

# Chicopee Register

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COMMUNITY

## Vieau versus López

2023 mayoral election is Nov. 7

By Dalton Zbierski  
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Mayor John Vieau



Delmarina López

CHICOPEE -- Election Day is right around the corner, and on Nov. 7 Chicopee voters can cast a ballot for incumbent Mayor John Vieau or his challenger, Ward 3 City Councilor Delmarina López. Both candidates bring unique knowledge and experience to the table. After months of campaigning, either Vieau or López will prevail as the Mayor of Chicopee.

**Background and qualifications**

Vieau, 53, was first elected as mayor in November 2019 and was re-elected two years later. A real estate appraiser for MassDOT by trade, Vieau has accumulated 25 years of public service, first as a five-year member of the Planning Board and then as a 16-year member of the City Council, representing Ward 3.

Vieau holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from UMass-Amherst, has been involved in multi-million-dollar development projects and served on the board of the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee and Lorraine's Soup Kitchen & Pantry.

"I think that speaks volumes when it comes to running a city with a \$241 million budget. I think you need someone who has experience, and I feel I have the capability to continue to lead Chicopee, a city with so much

potential. We're heading in the right direction," Vieau said.

From the construction of the two high schools to the creation of a new state-of-the-art senior center, Vieau has contributed to numerous infrastructure projects in the city.

"I'm proud to have my name on some of the major projects Chicopee's been able to do over the years," he said.

López, 27, turns 28 this month. She was first elected to the City Council in 2021 and serves Ward 3.

López is an attorney and earned her law degree from the Western New England University School of Law in 2020. She's served as an adjunct professor for the Justice Studies Program at Bay Path University since March 2021.

López said that being an attorney has trained her to ask the right questions.

"I'm able to understand ordinances and our processes. I know how to negotiate," López said. "I know that will be extremely helpful when it comes to union contract negotiations and on a daily basis, as I work with the stakeholders to ensure the best

possible solutions for our city."

She is also the founder and CEO of Delmarina López Consulting, established in March 2021.

"Small businesses are my bread and butter. I understand small businesses like the back of my hand," she said. "That's what I do every day; I help small businesses thrive. I help them from the ground up; from getting all their necessary items to become a business to strategies of how to grow. As the mayor, I'll be able to use those skills to strengthen our own local economy."

**Goals over the next two years**

If elected mayor, López said she will have an independent audit conducted, following an error with insurance premiums that lost the city approximately \$230,000.

"Our city needs it. Our residents deserve that. I'm not going to put my hands in without knowing what it is that I'm dealing with. I want a full, independent, external audit," López said.

López also hopes to reopen contract negotiations for members of the police department. She said entry level officers in Chicopee get paid upwards of 26% less than the next lowest paid department in the region.

"With that difference in pay, we're unable to hire new officers," she said. "Some of our new officers who were recently paid have already left. In the past few weeks, we've lost numerous officers."

López said she recently dis-

See **MAYORAL RACE** page 10

COMMUNITY

## Thousands attend Spooktacular at Szot Park



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

Chicopee Register Staff Writer Kristin Rivers passed out candy and newspapers to children, teens and adults at the Spooktacular last week.

By Dalton Zbierski  
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CHICOPEE -- Several thousand people attended the Halloween Spooktacular at Szot Park on the evening of Oct. 26, as dozens of small businesses and local vendors passed out candy to children and teens dressed in a range of creative costumes.

Preparations for the Spooktacular began months ago. The event was organized

by the Mayor's Office and coordinated by Chloe Soto, Mayor John Vieau's communications and special projects manager.

The weather could not have been better. The sun shined throughout the 4-7 p.m. event, and summer-like temperatures prevailed.

Fire Capt. Katie Kalbaugh attends the Spooktacular every October. She explained why the event is so successful.

"It gets the community to-

See **SPOOKTACULAR** page 7

COMMUNITY

## Chicopee Comp Student Council celebrates Halloween with 'Haunted Hallways'

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer  
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CHICOPEE -- Families visited Chicopee Comprehensive High School from 5 - 7 p.m. on Oct. 27 to celebrate Halloween with the "Haunted Hallways" event.

Throughout the event, costumed students from the high school's Student Council oversaw a variety of activities, including witch hat ring toss, designing trick or treat bags, a picture station with hay bales donated by McKinstry Farms, arts and crafts with making pumpkins and ghosts, face painting, being transformed into a mummy and more.

English Teachers Elizabeth Bouyea and Alison Allegresso are co-advisers of the Student Council, explaining the students wanted to offer a free event for kids in the community while encouraging the faculty's children to participate.

Bouyea said holding the event also benefits the students.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Dakota Janik, Anish Patel, dressed up like dinosaurs, and Juan Feliciano, as Scooby Doo, give two thumbs up at their snack table during the Haunted Hallways event at Chicopee Comprehensive High School.

"I think it's really important for students to get involved with the city that they live in or the community that they reside in and to see them interact with kids is really beneficial," Bouyea said.

Allegresso loves seeing the

students, staff and community coming together outside the school day.

"I think it allows the kids to get a glimpse into our lives and us a chance to see what them and their families are like," Allegresso said.



(L to R) Elizabeth Bouyea, co-adviser of Student Council and English teacher at Chicopee Comprehensive High School, Keira O'Sullivan, Alison Allegresso, co-adviser of Student Council and English teacher at Chicopee Comprehensive High School, Makayala Van Buren, Izabela Tabor and Matthew Nabors smile for a group photo. O'Sullivan, Van Buren, Tabor and Nabors serve as officers on the Student Council.

Both teachers said the Student Council is all about school spirit, making the school day fun for the students and giving back to the community.

"It's a good way to make kids excited to come to school and do something a little bit dif-

ferent," Allegresso said. "And to have it be a positive experience," Bouyea said.

Savannah Banning and Juliana Gadouas dressed up as the

See **HAUNTED HALLWAYS** page 7



# City Council candidates' questionnaire

CHICOPEE – On Nov. 7, 18 candidates will run to fill 13 openings on the City Council. Candidates were delivered the following questions, and 14 were able to respond. Each answer has a 150-word limit.

**Question 1** - What inspires/motivates you to serve as a member of the City Council and represent constituents in the city of Chicopee?

**Question 2** - What goals do you bring to the position and how do you plan to accomplish them?

**Question 3** - How can the City Council improve as a body and how would you contribute to this improvement across the board?

**Question 4** - What makes you unique and the right person for this position?

**Question 5** - Communication is key. Please describe how you will communicate effectively with your constituents and fellow City Councilors.

**Frank Laflamme – At-Large candidate**

**Q1:** It has been my honor to serve the residents of Chicopee as their City Councilor At-Large these last 14 years. During this time, we have accomplished a lot together, such as new schools and libraries, investments in key infrastructure like roads, sidewalks, and Crossroads Fiber and the welcoming of new businesses and jobs to our city. I am passionate about our great city of Chicopee and serving you – my friends and neighbors on the City Council. I am also proud to have been elected as the President of the City Council by my colleagues on the Council. I ask for your vote on Nov. 7 to keep moving Chicopee forward.



**Q2:** As President of the City Council, I have worked hard to support our ward councilors as they advocate for our constituents. I hope to continue and expand on that collaboration as we address the needs of our residents. Whether it be addressing potholes on streets or tackling the challenges of keep-

ing Chicopee an affordable place to live, we must continue to work together to get things done.

In a new term, I hope to work with the mayor and City Council to secure the redevelopment of the Uniroyal property, continue to support our Public Safety, further revitalize our downtown with targeted investments, support our schools as we move to build a new Barry Elementary and do all this while continuing to look out for the best interests of our taxpayers.

**Q3:** City Council is an important body in city government, and for us to be successful we must work together. As President of the City Council, I have worked with ward councilors to get things done for our constituents – and I have tried to provide a platform for respectful debate and disagreement, while focusing on areas we agree to get things done for Chicopee. Even though some councilors may have real disagreements about important issues, there should be mutual effort to find common ground wherever we can. As President, that is the kind of leadership I will continue to provide as long as I shall serve.

**Q4:** I have a blend of real world and government experience that has delivered results for my constituents. With 14 years of experience on the City Council, I know how to work and be effective for my constituents. I work with other councilors, department heads and the mayor to get things done and have a long track record of success. I also have worked as a Facilities Foreman for 35 years, where I have gained important expertise that allows me to look out for our taxpayers' best interest when making decisions for Chicopee. Whether it be deciding which vehicle makes the most sense for the DPW to purchase or how to address the long-term capital needs of the city, I have a unique perspective on how to make sure our taxpayers get the best bang for their buck.

**Q5:** I will continue to listen to residents' concerns by answering phone calls, emails, attending neighborhood meetings, or visiting constituents' homes to address their needs. I pride myself on being an open and

accessible representative for our residents and I pledge to continue if reelected to a new term.

