kept in mind in all decisions. I would like to see the Bud-

See **CANDIDATES** page 6

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

VOTE **November 4th**

RE-ELECT

Shane D. **Brooks**
CITY COUNCIL WARD 2



As I have knocked on doors and talked with the residents of Ward 2, we've had an open and honest dialogue about the challenges that we face here in Ward 2. Here's where I stand on issues that are important to you:

- I vehemently oppose the detrimental impact of locating Barry School behind the Szetela Early Childhood Center. The negative consequences of this project will destroy the integrity of our neighborhood, I will continue to fight this project
- I am committed to **Public Safety** and real **Code Enforcement** in our city
- I will continue to address issues associated with **Homelessness and Addiction** downtown

As a city leader I will confront these challenges head on as we continue our efforts to make Chicopee a desirable and affordable place to live. We must continue to provide a quality education for our children, affordable services for our residents and an attractive option for new business development.

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IN THE CITY

City Council allocates \$461K to fire department for Station 1 improvements

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – The City Council allocated \$461,047 to the fire department to fix a crack in the floor of Station 1, also known as the Public Safety Complex on Church Street.

Mayor John Vieau and Fire Chief Dan Stamborski requested the funding, which was unanimously approved by the elected board.

Ward 2 Councilor Shane Brooks summed up the situation before the officials voted during Tuesday's meeting. He described it as a "culmination of the repair work that is needed at Station 1," and noted that it was brought to the board's attention several months ago.

"There's been some temporary staging that was provided to ensure that the mechanics could still access the apparatus from underneath the cement floor, but due to the increased weight of the new vehicles we're utilizing comparative to when the building was constructed in 1971, it's taken a toll on that cement floor," Brooks said.

The project will result in the total reconstruction of Bay 4 in Station 1. Brooks said this will enable full storage of the department's heaviest vehicles and equipment.

"[This will] ensure the safety of our repair crew as they operate underneath the vehicles to provide the essential services to keep them

on the road and extend their useful life," Brooks said.

Stamborski acknowledged that the request was costly, but he made it clear he wouldn't be asking for the money if it wasn't necessary to make sure all the members of his department are safe.

"It's a tremendous expense. We don't like to be here asking for this kind of money, but it's a safety issue, and we would really appreciate the funding for it," Stamborski said.

Stamborski estimated that the project will last two to three months but said that depends on how many people bid on it, as well as the bidding process.

"But this is the beginning of it, which is funding the project," Stamborski

said.

According to the fire chief, "99% of this work is taking place below in the mechanics bay."

He also noted that the vehicles that normally sit in the affected bays have been moved throughout the city.

"Currently, we have one of the state hazmat trucks that occupied that space; it's at Station 8. Another one is at Station 4," Stamborski said. "We have clearance for the one bay that we're not fixing to keep the weight of an ambulance and the first line deputy chief's vehicle in that bay. But the ambulance bay that this is affecting, we can't put any weight on that whatsoever at this time. That's what we've been advised by the engineers."

Quarterly Tax Bills Ballot Question

CHICOPEE - You have been asked to express your opinion about the adoption of a Quarterly Tax Billing system by voting on a non-binding question on election day, November 4, 2025.

The city currently has a Semi-Annual Tax Payment system. The first half tax bill is mailed after a Classification Hearing which is held after the city receives the approval of real estate values and new growth from the Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services. The process results in the fall tax bill being mailed on a different date every year. The second half tax bill is mailed on April 1st and due May 1st.

The city council may adopt a Quarterly Tax Payment system by adopting Chapter

59, section 57C. A Preliminary Bill would be mailed on July 1 and payable in two equal installments on Aug. 1 and Nov. 1. Each installment would be ¼ of the prior fiscal year bill. The Actual Bill would be mailed by Dec. 31. This bill would show the new assessed value, new tax rate and new amount of taxes owed. The entire increase on your fiscal year taxes will be on this Actual Bill and payable in two installments on Feb. 1 and May 1.

If the city switches to a Quarterly Tax Payment system, the most difficult problem is in the first year when a taxpayment of 50% of the total is due on May 1 and a tax payment of 25% of the prior years total is due three months later, on Aug. 1.

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 November 2025.

Sensory Play Saturday will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 1. Come let your babies socialize and explore sensory play! We will have our play area set up with some sensory activities and other play opportunities. For babies 0-24 months and their caregivers.

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

Visit us on Nov. 4 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. and do your part to keep the Honmoon golden at our K-Pop Demon Hunters Party! We'll have K-Pop themed crafts, fun activities based on the hit film, and of course some sing-alongs to Huntrix's chart topping songs!

Little Kid Dance Party will be on Wednesdays, Nov. 5 and 19 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, Nov. 6 at 4 p.m. Unstructured building time for kids ages 6 and up.

Little Movers will be held in the children's program room on Fridays Nov. 7 and

21 at 11 a.m. Babies crawling to 24 months and their caregivers are invited to join us for free play followed by circle time exploring songs, finger-plays and movement!

Create Art with Crayons on Saturday, November 8 at 1:30 p.m. Join Marie Manley Tucker for a monthly drawing lesson this fall. Each month will have a different theme. November's theme is Silly Foods! Recommended for ages 5-12.

The Kids Room Sewing Club will have its first meeting on Wednesday Nov. 12 at 3:30 to 5 p.m. The library plans to host monthly sewing meetups to learn basic stitches and practice skills by making fun projects. This month we will make autumn themed felt magnets. Recommended for ages 6 and up. Kids who are not familiar with using a needle and thread should attend with an adult. Teens are welcome.

Storytime will be held on Thursday, Nov. 13 at 10:30 a.m. Storytime is for children ages 3 to 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 two to three 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.

The library Homeschool Meetup will be on Thursday, Nov. 20 at 11 a.m. This group meets once a month September - June for homeschooling families with kids of all ages to hang out, do activities and learn together. Different activities each month are planned by the group.

Terrific Twos will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 25, 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 one 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.

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.

Anime Club is coming back in November! Be sure to stop by Wednesday, Nov. 19 at 3 p.m. for the first meeting of the school year. We'll be discussing all things anime and manga, enjoying some chill crafts, and talking about what cool activities everyone wants to see at future meetings!

Stop by the Teen Space after school (2:30 to 4 p.m.) Nov. 7 and 21 for Board Game Fridays! We'll be teaching everyone how to play some of our more unique board games that we have at the library. Will you steal treasure from a sinking island? Lie your way to victory? Sell a caveman a new invention? Who knows!

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

Harmony House hosts Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

CHICOPEE – Harmony House of Western Massachusetts, a nonprofit home for hospice patients, will host their 15th Annual Spaghetti Supper on Friday, Nov. 7, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Moose Family Center, 244 Fuller Road, Chicopee. The community event raises funds to support the organization's mission, providing a home and compassionate, around-the-clock care, allowing residents to live their final days to the fullest.

"Community support is absolutely vital to Harmony House. Donations enable us to provide 24/7 care and companionship to those who don't have a safe or suitable place to receive hospice care

and want to live out their final days in a place they can call home," said Gina Mazza, board president and executive director of Harmony House. "We're looking forward to bringing the community together to share a delicious meal and be part of our work providing the peace, comfort, and dignity that our residents and their loved ones deserve."

The evening will include a hearty spaghetti dinner, 50/50 drawing, and raffle baskets. Tickets can be purchased at HarmonyHouse-WMA.org or from a board member and are \$15 if purchased before Thursday, Oct. 30. Tickets purchased after this date or at the door are

\$20. Children six and under attend for free.

This event is made possible thanks to the generous donation of space from the Chicopee Moose Lodge and the support of our sponsors, including Westfield Bank, Egan, Flanagan and Cohen, P.C., Fedor Financial Group, LLC, Carla Santia & Associates, Pizza Lino, and Rivest Financial Associates, Inc.

Additional sponsors are welcome and can learn more at the Harmony House website. Additional sponsors will be happily accepted until October 29th. Please visit HarmonyHouseWMA.org to learn more about the organization, event, volunteer opportunities, or to donate.

City of Chicopee's Veterans Day activities

CHICOPEE - "On this Veterans Day, let us remember the service of our veterans, and let us renew our national promise to fulfill our sacred obligations to our veterans and their families who have sacrificed so much so that we can live free."

"Veterans Day originated as "Armistice Day" on Nov. 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War I. Congress passed a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance, and Nov.

11 became a national holiday beginning in 1938. Unlike Memorial Day, Veterans Day pays tribute to all American veterans—living or dead—but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime."

Tuesday, November 11 at 10 a.m. Veterans Day will start off with a Memorial Service that will be held at Saint Stanislaus located at 566 Front Street, Chicopee. A wreath laying

will be at 11 a.m. at the Veterans Plaza on Front Street in front of Dupont Middle School located at 650 Font Street, Chicopee,

Lastly at Noon, lunch will be held at the Knights of Columbus located at 460 Granby Road, Chicopee, MA. We will be presenting awards to our Patriotic Business and Patriotic Organization of the year as well as our annual Charles H. Tracy Awardee recognition ceremony.