**Joel McAuliffe – At-Large candidate**

**Q1:** I was born to teenage parents and I always felt that had I not grown up in Chicopee, I wouldn't have gotten the fair shake at life that I did. Teachers, community members, family and friends here in Chicopee changed my life, and I have made it my life's work to do what I can to repay the favor. Serving you on the City Council has been my life's greatest honor, and I'm running for City Council At-Large to keep working on the progress we have made together. From Crossroads Fiber and a new post 9/11 Memorial Park – to record funding for our schools, public safety and infrastructure, Chicopee is moving in the right direction. We have the chance to win the future, let's keep going!



**Q2:** Chicopee needs to start acting like the big city that it is. We are the second largest city west of Worcester, but you would never know it based on the gridlock caused by some obstructionist members on the City Council. Chicopee has missed out on major economic development projects because some councilors would rather score cheap political points than do what is right for the city long-term. We need to grow as a city so that we can generate more commercial tax revenue, which in turn will allow us to lower residential property taxes and increase city services. My goal is for Chicopee to be a smart growth community that properly balances the needs of our residents with the demands of a competitive economy.

**Q3:** I led the fight on the City Council to create the Charter Review Committee, which looked at our city's charter and ordinances to determine what changes should be made to modernize city government. The City Council should take deliberate action to implement the findings of the commission and pursue others to make the city run most effectively. The City Council is the legislative body of the city, and I would like to see it be more aggressive in pursuing these changes that would modernize our city government.

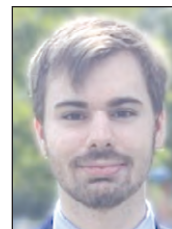
**Q4:** With a decade of experience in state and local government and a Master's degree in Public Administration, I have both the education and real world experience to continue to be an effective City Councilor. It is how I was able to work with city leaders to make Crossroads Fiber a reality, work with state legislators to secure funding for our seniors and how we were to build the first new park in Chicopee in decades. Being a City Councilor is about more than just talking, it is about actually accomplishing things for the people you represent. I have a proven track record of doing that.

**Q5:** My first term, I authored legislation to stream our City Council meetings on social media so that our meetings were open and accessible to people in a transparent way. I hold ward meetings regularly and have held several open forums for people to ask me questions and engage in conversation. I knock doors and answer phone calls and emails – all in an effort to hear directly from the people I represent.

On the Council - I have an exceptional relationship with my colleagues whose respect I have worked hard to gain. We work together on issues we agree – and where we disagree, we work to find common ground. I believe in working with my colleagues to help them represent their constituents to the best of their ability and to use my skills and background to make the council as a whole effective.

**Tim Wagner – At-Large candidate**

**Q1:** As my father liked to tell me, "Public Service is about People." I think that sums up my view on why I'm running



for the City Council. Ultimately, the job of the government is to improve the quality of life of the residents of the people we represent, and I think that I can do that. And I hope over my two years on the School Committee that I have made that clear. It is the people that motivate me to keep going in my current position and that motivate me to run for the Council.

**Q2:** I hesitate to make promises on things that can happen during one term of office, especially someone's first term in a position. So, I've tried to avoid making specific policy guarantees. But my goals are this: To be someone voters feel they can trust to advocate on their behalf, to be someone who will always be transparent and honest with the residents and to try to foster an environment of teamwork and collaboration when spending taxpayer dollars and voting on taxpayer issues. To that end, I will work with whoever the administration is, whatever resident or group of residents come to me and with the other members of the City Council acting collectively on the issues before us. We can only accomplish things when we work as a team.

**Q3:** I hate to bring this sort of thing up, but sometimes the council members could be kinder to each other during the meetings. We can't have members shout over one another or saying they look forward to each other leaving or getting off the board, that's just not appropriate. We need more people to call for civility and decorum during these heated sessions and to try to be on their best behavior. I have tried to do this and promote this way of thinking on the School Committee, I think with decent success, and for the most part that board has a wonderful working relationship. I hope to try to bring this way of thinking to the Council if the voters elect me in November.

**Q4:** I think my long and varied history in government despite being only 20 years old sets me apart. I am the youngest elected School Committee member since former State Rep. Ken Lemanski over 30 years ago. I also have interned for the now State Sen. Jake Oliveira and in Hampden District Attorney Anthony Gulluni's office. I have served as a member of the Chicopee Historical Commission and formerly as the Vice Chair of the Charter Review Commission. In my senior year in high school, I was also the student representative to the School Committee before being elected to the Ward 1 seat after my graduation. I think I have a breadth of experience that has helped me prepare for this position as a councilor at-large.

**Q5:** As I like to mention, I think being responsive and open with constituents is our main priority. To that end, I have made it a point to respond to all of my constituents calls and emails and tried my best to always get their concerns addressed. If I were elected At-Large to the Council I think that collaborating with each ward representative and learning from all the tenured members would be an important thing to do. Experience can never be discounted, and I would do my best to talk with all the members to learn the lay of the land.

**Robert Zygarowski – At-Large candidate**

**Q1:** I've been a city councilor for 20 years and spent 30 years in the police department, doing the DARE program. I feel I have the knowledge on both the police department and municipal government and think my experience says it all. People know me, they know I return my calls, I care about the city, I care about the council. People have said they hope I run again because they want me there. I follow up on everything and never promise anybody anything, but I always tell them I will explore it, find out if I can do it. If I can do it, I will tell you. If I can't do it, I will tell you. I've been vice president of the council twice; my first four years and now with Councilor Laflamme as president. We're a good team and, with the other coun-



See **CITY COUNCIL** page 8

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## School Committee candidates' questionnaire

CHICOPEE -- As this year's city election draws near, we reached out to the candidates running for the School Committee to learn more about their goals and aspirations. All the candidates are running unopposed and were delivered the following questions. Seven were able to respond. Each answer has a 150-word limit.

**Question 1** – What inspired you to run for the School Committee

**Question 2** – What is one major goal you hope to accomplish in the next two years?

**Question 3** – Name one improvement you would like to see

**Susan Szetela Lopes – At-Large candidate**  
(Did not submit answers)

**Deanna Rousseau – Ward 1 candidate**

**Q1:** As a lifelong Chicopee resident and homeowner, I saw an opportunity to give back to my community. I am a proud product of the Chicopee Public Schools, which laid the foundation for me to pursue a career as a finance professional and Certified Public Accountant. I am eager to utilize those skills and background on the School Committee, working with my colleagues to ensure our schools are financially stable, while also ensuring our school system provides the best opportunities for our students to thrive and excel.



I hope to use my private sector experience and community mindset to build stronger relationships between the School Committee, parents, teachers, students and the broader community. While also ensuring that our schools remain a place where faculty and students are treated with dignity, respect and where all students can learn in an inclusive environment which empowers them to shape their future communities.

**Q2:** My overarching goal is to ensure our district is a progressive one that equips students for their future, not our past. Our schools must be dynamic and forward-thinking.

To achieve this, I'm dedicated to ensuring that our schools have access to modern and accessible classroom tools and resources. This encompasses not only technological advancements but also culturally relevant instruction and communication with families. We need an educational approach that embraces diversity and caters to the ever-evolving needs of our student population.

Engaging in discussions with faculty and stakeholders is essential, with a focus on talent attraction and retention. Retaining our teachers and staff is key to building a forward-thinking district that benefits from continuity and delivers a better education. By cultivating a progressive learning environment with modern tools and robust programs, we empower both educators and students. This approach guarantees our students are well-prepared for future challenges and opportunities.

**Q3:** As a new School Committee Member, I plan to focus on communication. My goal is to ensure we are focusing on the best interests of the students and in order to do that, I plan to ensure there is open communication with those directly affected by the decisions inducing parents, teachers, students and broader community members. In regards to community, collaboration with businesses and colleges is key to ensuring

students have the opportunity to gain real-world skills and experiences. By fostering a culture with open communication, in addition to my professional, personal, and morale values, I hope to build trust, enhance transparency, and work collaboratively to ensure the best outcomes for students, faculty, parents and the community. I am eager and excited to play my part in shaping the future of Chicopee's education system and working with all stakeholders to make it the best it can be.

**David Barsalou – Ward 2 candidate**

**Q1:** I grew up in a political household. My dad served four terms on the Chicopee City Council, always believing that public service was a higher calling. My dad was also a teacher, inspiring me to go to college and follow in his footsteps.



As my own career in education was coming to a close, I decided that my experiences in the classroom could benefit the citizens of Chicopee. I'm thankful that I made that initial decision to run. It is most important that our students continue to receive a first-rate education emphasizing life-long learning, which is the key to success.

**Q2:** I would like to see the Chicopee Public Schools continue to embrace advanced technologies at all grade levels. America is also in danger of falling further behind in Math, English, and Science. These issues need to be addressed immediately. K-12 History and Social Studies classes also need to be a statewide priority.