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PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT JERRY ROY

IN THE CITY



When will my disability become my regular Social Security?

Dear Rusty:
I hope you can answer this question.

I'm currently receiving Social Security Disability benefits, and I will be turning 65 in February 2026. I'm confused as to how Social Security Disability transitions to regular Social Security, and when. I assume it's age 65, but maybe it's my retirement date?

Also, does the amount remain the same or will it change? I'm not working. I've been on SSDI for about 15 years. Thank you.

Signed: Disabled Senior

Dear Disabled Senior:
If you are collecting Social Security Disability Insurance benefits, those SSDI benefits will automatically convert to become your regular Social Security retirement benefit when you reach your SS Full Retirement Age, which, in your case, is age 67. For information, FRA today is somewhere between age 66 and 67, depending on your year of birth, and the full retirement age for everyone born in 1960 or later is age 67.

The change from SSDI to your regular Social Security benefit will be transparent to you because your monthly benefit amount will remain the same. SSDI benefits were originally awarded to you based upon your full retirement age entitlement when you applied for SSDI,

even though you hadn't yet reached your FRA when you went on SSDI. Thus, the monthly benefit amount will not change because it is based on your lifetime earnings record, from before you became disabled.

FYI, although age 65 was once Social Security's "retirement age," full retirement age for Social Security today is based on the year you were born. So, your SSDI benefit will automatically switch to become your regular Social Security retirement benefit as soon as you reach age 67. Essentially, the only thing that will change is the Social Security Trust Fund from which your benefits will be paid.

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 ssadviser@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

LETTER TO EDITOR

Vote Raj Sanghvi for City Collector

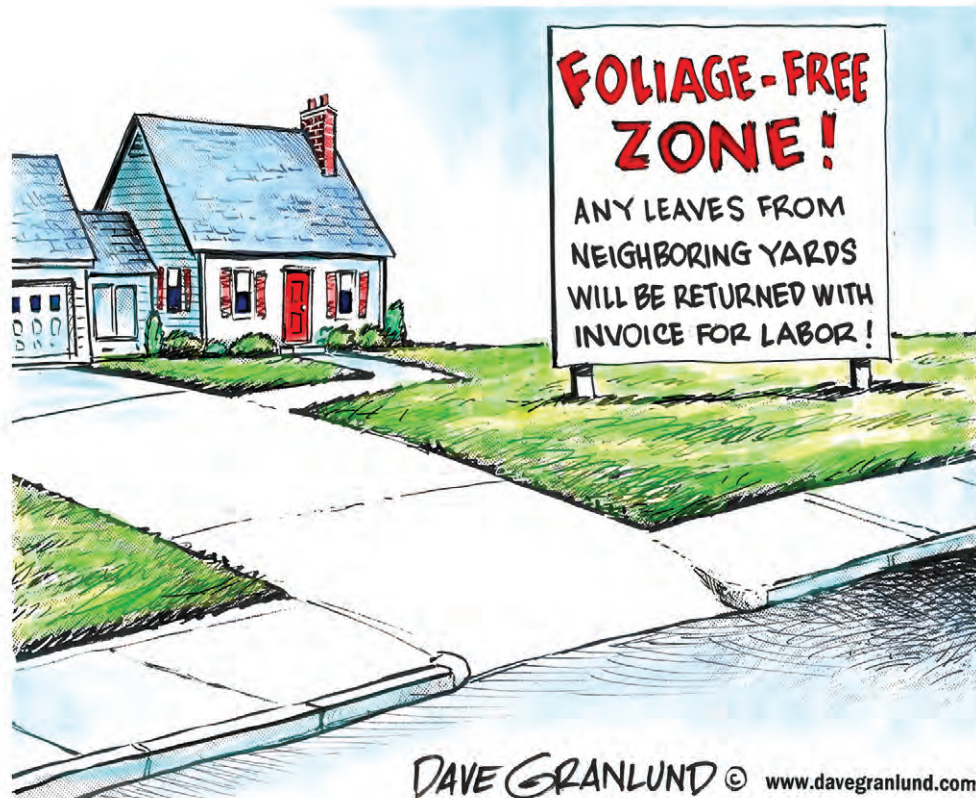
To the Editor,
Raj Sanghvi is running for Chicopee City Collector. As a successful small business owner, he brings extensive experience in financial management and a strong background in customer service.

A proud U.S. citizen, Raj raised his family and is a long-time resident of Chicopee. His son, Dr. Jay Sanghvi, graduated from Chicopee High School in 2012 and is currently practicing as a neurosurgeon at NYU Langone Hospital in New York City. Raj is a devoted and caring individual who built his business alongside his wife on principles of service and integrity earning a loyal customer base. Both businesses are thriving. His direct business experience gives Raj a deep

understanding of the value of money, cash flow and the essential need for the proper administration of finances.

Raj is also an active member of the community. He currently serves on the Chicopee City Planning Board. He is also a member of the Chicopee Chamber of Commerce and its Rotary Club. He also volunteers his time at Lorraine's Soup Kitchen and Pantry. His wife, Kamy Sanghvi, is a member of the Chicopee Cultural Council. They are local taxpayers directly contributing financially to our city. We urge all Chicopee voters to VOTE ON NOV. 4 for RAJ SANGHVI to be our next City Collector.

Thank you,
Francis Bizon



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

Jack Frost has come and gone; time to review

Usually we have a few nights that teeter around the freezing mark each fall, giving us an advanced warning of sorts, before a real deal killer frost strikes. Not so this year.

I tuned into the weather last Tuesday night and to my shock, we were expecting temperatures to dip into the mid to high 20s Thursday night into Friday morning! That meant going into extreme harvest mode to get everything indoors that needed to be and trying to cover what I couldn't get to.

I was trying to hold off on harvesting my Butternut winter squash, hoping for the green tinges of the skin to fade to a warm buff color, but by the time Wednesday rolled around I had to give in and pick them. I think they are mostly ripe.

I grew three total hills this year, two of a variety Mom had saved the seeds of and one of a highly touted, powdery mildew resistant F1 hybrid by the name of "Little Dipper." I was lured in by the catalog description that promised seven plus fruits per plant.

From my two plants in that one hill, I harvested 15. Pretty good, I'll say! They range in weight from just about a pound and a half to over five pounds, with most around the 3.5 pound mark.

I already cut into one, and roasted it. Not being used to such a dry texture, I added a little water when I whipped it up and it was flavorful enough. And true to its description in the Fedco catalog (fedcoseeds.com) it was in-

deed powdery mildew resistant. The leaves were incredibly green and still pumping out flowers until they were struck by frost. Will I grow it again? Yes.

One mention: the seeds took forever to germinate. I start mine indoors in early May. They were easily a week or 10 days behind the open pollinated squash and pumpkins I germinated indoors. Another squash that was new to my garden this year was an Acorn squash by the name of "Festival" from Renee's Garden (renee'sgarden.com). I typically don't veer from growing butternuts due to a heavy load of squash vine borers on all other species, but the seed packet was so pretty that I succumbed to an "impulse buy."

I figured I could grow them to eat, and also use them for autumn decorations. The cream-colored squash are splashed with orange, yellow and/or green and reportedly will keep up to three months. From four plants I harvested 21 squash; not too shabby for vines that are semi bush. I tried two plants in one of my raised beds as an experiment, and they did great there, as did the two in the main garden.

I cut one in half, removed

the seeds and roasted it cut side down until fork tender. To me, acorns are on the blah side but all that changes with the addition of some maple syrup.

As far as the vine borers go, the plants were early to bear and quick to ripen. By the time the borers discovered them most fruits were curing right on the plants. I'll definitely be growing them again.

Mouse Melon, also known as Cucamelon was a newbie as well, and one that I was not sad to see go when the frost hit. I sowed the seeds indoors and planted the transplants along one side of an A-frame trellis. By August I had the cutest mini-watermelons, think the size that would be perfect Barbie Doll food! My appreciation for this trial ended with its cuteness, however. To me it tasted like a bitter cucumber, with a little bit of a kick to it. Not a fan.

I did enter them in the Ware Grange fair, however, and won first place in the "any other" category!

Stay tuned next week for more reviews and also what strategies worked and what didn't!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

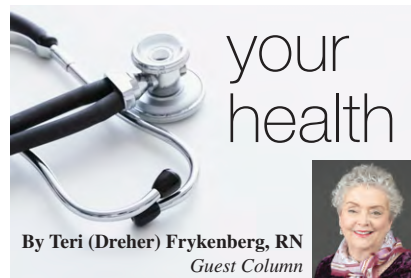
When a loved one is recovering from a heart attack

Few things are as frightening as a heart attack, not just for the person experiencing it but for family members. With prompt and proper treatment between 90 percent and 95 percent of heart attack patients (let's not call them victims) survive and return home.

A heart attack, technically a myocardial infarction, occurs when a blockage keeps oxygen-rich blood from getting to the heart. (Cardiac arrest, when the heart stops beating entirely, is a completely different animal – and perhaps a topic for another day.)

Heart attack patients typically spend between two and five days in the hospital. For those who receive angioplasty or stents to keep the arteries open, the stay is usually shorter. If coronary bypass surgery is required, expect your loved one to be in the hospital for five to seven days. Hopefully, there are no complications (like blood clots) that keep them there longer.

When your loved one is ready to continue their recovery at home, you may wonder what will change, how to best support their recovery, and how you should behave



By Teri (Dreher) Frykberg, RN
Guest Column

around them. Based on my years of experience as a critical care nurse and patient advocate, here are five things to do – and not do.

1. Just listen.

Heart attack patients often experience something known as the "cardiac blues," which can encompass a range of emotions, including sadness, anger, anxiety, confusion and loneliness. While distressing, these feelings usually abate with time.

It's important for you to hear what your loved one is saying and feeling without passing judgment or giving advice, such as, "You'd feel better if you'd just take a walk."

2. But don't walk on eggshells.

On the other hand, you

shouldn't make your loved one feel fragile, which can only make them feel more anxious than they already do. Do some of the things you've always done, such as watching a favorite TV show or movie. While you don't want them going up and down stairs to help with the laundry as they've always done, you can sit together and fold clothes while you chat.

3. Get their OK to come with you to follow-up visits.

As a spouse, partner or family member, you have a role to play on your loved one's care team. Part of this role is accompanying them to doctor visits so you can listen, take notes and ask questions.

Ensure that their doctors know that they have permission to discuss medical information with you so you can be fully informed about what's going on or

See **YOUR HEALTH** page 10

Chicopee Register TEAM



EDITOR
Kristin Rivers
krivers@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com



SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

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www.chicopeeregister.turley.com

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CEO

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Send letters to:
The Chicopee Register,
24 Water Street,
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or email
chicopeeregister@turley.com.

The deadline for submissions is Tuesday at noon.

WE CARE ABOUT YOUR NEWS!

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

Election letters to the editor

The Chicopee Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to Chicopee Register care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to journalegister@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.

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IN THE CITY

First Central Bible Church of Chicopee hosts free Halloween Activity Oct. 29

CHICOPEE - First Central Bible Church today announced that it is hosting its annual Trunk or Treat Halloween gathering on October 29 from 6 to 8 p.m. The event will take place at the church, 50 Broadway Street, in Chicopee. Attendance is free and no registration is required. A Chicopee-area tradition, Trunk or Treat provides a fun, safe, family-friendly

evening for the entire community, with church members handing out candy from the decorated trunks of their cars. Other highlights include:

- Boomer the bird, mascot of the Springfield Thunderbirds hockey team
- A Chicopee Fire Department ladder truck
- Christian music from The Q 99.7
- Free hot dogs and bottled water (while supplies

last)

- Two bounce houses
- A photo booth
- Fellowship and prayer

Members of the community are welcome to hand out candy from a decorated vehicle as space permits. Other volunteer opportunities are also available. To participate, please call the church at (413) 592-5353.

The Polish Center announces five Polish Heritage Award winners

CHICOPEE - The Polish Center of Discovery + Learning, located in Chicopee, proudly announces the 2025 Polish Heritage Award winners. They include: Carolyn Czaja Topor, Sheryl Mardeusz, Wieslaw Olszak, John Skibiski, and Fred Zimnock. The Award honors the individual(s) who

have promoted their Polish heritage and culture. Past winners of the Polish Heritage Award in the prior 18 years of the Krakus Festival include: Happy Louie and Julcia, Joe Topor, Chicopee Provision and the Polish National Credit Union. This year's honorees will be presented their

award at the Krakus Festival. The nineteenth Krakus Festival will take place at the Wyckoff Country Club on Sunday, Nov. 2. The event will feature live Polish music sing-along, Polish cuisine, and the presentation of the Awards. To purchase tickets, contact Joanne Gruskos at 413.537.1732.

Sand for Seniors Drive-Up event at RiverMills

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will host a Sand for Seniors Drive-Up event on Monday, November 3 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center located at 5 West Main St.

The Hampden County Sheriff's Department will be at RiverMills Center for a drive-up "Sand for Seniors" event for those who need a bucket of sand for the winter months. This is a sand/salt mixture. This event will be located in

the lower level parking lot. Buckets will be provided and will be loaded into your vehicle. You must be able to unload the bucket on your own at home. You must register in advance by calling 534-3698 or by stopping by RiverMills Center.

Dream Designers for children ages 5-7

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, Engi-

neering 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 Chicopee 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.

TORRES from page 1

your commitment to this community is so special, and I knew that the day you came in for your interview," Vieau said. "It's about Chicopee and it's about what we do as a community and you've been such an integral part in making sure when these events happen—I'll use National Night Out or I'll use the Faded Barber Back to School Event, it can be any one of those, Spooktacular which is coming up or whatever it may be—Monica puts heart and soul into it and she is there making sure that things go on without a hitch and those are the unrecognizable parts of these community events that are super special."

Beaudoin shared she was proud of Torres and "couldn't think of a better person to receive this award, who deserves it."

"Your dedication, your adoration, your passion, your drive in what you do not only in your work sense but important personal relationships is very admirable and working with you the past six months has been nothing short of a blast," Beaudoin said. "I thank you for being a great mentor."

Blankenship thanked Torres for her support of the police department and C3 Units.

"She's been a strong

supporter of the C3 Unit and what we're about, what we do and, also, her support of the police department in general. So, I want to say on behalf of the Chicopee Police Department and the Willimansett C3 Unit and the Chicopee Center C3 Unit, thank you and we see the hard work that you do every day at all the community events," Blankenship said.

Arriaga said, "It's a no-brainer to nominate somebody that I believe exemplifies community, leadership and, really, just wants to genuinely help others."

"She's an advocate for her kids, for her children, all of our cherished members of our community and really just wants to see united community, love and respect for all, so how could we not recognize her for that?" Arriaga said.

Reflecting on the award, Torres said it was an honor.

"Coming from another empowering Latina, it means so much to be recognized by someone who deeply understands the value of community and representation. This nomination isn't just about me—it reflects the hard work, dedication and resilience of so many in our Latino community who strive to make a difference every day. I believe she chose me because my work ethic and commitment to the community speak for themselves," Torres said.



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Monica Torres, community and special projects liaison for the City of Chicopee, in a family photo.

The surprise was overwhelming but very meaningful.

"Walking in and seeing so many familiar faces filled with love and excitement was a moment I'll never forget. It took me a second to even process what was happening! I felt humbled, emotional, and so thankful for everyone who went out of their way to make that moment so special.

I'd like to thank my team--Team Vieau—for believing in me and supporting me throughout the year, and for organizing this surprise. I couldn't do my role without them and the Mayor's support. I also want to thank the City Council office for always supporting my efforts and helping me continue to represent Chicopee with pride," Torres said.

On what fulfills her work, it was this.

"What fulfills me most is being able to serve and connect with people from all walks of life. Every day brings an opportunity to help, to listen, and to make a small difference that improves someone's experience in our city. Chicopee is a community full of heart, and being part of a team that works to make it better each day is something I truly take pride in. The Mayor's Office has built strong collaborations with all city departments, and that teamwork makes my role as a community liaison even more meaningful. Having the resources, support, and shared ideas allows us to bring fresh opportunities and stronger connections to our community—and I truly appreciate that," Torres said.

Torres credited her mother as one of her biggest supporters, along with many others.

"My mom has always been my rock--her love, strength, and example guide me in everything I do. Seeing their smiles and feeling their pride reminded me why I work so hard. It wasn't just my recognition—it was ours. They've been with me every step of the way, and this moment reflected all the sacrifices and love we share. My husband, Jose, has been so understanding of what my

role as a community liaison entails," Torres said. "To my daughters, Jaylen and Jaylanie, I hope to continue showing them that the sky's the limit--stay true to yourself, because you never know who's watching the difference you make. To my stepdaughter Elizavette and grandson Luisdiel, I hope to show them resilience and that you can overcome anything when you have family by your side cheering you on. 'You can do it.'"

Her message to the community was this.

"I want the community to know that this award means everything to me. It fuels me to keep striving and doing what I love most--helping others. This recognition is for all of us, as I represent Chicopee at the state level. Yes, I'm Latina, and I've proudly served my community--that's why I was recognized. It's a celebration of our shared values, culture and dedication to making Chicopee stronger together. I'm deeply grateful for this city and the people who make it what it is," Torres said. "My message is simple: keep lifting each other up, keep showing up for one another, and never underestimate the power of kindness and unity. I'm here to assist in any capacity and will always go the extra mile to help our community thrive."

PET MASKS from page 1

learning about the goldens, but the depth of knowledge of the group is just top-notch and we're always looking for new people that may be interested in the golden retriever breed," Mugford said. "The club is very interested in preserving dogs with good health, to try and preserve the breed and breed for good health and quality traits."

Wendy Davis, the club's president and one of the founding members, had her dog, Cider, with her and shared the club "is always looking for ways to assist the community" and the animals, with Mugford having come up with the idea.

"On the news, we always see emergencies, fire departments, fires, car accidents and a lot of people are traveling with their dogs now and obviously a lot of people obviously have pets in their homes," Davis said. "We have several people who are involved with search and rescue and it just kind of made sense to do that. We do a lot of health-related events also for the dogs. At our local veterinary hospital, we'll do health exams, so there's a lot of things we try to do within the Connecticut River Valley area."