**Q3:** I wish there were a way to bring back all of the many passionate and caring Chicopee teachers who were systematically driven out of the district over the last few years. That could help to begin the healing within our schools. Which would be the greatest improvement of all.

**Jason Dout – Ward 3 candidate**  
(Did not submit answers)

**Sandra Peret – Ward 4 candidate**

**Q1:** I had been elected to the School Committee before I was married, then stepped away to start my family. When my daughter was in grade school, I started to go to meetings again and felt that it was time for me to run in my ward. I wanted to be involved because it seemed parents' voices were not being heard. I lost that first election but kept trying and I have been proud to represent Ward 4. I offer residents the time to voice their concerns or ask questions at monthly office hours at the city library.



**Q2:** The major goal is to continue to offer for every student in the city an equal opportunity to a quality education. For me, that means having a school system that supports all of our students from the youngest to the oldest, with the staffing to meet their needs on their educational journey.

**Q3:** The completion of adding air conditioning to all the schools must be one of the priorities. This would allow the students equal access to a comfortable learning environment. This would eliminate the need to cancel school because some of our buildings are too hot for the students and staff. All of our students and staff need to be in an environment that is conducive to learning and

teaching. This should be equal across all of our schools.

**Grace Schofield – Ward 5 candidate**

**Q1:** Being passionate about education has forever been a priority for me. I always felt blessed to have worked with students in concert with their families. As a lifelong learner, I gained as much knowledge from my students as, hopefully, they have from their time spent in my classes. Upon retiring after 38 years in the classroom, I believed I could bring a different perspective to the School Committee. Drawing from my background knowledge, varied experience, coupled with my enthusiasm I felt using these attributes would be valuable to a committee member. This led to my desire to continue contributing to educating Chicopee's children. These are factors that have inspired me to run for the School Committee.



**Q2:** Working collaboratively with the members of the School Committee. It is my hope that individuals will know Chicopee as a district where all are accepted and able to authentically participate academically. Additionally, our district will continually strive to meet social-emotional learning while being inclusive and adaptive to the needs of all learners as well as staff.

**Q3:** Addressing the concerns of my constituents, as well as staff concerns, is how improvement can be achieved. One focus has been examining possible avenues to improve our high schools so they are promoting the best pathways for all students' success. One factor of this would be to examine how we can improve involvement with sports. Currently, the committee will be observing current practices and searching for ways to facilitate maximum participation.

**Carlton Sonny Brooks, Jr. – Ward 6 candidate**

**Q1:** I decided to run for the open Ward 6 School Committee seat to continue the work done by the previous officeholder(s). I feel like I am uniquely qualified for the position based on my



15 years of experience working in the district, primarily at Edward Bellamy Middle School. I believe that experience has given me an unparalleled insight to the challenges facing our students every day. I am hopeful that I can utilize that perspective to enhance the learning experience of all students while being a contributing member of the committee.

**Q2:** One of my top priorities will be my desire to ensure that all students receive the necessary tools they need to be successful all while remaining within the budgetary confines outlined in each of the next two fiscal year's budget.

**Q3:** While I believe that the city has one of the finest school districts in the region, there are always opportunities for improvements. I look forward to working with Dr. Ware and his team to enhance the educational experience for not only Ward 6 students but all CPS students. It is my hope that my efforts reflect positively on all of the residents here in Ward 6.

**Donald Lamothe – Ward 7 candidate**

**Q1:** When I first ran for office, the School Department was considering building a new Chicopee Comp with a much smaller vocational department. As a lab manager in a heavy trade environment, I knew how critical the need for trade employees had become and was willing to argue with whom ever I needed to keep the programs it had and add trade programs, if possible. Welders were difficult to find and that was one of the programs on the list for elimination.



**Q2:** In the last year, schools all over the valley are struggling to hire and keep qualified teachers. I encouraged the superintendent and the rest of the School Committee to reopen the wage part of the contract in hopes that our goodwill gesture would make our teachers realize they are valued and encourage them to stay. I'd like to see this be the first step to improving the contract for our teachers.

**Q3:** The School Committee currently has five career educators. They have the

See **SCHOOL COMMITTEE** page 11

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Print, mail or pick-up and sign your own initiative petition to limit technological radiation

To the Editor,

RadLimits at Last Tree Laws, hereafter called Last Tree Laws, is conducting a voter signature drive to obtain more than 80,000 signatures to put a proposed law on the Massachusetts ballot allowing voters to decide whether to limit technological radiation, including wireless emitted from devices and cell towers.

The proposed law is meant to serve as a stop-gap on further wireless infrastructure while a two-year commission investigates public and environmental health impacts and makes recommendations. The commission would include representatives of small business, major unions, medical and scientific experts. In addition, the proposal requires monitoring cell towers, limiting radiation from technology to the minimum, allowing non-wireless utility meters and investing in public wired IT and telecommunications infrastructure.

Because of the great numbers of signatures needed, Last Tree Laws is asking that concerned voters help by getting a petition for themselves from the lasttreelaws.com website either by mail, by printing an online PDF, or by connecting with a petition signature collection or pick-up location. Even one signature from one voter would be welcome. Most ballot committees collect signatures with paid or volunteer assistance in person, but Last Tree Laws is a small operation without the funds or physical capacity, and so instead is relying on the internet and press to coordinate signatures.

Further instructions are online for signing and returning petitions. For example, the state does not allow any other markings on petitions, such as highlighting or coffee stains, and each petition can only be for one town. After petitions are signed, they must be delivered or mailed to town clerks to arrive by or before Nov. 22 at 5 p.m. for voter signatures to be verified.

Last Tree Laws is also seeking and welcomes volunteers to help contact and collect petitions from town clerks after verification to the secretary of state by Dec. 6. If interested, please use the online form on the website at lasttreelaws.com/count or contact Last Tree Laws at elm@lasttreelaws.com.

Last Tree Laws has two other certified initiative petitions - one for privacy rights and another for a more transparent, fair legislature - but will not collect signatures for these petitions this year. Instead, Last Tree Laws welcomes feedback online on how to improve the content of these petitions.

**Kirstin Beatty**  
Holyoke  
Chair of RadLimits at Last Tree Laws  
Chair of Fair legislature at  
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## GUEST COLUMN



### The questions keep coming

I continue to receive a number of questions each week.

It's encouraging that there is so much interest in gardening even as this season is coming to an end. Here are the quandaries we have for this week:

Myrtle still has an abundance of green tomatoes left on the plants in her small gardening plot. "Are my tomatoes still OK to be outside? When I've picked them green in the past I remember putting them in a paper bag to ripen. Is that better than just leaving them on the counter? Mine are mostly cherries and I have quite a few! I looked online and it says to put them in a bag with an apple, but I don't recall using an apple the last time I did this. I sometimes find that advice from the internet gets confusing - too many options! Also, I was wondering what you thought of trying to root the tomato branches that have flowers. Maybe I could grow them inside for the winter."

Lucky you to still have tomato branches with flowers, let alone those with tomatoes on them! I am impressed.

With frost imminent, I typically allow green tomatoes to ripen single layer in trays or cardboard boxes - something that can "breathe," unlike plastic bags or containers. A paper bag sounds like a fine option too.

The reason for the apple is so that it will emit ethylene gas and hasten the ripening process. Bananas can be used in place of the apple.

There is some controversy about what temperature tomatoes should be kept at to ripen, but it would make sense that ripening would occur at warmer temperatures versus cooler - tomatoes are tropical plants. Typical household temps around 70 degrees are just

right.

As far as rooting flowering branches, it would be a fun experiment and tomato stems do root readily. Usually when we take cuttings, we prefer them not to be in flower, though, as it hinders rooting to some degree.

Try it; I'd love to hear how it works out. If they root, keep in mind that winter light is not as bright as summer light. It might be hard to keep the plants growing well inside.

Sylvia, who gardens in Ware, wrote in with this question:

"My beautiful lush morning glory vine doesn't have any buds, let alone blossoms! I fear we will have frost soon. Do you have any idea why this failed? I started four little plants in June, lots of rain, no fertilizer, soil so-so with some compost added during growth and that's it for care."

My first thought is that your soil is too rich. You said no fertilizer, but maybe the compost was enough to increase fertility, and nitrogen especially, in such a way that you ended up with all that lush foliage but no flowers.

Morning glories are related to bind weed - that pesky weed that tangles around my garden fence and just about anything else it can get its tendrils on. Try to pull it up and the thick white roots break and new plants pop up.

How does this relate? Well, it sort of proves that morning glories prefer soil that isn't so rich.

Another thought is that you have a late flowering variety! Honest!

Some varieties take a long time to flower. One variety that I know grows well and flowers on the early side is an heirloom by the name of Grandpa Ott's.

Give it a try and you'll be pleasantly surprised by the dark purple flowers with reddish centers.

One thing you didn't mention in your note was exposure; morning glories do need to be planted in full sun in order to flower. I do hope this helps!