Davis said a club member who used to live in Chicopee suggested donating to the fire department.

"We had a couple of extra masks and we made phone calls; Phil was making phone calls as far as which department could use some more or new ones and Chicopee said, 'Yeah, we'd love to have a

couple more,' so here we are," Davis said.

Capt. Katie Collins-Kalbaugh expressed gratitude to the club for its donation along with bringing the furry friends to brighten the



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Firefighter Benjamin Souza enjoys petting the dogs.

spirits of the fire department and nearby residents.

"We're very grateful for this. Emergencies can happen at any time to any household and so we're prepared not only to take care of individuals, but their furry family members as well," Collins-Kalbaugh said.

Collins-Kalbaugh stressed these masks will help pets in an emergency.

"Smoke isn't safe for people to breathe and it's unsafe for animals to breathe as well, so if they are exposed to

smoke from a fire or smoke conditions, now we can very easily supply them with oxygen. The masks comes in different sizes for different-sized animals and they can even be used on cats or other household pets or household furry family members as well," Collins-Kalbaugh said.

Collins-Kalbaugh's message was this.

"We never want anyone to have a fire or any emergency, so we try and prevent those. But if they're

not preventable, we're more prepared today, thankfully, (due) to this donation," Collins-Kalbaugh said.

Davis's message was this.

"Feel confident that your pets will be in good hands from this fire crew and the ambulance service. They have another tool in their toolbox to help your pets," Davis said.

To learn more about the Connecticut River Valley Golden Retriever Club, visit crrgcr.org.

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

Jessica L. Avery

CITY COUNCIL AT-LARGE | VOTE TUESDAY, NOV. 4TH

Avery Takes Action:

- ✓ Amplified the voices of veterans, their families, and Soldiers' Home staff by facilitating Western Mass hearings and capturing direct stories.
- ✓ Advocated for the expansion of early, in-person municipal voting to promote voter turnout.
- ✓ Supported Chicopee families with accessing Veterans' benefits during the COVID-19 crisis.
- ✓ Volunteered as a scholarship reader for the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts.

"I grew up in Chicopee, and believe in solutions for and by the people. On the City Council, I will *reduce red tape* for primary residence additions, *protect our energy and natural resources*, and champion cooperative purchasing to *lower costs*."

Avery4Chicopee.com

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Jessica Avery

IN THE CITY

Fairview Cemetery announces Fall Cleanup

CHICOPEE – The Fairview Cemetery Commission and Chicopee Parks Department would like to remind families of loved ones buried at the Fairview Cemetery that plantings in the ground are not allowed. The Fairview Cemetery Commission and Parks Department are requesting that all plantings (flowers, shrubs, etc.) on graves and all decorations be removed by

October 19th. Cemetery staff will begin their fall cleanup that week and any remaining plants and decorations will be removed and discarded.

In an effort to improve safety of employees and those visiting the cemetery, the Fairview Cemetery Commission approved the revisions to the rules and regulations of Fairview Cemetery in January 2019. Artificial grave orna-

ments, artificial flowers, enclosures of any kind, and new plantings in the ground are not allowed as they are hazardous to both visitors and workers. Holiday pots and boxes will only be allowed during the Memorial Day and Holiday seasons. Notices are being sent to deed owners regarding the removal of plants and/or decorations on their lots.

The Fairview Cemetery

Commission would also like to remind visitors to the cemetery that dogs and other animals are not allowed in the cemetery.

For a complete list of Fairview Cemetery rules and regulations, fees and charges, and monument policies, please visit www.chicopee-ma.gov/384/Fairview-Cemetery or call the Parks and Recreation Office at 594-3481.

Health and Outreach Fair at RiverMills Nov. 10

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will have a Health and Outreach Fair on Monday, Nov. 10 from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street. Join RiverMills Center for the Annual Health and Outreach Fair. There will be an array of info tables with

various community agencies, blood pressure screenings, food samples, and of course, goodies! This is a great event to take advantage of to see all the wonderful agencies that are in the community that support the older adult population. Registration is not required.

CANDIDATES from page 2

get hearings held in a timely manner, giving ample time to adjust if needed. I would like to help Develop strategic plans to give residents a voice when it comes to decisions, that focus on fundamentals like roads, water, public safety, and planning. Work on solutions to manage employee benefits costs, pay disparities, and prioritize essential city infrastructure, including the hiring of an economic development director and Code Enforcement Officer.

Q4: For a City Council member to be effective, they must possess a blend of leadership, integrity, and strong communication skills. Serving on a City Council is a demanding job that requires dedication and a genuine desire to serve the community, as the role involves both policymaking and responding directly to constituent needs. I am not a career politician. I have no hidden agenda. I am here only to see what I can do for my community. This being my second term I feel I am well equipped to handle whatever issues come my way with integrity and compassion.

George Balakier - Ward 4 candidate (unopposed)

Q1: In 2017, my predecessor, long time Ward Four City Councilor, William Zasky was retiring from office and upon hearing the news, I was intrigued with the possibility of being elected to his council seat.

I had been passionately and actively involved in local politics for many years and I felt I could make a difference in my community by serving as a city councilor.

Further, I had been a member of the Chicopee Democratic City Committee for over 15 years, working on local, state and federal campaigns for many candidates and gained valuable insight over issues and citizens concerns.

Finally, after getting encouragement from family and friends, along with my background in banking, finance and business, I successfully was elected to office in 2017 and continue to look, listen and learn on a daily basis for the betterment of the city.

Q2: A major goal that I hope to accomplish with the City Council is the finalization of the economic development of the vacant Uniroyal property and the vacant Cabotville Mill property.

First, the Uniroyal property has been vacant for over 45 years and has been an immense project and undertak-

ing. However, after spending over \$40 million, removing dilapidated buildings, working with the EPA, Michelin and a potential developer, there appears to be light at the end of the tunnel.

Secondly, the vacant Cabotville Mill property is another immense project with the potential of over 600 housing units and commercial space. However, the project is stalled due to a myriad of issues, both legally and with the developer and needs to be rectified in order to jump start the project.

Further, the development of the old mill would really help in the revitalization of downtown Chicopee.

Q3: I would like to see the implementation of traffic safety programs throughout the city.

First, this means that the police have the resources, such as adequate funds and equipment to implement traffic safety programs (i.e. safe streets), through constant targeted neighborhood patrols throughout the city.

Second, I would also like to see the installation of additional speed tables, where permitted, by DPW and engineering throughout the city. This program has worked extremely well in my ward on the Front Street corridor.

Third, implementation of a red light/stop sign ticketing program by city cameras and computer ticketing would help immensely. In addition, street narrowing by the installation of islands, such as on Chicopee Street, could also help.

Finally, additional funding provided by the state, (currently \$2.47 million) and federal government would help to offset additional costs related to traffic safety programs, overtime money, equipment, speed tables and raised sidewalks.

Joe Pasternak – Ward 5 candidate

Q1: I still remember walking to Szetela School as a kid, riding my bike through our neighborhoods, and feeling proud to call Chicopee home. This city shaped who I am; it's where my grandparents settled after coming from Poland, where I built my life, and where my daughter Mia now represents the fourth generation of our family to grow up here. Chicopee has always been a place where families look out for one another, and that's something worth preserving. For more than 40 years, I've worked to make our city stronger, from serving on local boards to helping neighbors solve problems big and small. My experience as a small business owner taught

me how to listen, find solutions, and get things done. I'm running for City Council because I care deeply about Chicopee's future, and I want to keep it a place we're all proud to call home.

Q2: One of my top priorities is addressing long-overdue infrastructure improvements in Ward 5. Roads and sidewalks are among the most common concerns I hear from residents, and they're essential to neighborhood safety, accessibility, and quality of life. Working collaboratively with the Mayor, City Council, Department of Public Works, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I will advocate for increased Chapter 90 funding to ensure our fair share of state road aid reaches Chicopee. My goal is to see visible, measurable progress, smoother streets, safer intersections, and improved drainage, not just temporary fixes. I also want to strengthen communication between residents and City Hall so that local concerns about specific streets or projects are heard and addressed quickly. Infrastructure may not always make headlines, but it's the foundation of a strong and thriving community.

Q3: I would like to see Chicopee's city government become more efficient and fiscally responsible. Too often, residents feel like they're paying more and getting less. We need to take a closer look at how our departments operate, identify areas of duplication or waste, and modernize outdated processes to reduce costs. The goal is simple: do more with less and deliver better results for taxpayers. When was the last time our property taxes actually went down? It's been too long, but it *has been* done before, and it can be done again with strong fiscal oversight and common-sense leadership. I believe in finding smarter ways to manage our resources, prioritizing essential services, and returning savings to the people who make Chicopee work, its residents. Responsible budgeting isn't just good government; it's a promise to respect every tax dollar entrusted to us.