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



### Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

Send letters to: **The Chicopee Register**,  
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or email [chicopeeregister@turley.com](mailto:chicopeeregister@turley.com).  
The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

### WE CARE ABOUT YOUR NEWS!

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

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# Weapons and drugs seized in Chicopee narcotics investigation

CHICOPEE -- On Oct. 24, the Hampden District Attorney's Office reported that two suspects are under arrest after an intensive investigation by Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni's S.A.F.E. Taskforce and the Chicopee Police Department's Narcotics Unit into the trafficking of narcotics from 126 Casino Avenue in Chicopee.

Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni stated, "I thank the members of my office's S.A.F.E. Unit, the Chicopee Police Department, and our other partner agencies for their partnership in this investigation and in our shared work of safer communities."

Gulluni went on to say, "We will continue to fight the battle against opiates and addiction by arresting those who wish to profit from this disease. We will keep fighting, we will continue to hold those responsible to account, and we'll continue to rely on the public's support for the women and men of law enforcement who are all working to promote safer communities for all."

The two suspects, Jose Martinez, 49, and Leonilde Rivera, 57, both of Chicopee, have been charged with: Drug Trafficking Over 200 Grams of Heroin/Fentanyl, Drug trafficking over 200 grams cocaine, and drug possession of a class B substance.

Both suspects are the subject of a recent joint investigation between D.A. Gulluni's S.A.F.E. Taskforce and the Chicopee Police Department's Narcotics Unit into an alleged drug trafficking operation being run out of 126 Casino Avenue. Officers developed information that the two suspects would be traveling out of state to procure trafficking-weight narcotics.

Based on that intelligence, on Oct.



Three Kilos of suspected fentanyl and three Kilos of Cocaine were seized in a recent Chicopee narcotics investigation.

21, 2023, members of the S.A.F.E. Task Force, Hampden County Narcotics Task Force, Chicopee Narcotics Bureau and the Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit assigned to the Hampden District Attorney's Office, initiated a traffic stop on I-90 in West Springfield where the suspects were taken into custody and the vehicle they were operating seized.

Search warrants were granted for both the vehicle and 126 Casino Avenue in Chicopee. The search of the vehicle revealed three kilograms of suspected fentanyl and three kilograms of cocaine. A search of 126 Casino Avenue and three AR-15 style weapons and three handguns, one of which was a ghost gun and another



In addition to drugs, three AR-15 style weapons were seized recently in Chicopee.

which had a switch to convert to a fully automatic weapon, were located inside the home.

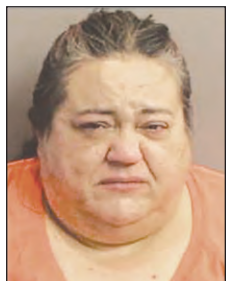
Both suspects were arraigned yesterday in Springfield District Court. Martinez was held on \$75,000 cash bail, a motion to revoke bail in another case was approved. He is currently awaiting trial in a robbery case in which he was armed. Rivera is currently held on \$50,000 cash bail. Both are scheduled to appear in court again on Nov. 21.

Assisting in the execution of the search warrants were: Hampden District Attorney Gulluni's SAFE Unit, which is comprised of officers from: Chicopee, Springfield, Holyoke, West Springfield,

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE HAMPDEN DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



Jose Martinez



Leonilde Rivera

East Longmeadow, Southampton, Hampden County Sheriff's Department, and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms, along with the Hampden County Narcotics Taskforce, and Chicopee Police Department's Narcotics.

## Chicopee Parade Committee's 70th anniversary tickets available

CHICOPEE -- Tickets are now available for the Chicopee Parade Committee's 70th anniversary celebration, which will be held on Friday, Nov. 17, at 6:30 p.m., at the Portuguese American Club, 149 Exchange St., Chicopee. Cost is \$35 in advance and \$45 at the door (\$60 per couple in advance and \$70 per couple at the door). They may be purchased by contacting any committee member, or through EventBrite, under "Chicopee Parade Committee."

The public is invited. Also attending the celebration will be past and present presidents, parade marshals, award recipients, colleens, court members and committee members. Memorabilia and displays depicting the committee's history will be available to view. Appetizers will be served, and there will be Irish music and entertainment by Irish step dancers.

The Committee was formed in 1954 to organize the Chicopee contingent in the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade. A few years later, Judith Buckley rode on a float as Chicopee's first Colleen. Originally selected through popular public vote, the system was changed to the current contest

and coronation process in the 1960's. A "Court" of four members was added soon after due to the popularity of the contest, which has always been open to young women of all ethnic backgrounds.

Other awards bestowed by the Parade Committee over the years include the Parade Marshal; the Woods Award, which recognizes an outstanding committee member; and the Atkinson Award, given to a person or organization in the community who lends support to the committee. Occasionally, the Meara Award is given to one or more residents who perform an act of heroism.

The Committee meets throughout the year, and new members are always welcome. Anyone interested may contact the Committee through its Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/chicopeespc/>, or website at [www.chicopeespc.com](http://www.chicopeespc.com).

## Chicopee is searching for snow removal contractors

CHICOPEE -- The City of Chicopee Department of Public Works is searching for snow removal contractors for the 2023/2024 winter season. Contact the DPW for more information (413) 594-3557.

Snowplow Rates: G.V.W. Rating (from plate on vehicle)

TRUCKS: (Includes Plow & Fuel)	RATE PER VEH/PER HOUR
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Loader (Greater than 25,001 GVWR)	\$160

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# 2023 Chicopee Thriller 5K conjures holiday fun for a good cause



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS  
Students from Vibe Dance Center do their own rendition of the “Thriller” dance as participants watch during the 2023 Chicopee Thriller 5K Road Race & Walk in Chicopee. In addition to the race, there were trunk-or-treats and a Kids Fun Run.



Melissa Breor, executive director of the Chicopee Chamber of Commerce, dressed as a bee, Wes Dominique as Cinnamon Toast Crunch and Nadeem Sikandar, director of Continuing Education and Career Center at the Valley Opportunity Council, smile for a group photo during the 2023 Chicopee Thriller 5K Road Race & Walk after-party

Half the proceeds support VOC’s Continuing Education & Career Center

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer  
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE -- Residents decked out in Halloween costumes came out in full force on Oct. 28 for the 2023 Chicopee Thriller 5K Road Race & Walk.

This year’s top runners were Tim Sears with a run time of 16 minutes, 48 seconds and Robin Hernandez with a run time of 24 minutes, 34 seconds.

The event, now in its third year, took place at Grise Funeral Home and was hosted by the Chicopee Chamber of Commerce, with sponsors including N. Riley Construction, Health New England, Polish National Credit Union, HUB International, Holyoke Medical Center and more.

Additionally, participants enjoyed trunk-or-treats from Train for Life, Westfield Bank, Melha Shriners and Vibe Dance Center, a Kids Fun Run and a “Thriller” dance performance from Vibe Dance Center’s students.

State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee) served as the announcer, sending off the participants.

Afterward, participants enjoyed an afterparty at Rumbleseat Bar & Grille, with awards given out for best individual and group costumes.

Melissa Breor, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce, was thrilled to see so many people come out for the event, explaining the event supports a different nonprofit every year.

“It’s really nice for the chamber to do an event that’s for the community,” Breor said. “So, we see a lot of families, a lot of folks from the neighborhood kind of come out and show up to support a cause and just kind of be part of their community.”

Breor added the event helps raise the profile of community organizations.

“Funding is one piece, but really just kind of making sure that the community knows all of the services that are available here in Chicopee,” Breor said.

See **THRILLER** page 13

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## THANKSGIVING REVIEWS

“Hi Paul, she was great! Lots of plump meat and just enough fat to help prevent her from drying out. We will be having leftovers for a very long time.”  
— **Beth from Belchertown**

“Everyone loved it. Absolutely perfect. I was planning on stopping by between now and Christmas to thank you. You beat me to it. We’ll definitely see you next year.”  
— **Greg from West Springfield**

“It was absolutely **AMAZING!** This was the first time ever brining a turkey and then I followed your cooking directions on your website. It was perfect cooking it low and slow.”  
— **Kelly from Ludlow**

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## BUSINESS GIFTS

“We tried Liberty for our gift program this year. I had one employee thank me five times.”  
**Kevin Sullivan  
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Vinny Delvalle, Rachel Riley and Brutus the Dog dressed up as Geppetto, Jiminy Cricket and Pinocchio at the 2023 Chicopee Thriller 5K Road Race & Walk on Oct. 28. The group also won the Group Costume prize at the event



# IN THE CITY



(L to R) Emily Desroches, Madelyn Rice, School Committee Member Samuel Shumsky and City Councilor Shane Brooks passed out donuts to kids and teens at the Spooktacular.



Jelitza Torres and Rachel Beaulieu had a great time showing off the Bookmobile at the Spooktacular.



Members of the fire department had a blast passing out candy to youths at the Spooktacular Oct. 26.

## SPOOKTACULAR from page 1

gether in a fun, positive and safe environment. We put a lot of planning into it so it's a safe event for everybody. We have activities of all varieties, and we just have fun together," Kalbaugh said.

The fire department was one of many entities with a table set up at the Spooktacular. Kalbaugh said the event is particularly meaningful for emergency personnel, as it offers an invaluable opportunity to engage with young residents in a non-emergency situation.

Kalbaugh was also impressed by the spirit of collaboration.

"That's the best part," she said. "Our departments get to interact with each other, we get to interact with the community, and the kids get to see the best of every department, every city entity and every community entity that comes in here."

Chicopee Public Library Community Service Librarian Rachel Beaulieu drove the Bookmobile to Szot Park for the occasion. She loved seeing children and teens express their creativity with their costumes

and said seeing everyone come together was "spooktacular."

Beaulieu, also known as the "Bookmbrarian", explained the importance of bringing the Bookmobile to events such as last Thursday's.

"To have the Bookmobile at this event and all city events is always such a fantastic way to extend all the resources the library has," she said. "I can't tell you how many people are shocked at the inside of the Bookmobile and our online resources and just how far the library will go for its patrons and its community."

Ward 6 School Committee Member Samuel Shumsky, who is running unopposed for City Council, said the annual tradition is great for the community. He noted that this year's Spooktacular was perhaps the biggest in the city's history.

"It's just really an awesome event. I can't say enough positive things about the Mayor's Office for hosting this and all the Chicopee departments who got together to help put this together and all the vendors who came out. Everyone really put in their effort to make it a great event," Shumsky

said.

As a youth, Shumsky would celebrate Halloween by trick-or-treating around his neighborhood before heading over to his aunt and uncle's house to watch "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown".

On Oct. 26, Shumsky passed out donuts to trick-or-treaters. He said trick-or-treating has changed since he was a kid and has become safer; he is happy that events like the Spooktacular bring out the city's best.

"This is really a way to make sure (trick-or-treating is) 100% safe and to make sure people can engage with others from around the community," Shumsky said. "Our Emergency Management Director Glenn Joslyn is doing a great job... I see all the officers controlling the area, making sure everyone is safe. It really is a collaboration between departments, and it's seamless."

Director of Food Services Melanie Wilk brought the Food Truck to the Spooktacular, and it served as a "mystery machine".

All children and adults who came

through the line received a free hot dog, bag of chips and juice.

Wilk said she enjoys looking at the costumes and all the creativity. She noted that residents came out in droves and was thrilled to see thousands of people in attendance.

"It's such a fun event. It's probably my favorite event of the year," Wilk said. "I kept saying, this is the most organized event that I've been a part of in a while. I just feel like the line has never been too long or too slow moving. It's really spread out so it's nice because there's so much to do in so many areas of the park. It doesn't feel crowded or chaotic."

Capt. Doug Lambert of the police department said it's "absolutely important" for youths to meet everyone in the city and participate in the event in one place at one time; he also described Szot Park as an incredible host.

"Szot Park is an amazing location for the community to gather and have a good time, and everybody's safe. It's a great opportunity," he said.

## HAUNTED HALLWAY from page 1

character Robin from "Stranger Things" and a pirate, respectively, for the event and oversaw the witch hat ring toss.

Both juniors, Banning and Gadouas said the event is an opportunity to give back while showing younger kids what they do at the high school.

"It feels nice to give back to a city that's tried its best to educate me and prepare me for the real world. I feel it's the least I can do," Banning said.

"Especially because so many of the kids' parents are teachers at some of the schools in Chicopee, so being able to give back to their kids for how they treated us when we were that age," Gadouas added.

Amanda Malone came with her family after hearing about it on the mayor's Facebook page, explaining she was looking for an event that wasn't just candy driven.

"This sounded like a lot of fun with all the projects and the activities going on. It's always good to support the local school," Malone said.

Malone said her family are huge fans of Halloween and did all the crafts, the Frankenstein bowling, face painting and more. They appreciate the high school holding an event like this for families.

"It's really nice to have family-driven events that are earlier in the day and with fun activities for kids that they can get their hands in and get messy and just have fun," Malone said. "Safe events are always a plus."

Gadouas encourages the community to watch for future events held by the high schools and support them.

"We do events like this a lot, whether it's fundraisers, food drives or community



Savannah Banning and Juliana Gadouas pose at the witch ring toss game they're overseeing during the Haunted Hallways event at Chicopee Comprehensive High School.



Jackie the mascot, representing the Student Council, gets in the Halloween spirit with a vampire cape during the Haunted Hallways event at Chicopee Comprehensive High School.

activities for the kids, and so just to look out for what you can bring your kids to," Gadouas said.

Bouyea and Allegresso expressed gratitude for the huge turnout and community support.

"We're thankful that they came. We are hoping that they're having a great time," Allegresso said.

"I'm glad they came, and I hope that they'll come back next year if we do it again," Bouyea said.

Keira O'Sullivan, as a cowgirl, Izayah Santana, a cowboy, and Madelyn Rice, a hippie help Nico, dressed as a dragon, and Teddy, an astronaut, create their own trick or treat bags during the Haunted Hallways event.





# IN THE CITY

## CITY COUNCIL from page 2

cilors, we run a good council.

**Q2:** What I plan to do in the next two years if the people put me back in office is to continue with the experience and knowledge that I've learned over 20 years. I'm constantly learning. Unfortunately, a good friend of mine, Councilor Tillotson, is retiring. I used to call him all the time. He has a wealth of knowledge, so I make good use of it. I don't always agree with it, but I research what the problem is. If someone has a question, I tell them I will give them an answer. I think with my experience of working with all the department heads in the city, I have a good sense of cooperation and I get things done.

**Q3:** I can help improve the board with my communication skills. With the other councilors, we have our ups and downs. We can't always agree. I don't always agree with my fellow councilor but try to visualize what they're up against or talking about. I will give them my opinion. I feel that my experience with over 50 years in government has given me the knowledge of how to do it. Communication is extremely important, and people who know me know I return my calls and try to do the best I can. I'm available seven days a week. I try to go wherever I can to get the people what they're paying for.

**Q4:** It's experience. When I first got on 20 years ago, I ran for vice president with (president) Keith Rattell, and we ran a good council for four years. I feel now with the knowledge I've accumulated over those 20 years I am in a better position to serve. I am vice president for Councilor Laflamme, and we make a good team. He has 14 years on the council; I have 20. Together, we can work with the rest of the council, the mayor and department heads in a spirit of cooperation to get things done. We don't always agree, but at least we'll give people an honest opinion. Unfortunately, I can't always get it done because it's beyond my realm of what's going on in city government, but a lot of it depends on what is being asked. I can do simple things and work on big things.

**Q5:** When they call me, I try to give them a direct answer, and if I can't give them an answer, I say I will get back to you. I tell them I'll get you an answer, you might not always like it, but I'll tell you the truth. I'm not going to beat around the bush so to speak. We have a lot of projects going on in the city, and people have asked me about them. Uniroyal is a major project going on in the city. The mayor and council are working on it, there are potential investors in it, and we'll see what happens. I don't say this will happen or that will happen. I try to put myself in their spot and communicate with them in a positive way. Bringing in economic development to the city is important to me, the council and the mayor.

### Sean Goonan – At-Large candidate

**Q1:** This is my third time running for city council-at-large and I am motivated more than ever to make my ideas for the city a reality and help those who feel they do not have a say in the trajectory of the city have a voice on the City Council. I would be grateful to have this opportunity and will not squander it.



**Q2:** I will significantly improve pedestrian (and motorist) safety by creating ordinances that mandate better crosswalks across the city and redesign roads to slow cars down. I will improve the tree canopy by requiring the tree warden to replace any city trees cut down with two new trees within one year. I will improve neighborhoods by reforming the zoning ordinances to better protect residential areas and bolster neighborhood centers with mixed-use business/residential buildings. My focus is promoting small businesses, mom-and-pop stores, and mid-size business for the future vitality of Chicopee. Further large strip box-store/drive-thru developments are not the way to go in Chicopee. I aim to expand city green space by preserving areas for conservation, like the Slate Road Conservation Area as well as various other small and large locations. I also think the budget can be scruti-

nized more, with a more public-friendly explanation of how taxes are spent.

**Q3:** I have a strong knowledge of the City Code and its ordinances, and I'll use this knowledge to make City Council meetings go smoother. There seems to be a lot of confusion lately on the council and endless back and forth fighting over even small procedural issues. I think this is getting in the way of accomplishing much bigger things that need to be done to improve the city. We need more civic engagement, and I will fight for better public notification and citizen input at meetings.