Q4: What separates me from my opponent is my proven record of service and problem-solving. For over 40 years, I've been actively involved in helping Chicopee through various boards, commissions, and community initiatives. I've never been one to shy away from a challenge; in fact, I welcome it. When someone says something can't be done, that motivates me to find a way to make it happen. I believe in teamwork, listening

to all sides, and finding practical solutions that deliver real results for residents. My approach has always been about bringing people together rather than dividing them. I'm not running for a title, I'm running to continue serving the city I love. If elected, I'll bring decades of experience, integrity, and commitment to the Ward 5 City Council seat, and I humbly ask for your vote to continue working for you and your family.

Julie L'Heureux – Ward 5 candidate

Q1: I first decided to run for City Council after working with my community of neighbors during the development of the Western Mass Food Bank. I realized at that time. There was a need for a councilor who is an active listener who develops plans with the constituents to address concerns in a timely fashion and follows up with the Constituents throughout the process.

Q2: I hope to achieve greater multi-generational activities throughout the city that educate, empower, and excite all generations to commit to this city. Get together could be held at Chicopee Country Club, with golf meets between our middle schoolers/ high schoolers with senior citizens. Consideration of jam sessions at the newly renovated Hub in the library for children and adults.

Q3: I would like to see a yearly budget that is achieved in a timely fashion that allows for people's input. In addition, that education can be given to the public on "Reasons" for specific budget requirements to improve greater transparency and communication through town halls.

Q4: What separates me is a long history of volunteer work for the community. How I help has supported multi-generational individuals to achieve their goals and to be empowered by their development. These accomplishments when applied to Ward 5 and the city as a whole can achieve results that enhance this community for greater health and prosperity.

Samuel Shumsky - Ward 6 candidate (unopposed)

Q1: Growing up in Chicopee, I've seen firsthand both the potential and the challenges facing our city. I was inspired to run for City Council because I believe local government has the most direct impact on people's daily lives, from public safety to road repairs to neighborhood investment. My time serving on the School Committee and Planning Board taught

me how much can be accomplished when leaders listen, collaborate, and stay focused on results. I wanted to bring a new energy to City Hall, one grounded in transparency, accountability, and action. Serving as a Councilor has reaffirmed my belief that when residents have a strong voice and government works efficiently, real progress happens. Chicopee's future is bright, and I'm proud to play a role in shaping it.

Q2: I'm focused on the urgency of the City Council working together to implement the Memorial Drive revitalization plan. Memorial Drive is one of Chicopee's most important commercial corridors and is long overdue for modernization. My goal is to enhance public safety, creating safer streets for both drivers and pedestrians, while also making it more attractive and accessible for new businesses. With better infrastructure, improved traffic flow, and updated design standards, we can transform Memorial Drive into a true economic gateway for the city. With new business generated comes new tax revenue, the creation of jobs, and improvements for the quality of life for both residents and visitors alike. By closely partnering with Chicopee's legislators, we will ensure Chicopee receives the attention it deserves. We have been at a deficit of late. I want to ensure Chicopee gets its fair share of funding to make this long-discussed plan a reality.

Q3: One improvement I'd like to see is a major investment in our local roads, sidewalks, and infrastructure. Every resident deserves safe, well-maintained streets, yet too often, our neighborhoods are left waiting for repairs. I'll continue advocating for increases to Chapter 90 state funding so Chicopee can accelerate road resurfacing and sidewalk replacement across Ward 6 and the city. It's time to modernize our infrastructure with strategic, long-term planning instead of temporary fixes. In addition to road improvements, I want to ensure we're using data to prioritize projects fairly and transparently, so every neighborhood benefits. Well-paved roads and accessible sidewalks may seem simple, but they're essential for public safety, local business access, and community pride. This is about delivering the basic services residents expect and deserve from their city government.

Douglas Girouard - Ward 8 candidate (unopposed)

Q1: What inspired me to run for city Council more importantly the ward eight section of Aldenville has been my home for 52 years. I grew up here playing in the parks riding my bicycle on City Streets as a kid. Now, as a former business owner and taxpayer, it brings joy to me currently on the school committee when a concerned resident or parent has any kind of concern or issue that has to do with their child's education. To be in a position where I can offer my assistance to help resolve issues is the reason why I love this job.

Q2: One major goal of mine is to make sure the residents the taxpayer continues to receive the services the city provides. We are very fortunate to have a fire department and police department who are so committed to the safety of all. The city stands much stronger when the city itself

works as a team. Chicopee is very fortunate to have such smart department heads. My goal is to make sure we can all work together to keep Chicopee on the map as one of the best cities to work live or raise a family. when different departments work together we utilize our resources therefore doing jobs in house versus going out to bid saves the taxpayer money. It is my goal to make sure we continue that.

Q3: I feel like we need to improve or find a way to help attract more businesses to operate in Chicopee. Having long-term businesses helps to provide a strong business tax base that helps to make it reasonable when it comes to taxes for the resident. We need to figure out a way to attract more businesses to want to operate in Chicopee. It's not just Chicopee. It is certainly the other communities around us as well. It is very hard to go in business today and stay in business with rising leases cost of goods and labor hours.

My goal is to work with my colleagues and the Commonwealth to figure out a way to attract more business and make it more affordable to run these businesses.

Mary Beth Costello - Ward 9 candidate (unopposed)

Q1: I want to help people. A City Council Member has the ability to help people with questions and concerns involving the City Government. An example assisting with issues involving street lights. The CEL does a fantastic job responding to a resident questions. Many people have questions about streets with potholes and safety issues. The Engineering Department and DPW are the Departments that respond to road design and street safety. As a City Council Member, I try to help people with information and to refer to the right Department. This process addresses quality of life issues in the City as well as safety concerns. As a City Council person, I want to continue to improve the quality of life for Chicopee residents.

Q2: I would like the City Council to continue to improve on transparency. Information to the public is important. I would like to see more posts informing the public of road closures and updated projects and various public concerns. I am happy that residents go down to the City Council to speak at public input. Recently residents have discussed issues like Barry School, dog kennels, substance use disorder treatment facilities and ballot questions. The public must feel comfortable coming in person to City Council meetings and contacting City Council Members about issues. The public must be informed on issues involving the City.

Q3: Many residents are concerned about the roads and road safety. Ward 9 and all the wards are undergoing road improvement. Ward 9 has seen the South Fairview Sewer separation project as well as road improvements on New Ludlow Road from the intersection of Montcalm Street to the South Hadley town line. These road improvements are a priority. Safe roads and safe streets make for a safer city. The city appears committed to have a City-Wide Road improvement program.

William Courchesne – Ward 7 candidate (unopposed) Did not submit answers.

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SPORTS

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Pacers shut out Colts

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

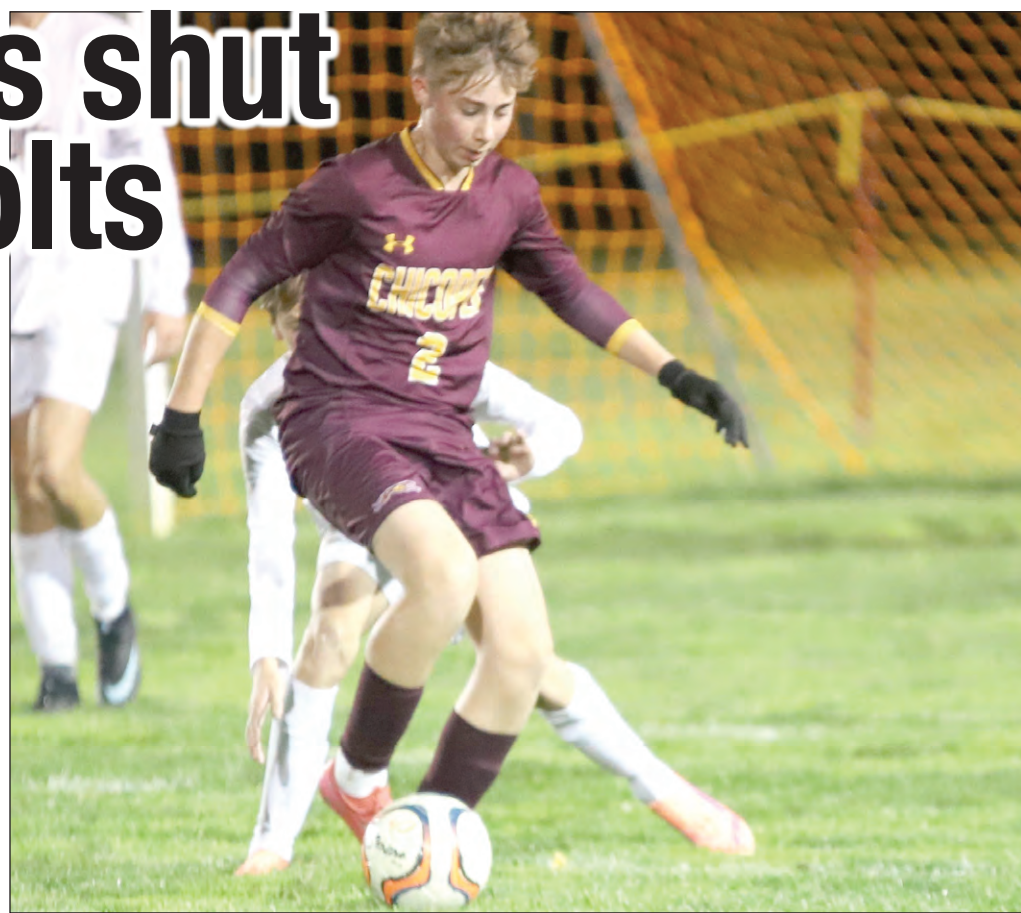
CHICOPEE— Bryce Roberson is one of the 11 seniors listed on the Chicopee High School boys' varsity soccer roster. He and his classmates were honored in a senior night ceremony held prior to the start of last Thursday rivalry match against Chicopee Comp.