**Q4:** As I was talking about, the City Council is the legislative body of the city government and is responsible for the City Code, which is the blueprint for the city. I am the right person for a city council position because I can see the big picture and the smallest of details of the City Code, and I can seek out inconsistencies in the Code and ways to improve it. I am also 100% independent and I believe in straightforward transparency. No ulterior motives will plague my decisions. I'm open to hearing viewpoints from all people of the city.

**Q5:** I am eager to hear people's concerns through email, phone call, text and in-person communication. I will also most likely be providing some updates on city matters myself through social media, I will host informal town hall meetings from time to time. I'll make it easier for constituents to keep up with developments in the city by requesting that the official city website be better utilized and updated more frequently, and if this request isn't pursued then I'll pursue legislation. With 13 members on the City Council, nothing gets done by one lone person, and I hope to work with the rest of the council to accomplish many things.

### Jerry Roy – At-Large candidate (Did not submit answers)

### Abigail Arriaga – Ward 1 candidate

**Q1:** My children serve as a constant source of inspiration for me. I strive to create a stable and secure environment for them. The neighborhoods and schools have won my heart, and I am grateful for the decision to settle down here. I aim to be a positive and effective voice for Ward 1, representing our community in a way that truly reflects their needs and aspirations. I am confident that we can overcome any obstacles and build a promising future.



**Q2:** My objective is to guarantee a secure community for all residents. Emphasizing public safety is of utmost importance to me. The alarming increase in pedestrian fatalities requires immediate attention. As a mother of a middle school and high school student, I highly value the significance of education. It is our responsibility to ensure that students have the necessary tools and resources for their success.

By familiarizing myself with each matter, I can make informed decisions. As a councilor, I will be readily accessible and will hold regular office hours to address any concerns or inquiries.

**Q3:** I aim to collaborate with my colleagues as it is through our collective efforts that we can effectively contribute to the prosperity of our community. We are here to advocate for our community and must remain attentive and supportive. I aim to contribute to the City Council by offering a fresh perspective and being receptive to new ideas. We need to prioritize our people and ensure their voices are heard. Let us come together and pool our resources, knowledge and skills to create a thriving community that benefits us all.

**Q4:** As a mother of two, I have witnessed the impact of our community on children. My goal is to advocate for children and their families to ensure they have access to necessary resources. As a homeowner, I understand the financial strain of cost-of-living increases on our community. I will utilize my personal experience to develop effective solutions to address these issues. Collaborating with my colleagues, I will bring my life's experience to the table to create better

outcomes for our community.

**Q5:** As a representative for Ward 1, it is my responsibility to ensure that my constituents are heard, and their needs are addressed. I believe that an open-door policy is essential in achieving this goal. By keeping the lines of communication open, I can better understand the concerns and issues facing my community and work towards finding solutions. I plan to maintain strong connections with local and state officials, to ensure successful growth of our community. It is crucial to stay connected with colleagues and communicate effectively.

### James Tanhauser, Jr. – Ward 1 candidate

**Q1:** From an early age, my family instilled a strong sense of pride for Chicopee. From understanding the historical and modern importance of Westover Air Reserve Base to a simple love for a local small business establishment, I was raised with a core awareness of Chicopee's potential as a place for an individual to live, raise a family and succeed in any career path they may aspire to. My motivation to serve comes from my optimism in the future. I know Chicopee is doing well, but its untapped potential is truly what intrigues me to staying involved and continue contributing to my best abilities.



**Q2:** By serving Ward 1 constituents through financial prudence, we can create opportunity for stronger investments into our city.

If done efficiently, we can ensure more competitive salaries for our first responders and educators, both of which we are losing to surrounding towns and communities. We properly find the professions, but do we properly fund the professionals?

Carrying on with the "financial watchdog" philosophy of past city leaders will also allow for a renewed, modern mindset towards revitalization with a focus on family fun entertainment and recreation. To enjoy most local activities, you have to leave Chicopee and visit a surrounding town. I believe we should work hard to curb this trend.

**Q3:** Local media has highlighted a recent increase in heated disagreement amongst the Council body. However, if elected, I'm confident in my rapport with our current elected officials to provide a "net-positive" influence to city government. We all disagree at some point, but strong communication and a mutual commitment to Chicopee are two major keys in ensuring disagreement does not escalate into discourse that lacks professionalism and/or productivity. We are all elected with the common goal to improve the city we love.

**Q4:** I am a product of Ward 1, and my resume of public service speaks to that. I lived in Ward 1 my entire life. From preschool to 12th grade, I attended Chicopee Public Schools. Through a high school internship, I had the opportunity to work in the Mayor's Office and help plan multiple city events, including "Bright Nights for Seniors" and the Tree Lighting Ceremony. My experience as a School Committee Representative has also provided me with the experience necessary to hit the ground running and bring immediate ideas and solutions to the table. Ward 1 deserves a councilor that has the experience to confidently advocate for the best interests of today's constituents while also having the drive and investment in our ward's future.

**Q5:** My communication will be just as consistent as it was during my School Committee tenure. After meetings, I will stream live post-meeting recaps to answer questions and offer further transparency in our city government. In general, our campaign has always been active on social media to stay plugged in with our constituents and community. As always, my phone, email and schedule are there for any constituents or city leaders to make time for productive/informative conversation.

My in-meeting communication has always been done in a way to effectively stand up for constituents, while also being clear and detailed with my colleagues.

### Shane Brooks – Ward 2 candidate (Unopposed)

**Q1:** I have had the pleasure of representing the voters of Ward 2 for the past 10 years. With that being said, my motivation to serve doesn't change from one election cycle to the next, as it is all about connecting with the voters and hearing not only their concerns but their ideas for a better ward and a better Chicopee. I feel like the constituent feedback that I have received has been mostly positive as well as insightful when it comes to the challenges we all face in the city of Chicopee.



**Q2:** My goals would be to continue to work with the current administration to advance the progress that the city has experienced over the last four years. As we all are well aware, the COVID pandemic has adversely affected so many areas of our lives. It is my hope that the city, under the leadership of the current administration, can continue the process of what is being defined as the new normal. The city was able to offer all essential services during pandemic. My top goals will be to continue to build upon the momentum that has been started with things like-

- Filling vacant store fronts
- Infrastructure improvements
- Fiscal Stability
- Fully funded schools
- Maintaining one of the lowest tax rates in the region

This can be accomplished with collaboration exhibited by all of the local governmental stakeholders.

**Q3:** I think the Council can improve its efficiency with better preparation for challenging issues that appear on our agendas each month. For example, some members will raise concerns about issue "X" during the televised meeting rather than reaching out to department heads with clarifying questions prior to meetings. Anytime I have reached out to a department head I have always received clarifying answers to any questions I have had.

**Q4:** I am a proud graduate of the Chicopee Public Schools system and I hold an MBA in finance from American International College, I am also the Vice President of the Gandara Mental Health Center in Springfield. My experience and skill sets with budgets and policy in the private sector translates well into the public sector.

**Q5:** Constituent work is at the heart of the primary responsibilities for the position. Being only one of 13 votes on the council, it is imperative that we communicate effectively to advance the interests of our respective wards and in the case of the at large members the interests of the city as a whole. Communication is paramount to all of our successes.

### Susan Goff – Ward 3 candidate

**Q1:** I have lived in Chicopee most of my life and have owned my home in Ward 3 for close to 40 years. The direction the city has taken is extremely concerning.



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. The key word here being SERVE.

I am an advocate for open and honest communication, treating everyone with dignity and respect, working hard and finding solutions, together.

I have worked on a few key issues with the city that has affected my neighborhood and found it very difficult to find documentation, responsible parties and solutions. Most people would give up trying to maneuver their way through the maze of dead ends. I do not give up. I lead with my love for Chicopee, my home.

**Q2:** (Goals) -Development and implementation of a new community safety and wellness program to prevent and address

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# IN THE CITY

## CITY COUNCIL from page 8

neighborhood public safety concerns that do not require law enforcement. Impute through monthly community meeting.

-Working with the DOT to Reduce speeds not only on main streets but many of our side streets by installing speed cushions.

-Use grant monies to upgrade parks and open space creating all-inclusive play areas, for adults and Children of all ages and of all abilities.

-Create partnerships to build neighborhood-based businesses, reinvest in underutilized commercial space, and encourage job creation in low-to-moderate income neighborhoods

-Develop and implement a plan to monitor neighborhood conditions, enhance information sharing with the public and engage residents in strategies to promote neighborhood vitality.

-Research, develop and implement a new records management process for official city documents and records, including budgeting software. Identify more efficient ways to enhance transparency and accessibility.

**Q3:** A growing number of cities are creating handbooks that help council members (and the public) better understand city government and council members' roles and responsibilities.

In addition, cities are adopting ground rules for council meetings that extend beyond procedural rules and address expectations and guidelines for council member conduct. Council members should leave personal agendas outside the door and work for the greater good.