It was a night that Roberson will probably remember for the rest of his life.

Roberson scored his first career varsity goal in the opening half. He also had an assist early in the second half, as the Pacers kept the Cup trophy for another year following a 9-0 shutout victory over the Colts at Sot Park.

"I've never started a varsity soccer game before tonight. When coach (Hugo) Destapado told me that I would be starting, it was just an amazing feeling," said Roberson, who's a third-year varsity player. "I'm also a defender and that's where I thought I would be playing, but coach told me that I would be a striker. It was just a very special night for me and my boys."

The other Pacers seniors are Abdulwahhab Alnuaimi, Tyler Hoar, Jason Gregoire, Dominic Garcia, Lucas Marcelino, Tiago Destapado, Travis Podolski, Yousif Hamid, Evan Tyrrell, Chris



Tyler Hoar is pressured near the Comp goal.

Guerra Ramirez, and Brandon Langevin.

"I've been coaching most of the seniors for a long time," coach Destapado said. "We've built a very special bond. That's probably the reason why we've been successful during the past couple of years. It has been a lot of fun coaching them."

It was also a memorable night for the Pacers varsity coach. His son, Tiago, is one of the Pacers seniors.

Chicopee High, who cruised to a 7-0 win in the first meeting of the regular season at Comp on September 22, had an impressive 12-1-2 overall

record following their final home match of the regular season.

While the Pacers players are looking forward to the upcoming Western Mass. Class B and the Division 3 state tournaments, it was a rebuilding season for Comp under first-year head coach Vincent Rodriguez. The Colts, who are scheduled to play two non-playoff games, finished the regular season with a 4-11-1 record.

"The kids played very hard in every game this season," Rodriguez said. "This

See **SOCCER** page 8



Evan Tyrrell tries to settle the bouncing ball.

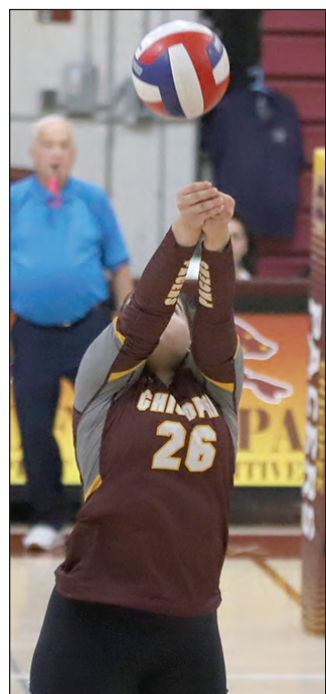
TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Antonio Marques Mauricio nearly collides with Comp's Finian Carter.

Pacers scored sweep of Commerce

CHICOPEE – Last Tuesday evening, Chicopee High School girls volleyball hosted Commerce and had got a 3-0 sweep of the Red Raiders. The Pacers would win three straight games to complete their regular season with a 7-11 record.



Isabele Torres bumps the ball back toward a teammate.



Hadassa Mattos bumps the ball back in bounds.



Thalia Villalongo tips the ball over the net.



Marta Medvedieva sends a spike over the net.



Camila Westry reaches out for a bump.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Matthew Perez attempts to make the reception



Adrian Gonzalez goes for the handoff.



Anthony Cabrera-Cavette kicks off for the Colts.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Colts remain undefeated heading key matchup

CHICOPEE – Last Friday night, Chicopee Comprehensive High School football defeated Pittsfield 44-6. It was yet another dominant victory for the Colts, who improved to a perfect 6-0, with five very dominant victories in Western Mass. Their sixth was a 13-6 win over Hopkinton early

in the year. Coming up this Friday night, Oct. 24 at 7 p.m., the Colts will have a Suburban South showdown with Agawam. Agawam has won four straight games, and like the Colts, are undefeated in conference play. The game could determine the conference champion this year.



Josiah Feliz avoids a tackle.

SPORTS

T-Birds come back to bash Bears

HERSHEY, PA – The Springfield Thunderbirds (1-2-0-0) rebounded in a big way from a defeat the night before as they dispatched the Hershey Bears (1-2-1-0) by a 5-1 score on Sunday inside Giant Center.

For the first time in the young season, Steve Konowalchuk's team finally vaulted to a lead at the 7:06 mark of the first period off a clean rush. Corey Schueneman carried the puck deep into the Hershey zone before slipping a perfect drop pass onto the blade of Jakub Stancl. The rookie connected off the inside of the post, beating Clay Stevenson on the stick side to give Springfield a 1-0 lead on Stancl's first professional tally.

Springfield dodged a dangerous chance from ex-Thunderbird Calle Rosen, who emerged from the penalty box and skated in on a breakaway against Vadim Zherenko, but Rosen missed the target on the blocker side.

Both teams failed to connect on power play chances, but Springfield was not done on the offensive end. With just 24 seconds left on the clock,

Hunter Skinner joined a rush, one-timing a Nikita Alexandrov pass through Stevenson to make it a 2-0 game into the intermission. Mat-



thew Peca also picked up an assist on the play for his first point of the season. In the process, the T-Birds captain became the first player in the T-Birds' 10-year history to record 200 points as a member of the Thunderbirds.

Zherenko stood tall through the opening half of the second period, with Hershey linking lengthy shifts in the offensive zone, threatening to cut into the Springfield lead. After surviving the onslaught, Otto Stenberg alertly spotted Matt Luff coming off the T-Birds' bench, and the veteran winger roofed a breakaway snapper over Stevenson's glove to make it a 3-0 score at 11:45.

Dalibor Dvorsky

joined the scoring party next at 14:11, as the 20-year-old got a fortunate bounce to cash in his first of the season. He was hoping to slip a pass to his left side, but the puck ricocheted right back onto his stick in the low slot, giving Stevenson no chance to defend it. Alexandrov picked up his second assist on the tally.

Hershey finally broke the four-goal blitz at 15:24 as Henrik Rybinski crashed the blue paint to chip a loose puck over Zherenko for his second goal in as many nights, cutting the margin to 4-1.

Still, the T-Birds offense was not finished, and with a power play in the closing minute, Theo Lindstein rifled home his first goal in the AHL with just 23 seconds left in the frame to make it a 5-1 score. Luff picked up his second point and Alexandrov garnered his third assist on the rookie's first North American tally.

Zherenko had a sizable lead, but the fourth-year pro slammed the door shut in the third, as Hershey failed to pierce the netminder on 14 third-period offerings. Zherenko has now stopped 47 of the last 49 shots he has faced.

SOCCER from page 7

is my first varsity coaching position and I'll never forget my first senior class. Chicopee High is probably the best team that we've played this year. I think the series will be a lot closer next year."

The Comp seniors, who played in the rivalry soccer match for the final time, are Orion Shearer, Chase Murphy, Andrew Courchesne, Dan Andriychuk, Dan Gauthier, Aiden Devlin, Mario Lavature, Blake Stetson, and Iakov Bulatov, who was the starting goalkeeper.

Last Thursday's contest was scoreless until the tenth minute of the opening half.

That's when Roberson took over the spotlight by firing a shot into the net past the Colts keeper, who made a diving attempt to make the save.

"It was just an unbelievable feeling after I scored my first goal," Roberson said. "I couldn't have done it without the help of my teammates."

After he scored the goal,

Roberson was mobbed by his teammates.

"The goal by Bryce was definitely the highlight of tonight's game for us," said Chicopee High junior Griffen Wrisley. "He's the fan favorite on our team and we were very excited for him."

Wrisley, who didn't start against Comp, will have to wait another year until his senior night, but the Pacers probably wouldn't have had a very successful season without having him on the field.

Wrisley recorded his 100th career point in a 2-0 home win against South Hadley on October 9.

"It was very special for me to share that moment with these guys last week," Wrisley, who has scored a team-leading 21 goals and has five assists this season. "This is just a very special team."

Wrisley, who entered the match following Roberson's goal, chipped in with a pair of first half goals.

The only Pacers underclassman who started on



Ali Al Zubaidi tries to pass to keep the ball away from an opponent

senior night was sophomore goalie Zach Yarovoy, who only made four saves in posting his fifth consecutive shut-out. Yarovoy was replaced in goal by freshman Faisal Aylan in the middle of the second half.

Garcia also scored a goal during the first half, as the Pacers held a commanding 4-0 halftime advantage.

Alnuaimi scored the Pacers first two goals of the second half.

The final three goals of the match were scored by Langevin, Tyrrell, and Guerra Ramirez.

It was a very memorable evening for the Pacers seniors, especially for Roberson.

Landon Sousa chases after a loose ball.



IN THE CITY

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 own-

er 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 lifelong 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 of 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



A side view of the craft fair room.

CRAFT FAIR from page 1

came back." Davey then told us that she had lacerated two tendons and a nerve in her wrist, which was the last day she ever felt her right hand, which led her down a long, winding road of recovery, and then inspiration sparked from a simple text message sent to her telling her, "I'm proud of you."

"That was the change of my universe that day, and then I got into candles," Davey said. "And I always wanted to do self-care boxes, and this journey has taught me a way of finding a new value in life, so I remembered to focus on what I can control, which gave me a sense of power inside myself." Davey then revealed that her candles are based on internal and emotional feelings.

"My first three are titled 'born to thrive', 'pure harmony', and 'feels like home'," she said. "It also got a point that when everyone asked me how I was feeling, I would tell them I was 'surviving', and that led to another being titled surviving." Davey then noted that her business only continued to grow at that moment, while touching upon the importance of being a small business owner and understanding the value of how to raise awareness for events that are beneficial to supporting a great cause, such as Relay for Life.

"Now I have only 17 different fragrances, and when my business grew, I started



The Relay for Life table with one of the sponsors.



Danielle Moreira, the business owner of Dandycrochetgoods.

doing custom orders for charities, for police departments, and fundraisers as well," Davey said. "To me, it's really important to put your name out there, and to also let people know that small businesses always support each other, and understand we're in this together, and it's really important to be here to bring awareness to the continued fight, that occurs daily, and it's just a huge honor to be

part of this event and receive an invite."

In addition, those who attended were treated to a variety of festivities, such as lunch provided by the Moose Family Center, along with a plethora of 50/50 raffles. All proceeds from raffles and food went towards benefiting the American Cancer Society, Quaboag Valley Relay for Life.



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HEADQUARTERS from page 1

Brooks identified the first issue as finding an appropriate space for the School Department. The second point he made regarded the commitment made to breathing life back into Chicopee Center.

"I think the two will be able to be melded together for one common good, and that will be to make the downtown an attractive place to not only live but work and frequent and patronize shops in the general area of where that building is supposed to be," Brooks said.

Ward 9 Councilor Mary

Beth Costello was thrilled as well. She noted that this would mark a major improvement compared to anything she saw for the School Department during her 24 years as a School Committee member.

"We were on 180 Broadway; that was not handicap accessible. That was a problem. Then, we had to go to Dulong. We didn't purchase the building, so we're paying high rent and have been paying high rent for a long time. So, this is a big, big deal for the city of Chicopee. It's an investment that will pay off in favor of the taxpayers for

years to come," Costello said.

Laflamme also supports the potential purchase, but explained in detail why he would like to see it discussed by the Finance Committee before Vieau is authorized to make the purchase.

"I don't want to get into a big debate tonight. I don't think this is the proper place," Laflamme said. "I'm in favor of doing it, but I do have other questions. I think the city councilors should all have our say on the city part, then the School Department have theirs... I'll set up a meeting right away sending it to finance."

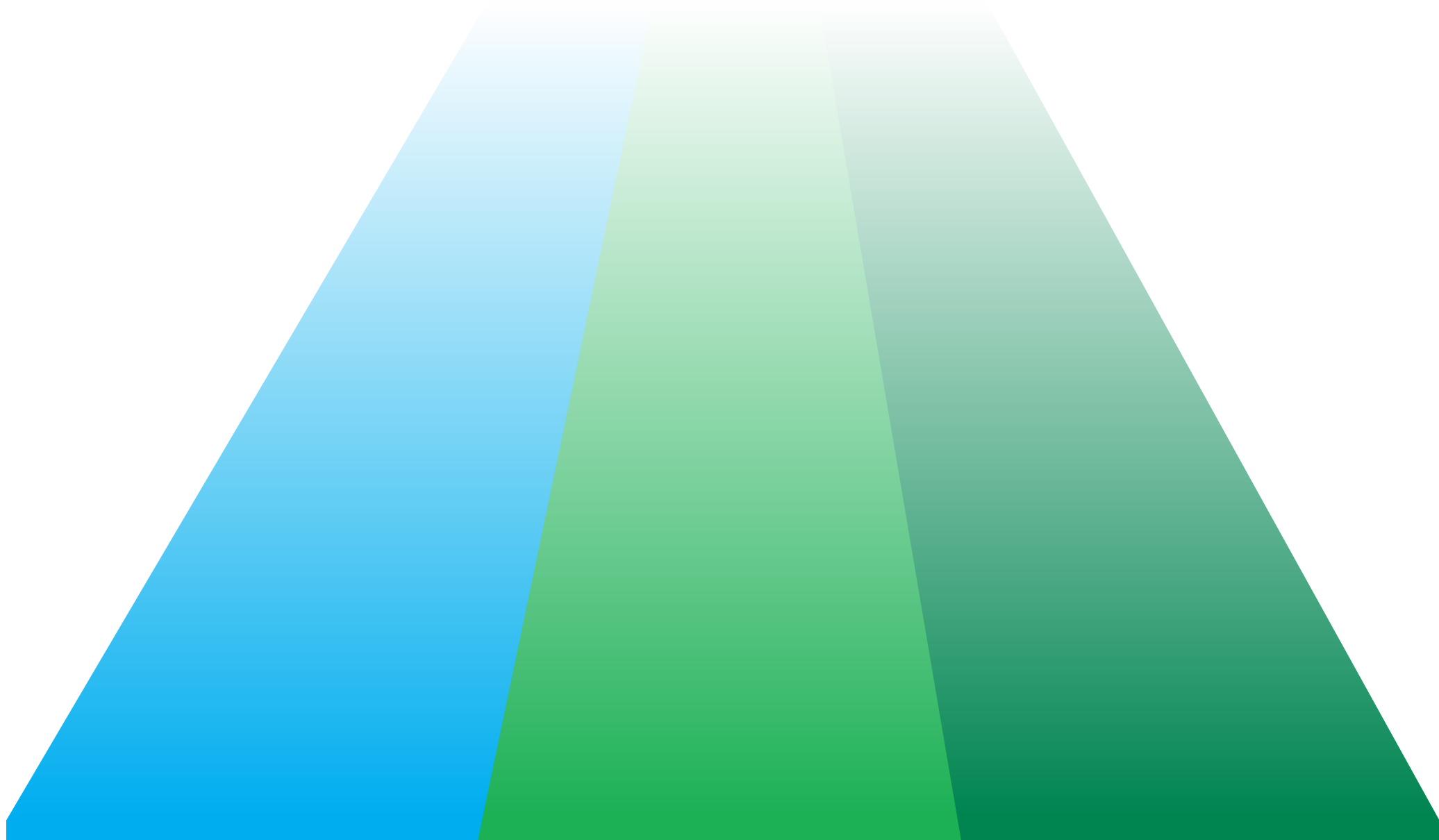
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OBITUARIES

Edward A. Fontaine



Edward Armand Fontaine, 86, of South Windsor, beloved husband of the late Louise (Cusson) died peacefully on Monday, September 29, 2025, at Manchester Memorial Hospital.

Edward was born in Chicopee, MA, on November 1, 1938, son of the late Alcide and Bertha (Tanguay) Fontaine. He grew up in Chicopee and was a graduate of Holyoke Catholic High School. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Mount St. Mary's University. Edward served our country with the U.S. Navy. He worked in the industrial manufacturing industry as a research engineer for most of his career.



Edward enjoyed hunting, fishing, golf, and spending time with his large family.

He leaves his son, Matthew E. Fontaine and his wife Tania of Midway, GA, and their children Margaret and William, his son, Marc H. Jeffries and his wife Tracey of Lemoore, CA, and their children and grandchildren, his daughter,

Mary E. Jackson and her husband Kent of Southwick, MA, and their children Connor and Mackenzie, and his sister Pauline Bourque of Chicopee, MA. He was predeceased by nine siblings.

His family will re-

DEATH NOTICE

Edward A. Fontaine
Died: Sept. 29, 2025
Services: Nov. 8, 2025
Samsel & Carmon
Funeral Home,
South Windsor., CT

ceive friends on Saturday, November 8, 2025, from 9 to 10 a.m., at the Samsel & Carmon Funeral Home, 419 Buckland Rd., South Windsor. A Celebration of Life will begin in the funeral home at 10am. Burial with Military Honors will follow at Saint Rose De Lima Cemetery in Chicopee, MA. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the American Legion. For online condolences please visit www.carmonfuneral-home.com.

YOUR HEALTH from page 4

what needs to happen next.

Spouses are generally assumed to be the patient's representative in hospital settings, but if you are not married, it's wise to ask your loved one to complete a HIPAA authorization so your status as the patient representative is crystal clear. This also comes in handy if a situation arises where you have to advocate for them.

4. Know the right questions to ask.

The cardiologist will likely answer all of these questions, but it's important to understand and jot down the responses, particularly if the doctor seems rushed.