Understand that comments made outside of chambers that degrade or embarrass any member of society will not tolerated and only harm the reputation of the city.

Accept different positions. Recognize that your colleagues were also elected, just as you were and deserve the same level of respect for having run and won.

The values I bring to the City Council are Dignity, Respect and no personal gain from my position. I do what is right. Not what is easy!

**Q4:** I have owned my home in Chicopee for close to 40 years. Taxpayers are my number one priority in protecting how our tax dollars are spent. Increasing the tax revenue taking some of the burden off the Taxpayer. Applying for the right grants to help pay for projects that impact our tax dollars.

I have a degree in Business, owned my own small business and specialize in computer applications for business/finance. A few of my current job duties include running an organization of over 200 employees, keeping track of who joins and those no longer with the organization. I handle finances of the organization and have experience with budgets/contracting. I also make sure state and local contracts are renewed and updated documentation is provided for that organization. Extensive experience with spread sheets.

I have knowledge with all aspects of Business and can bring many skills to the city.

**Q5:** If elected, I will hold office hours at least once a month, answer emails and phone calls and work with department heads and other City Council members to enact the measures necessary to find solutions to your concerns. I will keep you informed at all times and let you know how every step of the way where things stand and what the next steps are.

### Lucjan Galecki – Ward 3 candidate

**Q1:** I enjoy helping people, I believe Chicopee residents deserve an easily accessible representative, and I've been asked by many people to run again.

**Q2:** I plan to be a team player; that's one of my strengths. It's easier to get things done when the council works as a team.

**Q3:** Sometimes, the City Council can be divided based on certain issues. I've been known to be a good mediator.

**Q4:** My experience working in many different lines of work makes me unique; I've worked in restaurants, medical field,



construction, equipment operator, tree work, small business owner and even as a lifeguard for the Chicopee Parks Department. Chicopee is very diverse, and the residents work all kinds of different jobs. My work experience allows me to be able to see things from different points of view.

**Q5:** When I was a councilor, I was known for being easy to contact. I'll communicate with both the residents and councilors to make sure we keep things as smooth as possible.

### George Balakier – Ward 4 candidate (Unopposed)

**Q1:** I am a lifelong resident of Ward 4. I have had the privilege of bearing witness to many changes and improvements to the city over the years. We are currently on the cusp of great economic developments, such as with projects at Uniroyal and Cabotville. I am inspired daily by the hardworking residents of Chicopee and want to continue to make an impact on the city and represent the constituents of Ward 4 and the city as we work towards these improvements for generations to come.

**Q2:** My goals are to continue to make Chicopee a better place to live, work and raise a family. I plan to accomplish and uphold this vision by supporting public safety, infrastructure improvements, economic development, fair tax rate for homeowners and small businesses and neighborhood street repair by working in partnership with department heads, the Mayor's Office, City Council members and through state and federal grants/funding.

**Q3:** The City Council can improve as a body by listening and working together on many pressing city issues and working with constituents and department heads along with the Mayor's Office. I believe that I can contribute to these improvements by continuing to work with my fellow councilors as chair and a member of select committees and a contributing member to the whole council.

**Q4:** I believe that my background in banking/finance, real estate and strong communication skills collectively qualify me to be a successful city councilor. I have been honored to serve on several subcommittees over my tenure. I have served as the chair of the Zoning Subcommittee for the past four years and have also been on the American Rescue Plan Act City Committee, helping to appropriate millions of dollars for the benefit of the city, for the past two years. These two roles have garnished challenges but have ultimately been rewarding.

**Q5:** I have honorably served the constituents and fellow city councilors for the past three terms and know that communication is a key part of serving in office. My philosophy is that I am very approachable through personal communications, let it be in person, phone, mail and email. I have excellent communication skills in approaching department heads, the Mayor's Office and fellow city councilors and following through with issues until they are investigated and/or resolved and parties are notified of resolutions.

### Frederick Krampits – Ward 5 candidate (Unopposed – did not submit answers)

### Samuel Shumsky – Ward 6 candidate (Unopposed)

**Q1 – N/A**

**Q2:** (Goals) -Promoting considerate development, such as new local restaurants, could affect residents' quality of life in a cultural, healthful, flavorful and positive manner.

-Support City Mobile and desktop apps that allow residents self-service capabilities to pay bills and access city meetings

-Live transmissions of all subcommittee and board meetings for improved transparency and to serve as a link between residents and our city governance

-Fresh ideas for our city amenities like pickleball to our city parks

**Q3:** For a city council to improve



as a body, several key areas can be addressed and improved upon. Firstly, fostering effective communication among council members is essential. This can be achieved by encouraging respectful dialogue, active listening and creating opportunities for collaboration and brainstorming. Secondly, enhancing transparency and accountability is crucial. The council can accomplish this by providing clear and accessible information to the public, holding regular council meetings and actively seeking input from residents. Lastly, embracing technology can streamline council operations, improve efficiency and facilitate citizen engagement.

**Q4:** While serving on the School Committee alongside former Assistant Superintendent Matt Francis, we secured funding to put steam labs in every elementary school to help build the foundation for our CTE and Expanded pathways programs. Additionally, I personally had the opportunity to nominate and participate in the hiring of our new superintendent, Dr. Marcus Ware. Together, we passed two budgets that resulted in record funding, created a \$11 million school stabilization fund, and so much more.

I hope to be able to continue such efforts and successes as a city councilor.

I may also benefit the council by adding a youthful perspective. I can assure my constituents that I will always work with the council and mayor to help make Chicopee competitive in the 21st century. If elected, I may be the first person born in this century to serve on our City Council!

**Q5:** As a representative, it's crucial to establish multiple communication channels to reach my constituents. I am open to community forums to connect with residents directly. I will continue to utilize digital platforms like Facebook to share updates and events and engage in discussions. Additionally, I will listen to my constituents' concerns and feedback, responding promptly and respectfully.

Additionally, I will inform residents about local initiatives, policies, and upcoming meetings and develop partnerships with local community organizations to enhance outreach efforts.

Lastly, I will embrace transparency by sharing goals, accomplishments, and challenges with my constituents. By prioritizing open communication and actively engaging with Ward 6 residents, I believe I can foster a sense of trust and collaboration and better serve the needs of my ward.

### William Courchesne – Ward 7 candidate (Unopposed)

**Q1:** For me it's the ability and desire to make a positive impact in the lives of my constituents and all the residents of Chicopee.

**Q2:** I will continue to look for ways to improve our residents' quality of life, public safety and fiscal stability by continuing to fight for a Code Enforcement Officer, which will help clean up our neighborhoods, improve property values and reduce crime. I will continue to advocate for a Municipal Food Waste Composting Program, which will conservatively save the residents anywhere from \$250,000 to \$400,000 on tipping fees based on state and national averages, with additional savings on eliminating the purchasing of topsoil and fertilizer. I am currently working on my Master Composter Certification so I can bring firsthand knowledge as well as working with local and national organizations to make this happen. I will continue to work with our State and Federal officials to bring safety improvements to Chicopee Street. I will continue to find ways to bring tax relief to our seniors and veterans as I have in the past.

**Q3:** I would like to see a stop to the constant personal attacks by a few councilors towards those that don't align with their agendas, but unfortunately, the open meeting laws do not prevent this.



**Q4:** I don't think I'm necessarily unique for this position, there are a lot of great civic minded people in our community. What makes me right for the position is the ability to see the big picture, while working on the smaller issues. Sometimes, it's the smaller issues that make the greatest impact on our residents' lives. I will continue to fight the good fight for our residents even when the odds are against me and my constituents.

**Q5:** Currently, I am the only city official that actively engages on social media, which I will continue to do. I would like to see more community meetings with our key department heads. I communicate with my colleagues as needed to help move our city forward.

### Gary Labrie – Ward 8 candidate (Unopposed – Did not submit answers)

### John Paquette, Jr. – Ward 9 candidate

**Q1:** The constituents are the biggest motivator. Before I publicly announced my intentions of running, I had received phone calls from a few concerned citizens that were unhappy with the lack of communication and transparency from the current councilor in Ward 9. I was a candidate previously so there was a foundation of people in the neighborhood who already knew who I was. They know I am willing to work with other city officials and department heads and most importantly listen to the concerns and issues of the people in the neighborhood and get them the answers they are looking for.

**Q2:** Working with the police department on public safety on the streets, I'm certain they are doing everything they can and I want to ensure they have the resources necessary to help reduce the number of fatal accidents around the city. Specifically in Ward 9, our roads and sidewalks need to be repaired and maintained, there has been no road improvements over the last two years unless it was associated with the water sewer separation project. I will utilize Chapter 90 funds and get our fair share of these funds for Ward 9.