In addition to instructions about dietary changes and cardiac rehabilitation, ask the following:

What exercise is OK to do and what should not be done during recovery from a heart attack?

How will their heart condition be monitored on an ongoing basis (echocardiograms, stress tests, etc.)?

What are the chances of another heart attack after having one?

What symptoms should we watch for to indicate another heart attack?

How long before your loved one can return to their job?

5. Help them follow doctor's orders.

Your loved one will likely come home with some new medications, dietary modifications and an appointment for cardiac rehabilitation. Cardiac rehab is a critical component of their recovery. Typically, a heart attack patient can't drive for a few weeks following their hospital stay, so make yourself available as a chauffeur.

A heart attack is sometimes a bucket of cold water telling the patient that they have to make some lifestyle changes to ensure their

heart gets healthy and stays healthy. Encourage your loved one to follow the doctor's recommendations, and maybe try some new recipes.

But don't nag them. Instead, tell them you need for them to comply with the doctor's recommendations because you love them and you want them to stick around as long as possible. Otherwise, your heart may break.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of Northshore Patient Advocates LLC (NShore). She is also founder and CEO of Nurse Advocate Entrepreneur, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD25P2085EA
Estate of:
Joaquina A Bergeron
Date of Death: 06/20/2025
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 Debra A Augusto of Amherst, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Debra A Augusto of Amherst, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection

at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/06/2025. 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 09, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
10/24/2025

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

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on October 24th 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.

2015 Chevrolet Cruze
VIN: 1G1PC5SBXF7300025
Daina Nicole Fonseca - Cruz
50 Hillside St., Apt. A15
East Hartford, CT 06108

196 Chevrolet S10

VIN: 1GCDT19W5T8190955
Seconda Sharif Washington
49 W 225th St., Apt. 7G
Bronx, NY 10463
10/10, 10/17, 10/24/2025

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

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on November 7th, 2025 at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2011 Hyundai Tucson
VIN: KM8JUCAC8BU226118
Melania Hasiuk
95 East St. S.
Suffield, CT 06078

2003 GMC Sierra K1500
VIN: 2GTEK19V931303419
Mathias, Shelya M
15 Noyes Ave.
Providence, RI 02907

2015 Chevrolet Cruze
VIN: 1G1PA5SG9F7103896
Jose Lebron Santos
385 Wolcott St.
Waterbury, CT 06705

2000 Lexus GS 300
VIN: JT8BD68S3Y0097047
Muhammad Memon
126 Matianuck Ave.
Windsor, CT 06095

2002 Mercedes Benz S500
VIN: WDBNG75JX2A228255
Dean Holliday
416 Fairview Ave.
Bridgeport, CT 06606

2010 Toyota Corolla
VIN: 2T1BU4EE8AC255172
Miguel Castaneda
PO Box 1304
Dudley, MA 01571

2007 Acura TSX
VIN: JH4CL96997C019247
Desray King
127 Dickinson St., Apt. 21
Springfield, MA 01108
10/24, 10/31, 11/07/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court

Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103

Docket No.
HD25P2119GD
In the interests of
Kamila Merced
of Chicopee, MA
Minor

NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor

NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. **Hearing Date/Time:** A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 10/14/2025 by Rosa Merced of Springfield, MA will be held 11/17/2025 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing. Located: 50 State St., 4th Floor, Springfield, MA 01103.

2. **Response to Petition:** You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the Court; and

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

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

4. **Counsel for Parents:** If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

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

Date: October 14, 2025

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
10/24/2025

INVITATION FOR BID CHICOPEE ELECTRIC LIGHT

725 FRONT STREET,
CHICOPEE, MA 01020

BID NO. CEL #39
ISSUE DATE:
OCTOBER 17, 2025

Sealed proposals are being accepted for: "SURPLUS POLY-MOUNT DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS FOR SALE"

Inquiry forms may be picked up at the business office located at 725 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01020, between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday. It is the intent of Chicopee Electric Light to award by Lump Sum.

BID OPENING DATE, TIME AND LOCATION: **Thursday, November 13, 2025 at 2:00 P.M.** at Chicopee Electric Light, 725 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01020-1778.

BIDS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED IN DUPLICATE, SEALED IN AN ENVELOPE, CLEARLY MARKED WITH THE INQUIRY NUMBER AND TITLE. Proposals must be returned on or before the time specified. Postmarks will not be accepted. Bids will be received at the business office or by mail at Chicopee Electric Light, 725 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01020.

The Department reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or to accept any proposal that in the opinion of the Municipal Light Board, is in the best interest of Chicopee Electric Light.

Is your firm a: **MBE WBE** (please circle) MBE/WBE firms must be currently certified by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

INQUIRY NUMBER:
CEL #39

TITLE: "SURPLUS POLY-MOUNT DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS FOR SALE"

Natalie Colberg, Purchasing
10/24/2025

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

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on October 31st, 2025 at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2007 Jeep Liberty Sport
VIN: 1J4GL48K37W705041
Richard Blair
122 Bates Rd.
Westfield, MA 01085

2005 Infiniti FX35
VIN: JNRAS08W75X216594
Beverly Thornicroft
8 Winter St.
Lexington, MA 02420

2007 Honda Civic
VIN: 2HGFA15527H506535
Nicholas Werthessen
91 Pleasant St., Apt. D9
Medfield, MA 02052

1986 Mercedes 300 SDL
VIN: WDBCB25D1GA264698
Roman Kotsaba
95 County St.
Norwalk, CT 06851

2006 Acura TSX
VIN: JH4CL96806C008093
Madeline Sanjurjo
275 Main St., Apt. 21
Indian Orchard, MA 01151

2016 Subaru Legacy
VIN: 4S3BNAD68G3002893
Austin Trindade
231 Pine Swamp Rd.
Cumberland, RI 02864

1998 Chevrolet S10
VIN: 1GCCS1449WK185009
Carlos Cruz Gonite
24 N East St., Apt. 1A
Holyoke, MA 01040
10/17, 10/24, 10/31/2025



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

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ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

**Our advertisers make this publication possible.
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Chicopee Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

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Donald Roy **(860) 874-8396**

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Call Paul **413-206-8688.**

WANTED

SERVICES WANTED

NEED SNOWPLOWING THIS WINTER for 350' gravel driveway by 9 a.m. in Belchertown on Old Bay Road. Call **413-687-1090.**

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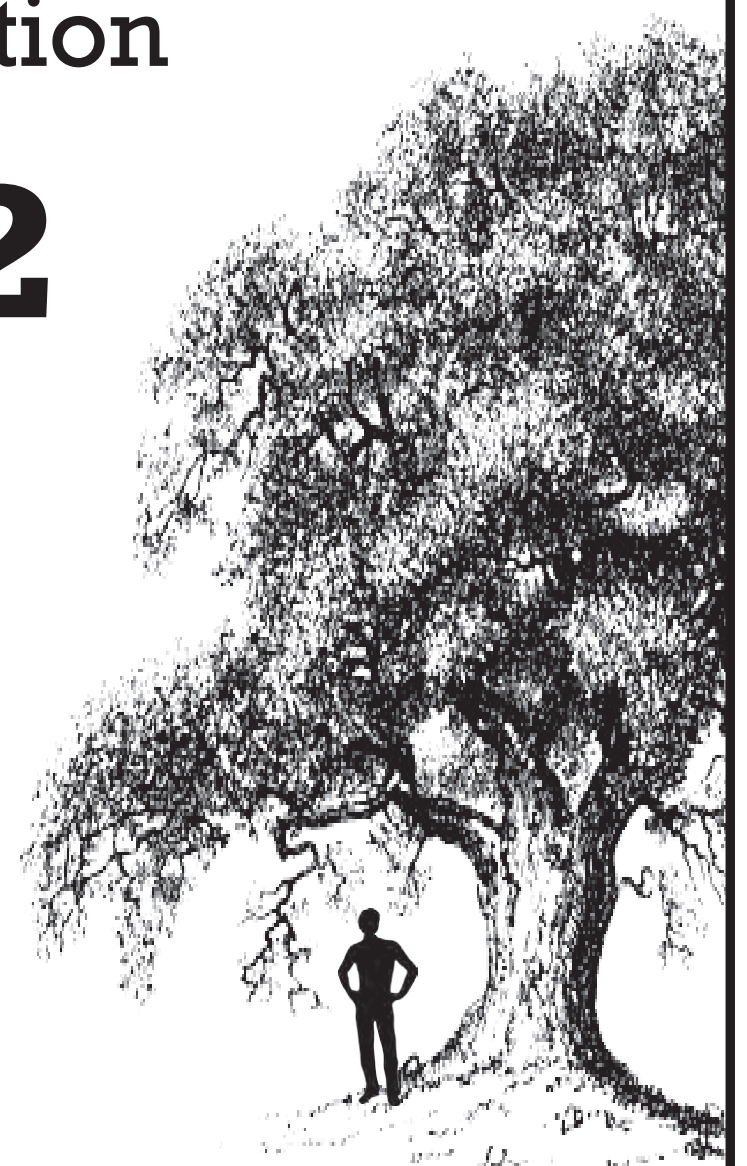
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