**Q3:** The biggest concern I hear is the lack of communication and the "secrecy" of Chicopee politics. With an updated website and more public announcements via ChicopeeTV and social media, I believe this would add awareness to the ongoing events within City Hall and might draw more residents to become involved with the operation of the city. I will bring a team approach to the council, are we all going to agree on every topic? I hope not, that is not the way to find the best possible outcome for the residents of Chicopee. The additional information obtained from other councilors can enhance a proposed idea making the outcome better for the residents.

**Q4:** I have a background in business development, I work with small family run businesses and also large multi-million-dollar companies. This experience is a great advantage when you have a city with a \$241 million dollar budget and a lot of different entities within the city needing funding. I believe I am the best candidate for Ward 9 that can handle these challenges and achieve the best outcome for the city departments and the residents of Chicopee.

**Q5:** This goes back to the previous question about what I can bring to the City Council. Transparency is key, I can be contacted by email and have my personal mobile phone number completely out there for the public to contact me now. As a councilor, this will not change, and my goal is to have numerous office hours available monthly. Currently, our councilor has one hour a month available to the public during the week in the middle of the day when most people are at work. I will find a balance of time for everyone to have the opportunity to meet with their Ward 9 councilor. I respectfully ask for your vote Nov. 7, thank you.



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## MAYORAL RACE from page 1

covered that one officer who left was collecting food stamps, which broke her heart. She questioned why someone who risks their life for the city every day can't afford to put food on their table.

López also wants to work with the School Committee to make sure teachers and paraprofessionals are appropriately paid. She noted the city is in a "hiring crisis" because city employees aren't paid enough, and healthcare costs are "through the roof."

"I envision a city that is thriving. Our city is diverse and inclusive, and I envision us being a beacon of what a small city should look like in Massachusetts," she said.

Vieau said progress will continue over the next two years. He noted that the 12-acre Uniroyal project has gone out to RFP, and the city has received two highly qualified proposals that are currently being reviewed.

Vieau also referred to the "Baskin property," which is four acres and should break ground in the next two years.

"There is a proposal in place for an indoor multi-purpose athletic complex, a brewery and I believe 107 residential units," Vieau said.

Vieau also looks forward to the reopening of the old library on Springfield Street, which could be used as a social place for small venues and nonprofits. Entrepreneurs will be able to access the space to learn business models and how to create a successful business.

"I see that as being a very active hub; a building sitting dormant for far too long," he said. "I think that's a huge project. The downtown is seeing this renaissance of new business owners, and storefronts are filling in quickly. I'm excited about where we're heading with downtown."

Vieau considers the Anna E. Barry Elementary School replacement project to be a "legacy project" and looks forward to the continued renovation of City Hall and redevelopment of Szot Park.

"It's our Boston Common, our Central Park, and I'm excited to see the passive recreational area created around Abbey Brook," he said.

### What makes each candidate unique

Vieau believes the experience factor elevates him in this race. He stands by his record of serving the city during the COVID-19 pandemic, as city services were kept active and older adults were taken care of.

"Experience matters," he said. "I feel like we have a great team. The city has so

much potential, and I'm really passionate about what we're doing... I feel like I have the tool set and mindset and experience to keep Chicopee going forward."

Vieau said Chicopee is in excellent financial shape.

"I think that speaks volumes moving forward that we're doing things well right now, and I want to continue that progress," he said.

López said she isn't a career politician and isn't running for money or the title. She said she leads with transparency and accountability and is adamant that the city needs change, which she said residents have expressed.

"I bring a fresh perspective, and we need new blood," she said. "I'm doing this because I believe residents deserve leadership that cares and that will put them first. I've done that on the council, and I will continue to do that... I'm not new to this; I'm true to this. I think the city deserves a leader who really wants what's best for its residents."

### What it means to serve

López recalled moving to Chicopee from Puerto Rico when she was a small child and learning English in the city schools. She said her teachers cared for her and welcomed her into the community, and she wants to do the same for others.

López considers it an honor to serve. "Chicopee has given so much to me. I feel like I owe it to my community to give back just as much as I received," she said.

López said the election is bigger than her and that Chicopee is a city, "with great bones that just needs a push in the right direction," which she knows she can do, making her willing to give whatever it takes for the city to thrive.

Vieau is a lifelong Chicopee resident who attended the Boys & Girls Club as a youth and has served as a coach, tutor and mentor to many.

"I've had such a great experience growing up here that I'm hopeful others have the same. I got a high-quality education from our school district and had such fun growing up here. I hope others understand that I'm not just trying to retain the talent of the workforce but the residency talent," he said.

Vieau doesn't take his position for granted. He said Chicopee is a great place to live, work and raise a family and that the city's tax bills are 25% cheaper than its neighbors, which he attributes to his team's hard work.

"Chicopee is an incredible place, and I believe with the way we do things, there's the easy way and the Chicopee

way. We often choose that Chicopee way because it's the right thing to do," he said.

### What are the city's biggest issues, what can be improved

Vieau said he has focused on public safety since he ran for mayor in 2019. He said he believes in Police Chief Patrick Major and his team.

"I believe that you have to keep the people who live here, the business owners and the stakeholders safe. If they don't feel safe, they're not going to want to be here. I don't care how good your other services are," he said.

Vieau acknowledged the multiple pedestrian vehicle fatalities that have occurred over the past several years and noted that the police department has already issued nearly 7,000 citations this year, a city record.

Vieau said the focus continues to be on providing quality education and voiced support for Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware.

If elected, Vieau hopes to keep taxes low, make Chicopee more affordable and retain talent in the workforce.

Digital equity and ensuring that people can use technology is also important to Vieau. Infrastructure is at the top of his list as well, and he pointed out the ongoing sewer separation projects.

"If there's ever a need, a cause or a reason, Chicopee comes through every time. We're the biggest small town in Western Mass," Vieau said.

Public safety is also critical to López, who can't stand to see anymore fatal pedestrian incidents.

"In Chicopee, what's most on the rise is pedestrian fatalities," she said. "We are topping the charts in the state, and that's not something we want to be topping the charts in. I wouldn't want to be on this chart. The fact that we are number one in our state for pedestrian fatalities is unacceptable."

López said the city doesn't have enough police officers to fully address the situation so it is more important than ever to establish appropriate salaries so the department can make additional hires. She does not feel that the issue of pedestrian fatalities has been adequately addressed.

"We need a leader who will admit that there's a problem so we can solve the problem. We can't pretend like everything is fine; everything is not fine, and we need to fix it," she said.

López said education is another significant issue. As an educator, she knows that Chicopee cannot provide a proper education to students if the school district can't retain teachers and offer them proper sal-

aries.

"We cannot expect for our students to be in a safe and sound learning environment and do what's best for our students when we're not supporting the people who are supporting them every single day, our teachers and paras," she said.

López said one of the city's big issues is large development projects occurring without enough public input or a "real plan."

She also spoke on transparency and accountability.

"Our residents deserve to know where their tax dollars are being sent and deserve to know where every single dollar goes. That accountability has not been there. The transparency has not been there and it's time. It's time for a transparent and accountable government," López said.

### Communication with elected officials, city employees and residents

As a city councilor, López noted she has developed good relationships with other elected officials, city employees, workers and residents. On her campaign trail, she knocked on thousands of doors, which she feels has given her the community's pulse.

"I understand the needs of our community and I am approachable. The residents know they can come to me and express or voice their concerns and that the decisions I make are always in the best interests of the city as a whole," she said.

López said she is transparent and accountable.

"Essentially our city has been yearning for that, and I bring that to the table," she said.

Vieau said it is important to build relationships and work together. He said he takes pride in his relationship with City Council, the School Committee, Ware and the department heads.

"I have the endorsement of nine city councilors for this election, and that's something I'm really proud of. Having that relationship with them is how you continue progress," he said. "I have an open-door policy. Everyone knows it in the city. I'm available. I will meet you at your property or house if you need me to."

Vieau said he believes in transparency and being available, noting that he has a positive relationship with the media and that he always returns phone calls.

Vieau is also proud of the city's relationships with Elms College and Westover Air Reserve Base.

"I believe that working together is how you collectively succeed. That's what it's all about, and I think we've a very good job with that," he said.

## CITY COUNCIL from page 9

*Editor's note: Due to an editorial mistake, Ward 9 City Councilor Mary Beth Pniak-Costello did not receive the candidates' questions before the Nov. 7 election. However, she submitted the following press release, which addresses the same points. We apologize to Councilor Pniak-Costello for the error.*

## Ward 9 City Councilor Mary-Beth Pniak-Costello announces re-election bid

CHICOPEE - Ward 9 City Councilor Mary-Beth Pniak-Costello is running for re-election. Pniak-Costello vows to maintain her steadfast pursuit of transparency and equal representation in government while continuing to strengthen public safety

and education in Chicopee.

"I am committed to hearing the concerns of the residents. My background has helped me understand the importance of supporting constituent voices in our community. I will continue hosting office hours to ensure the public can always contact me and share concerns," said Pniak-Costello.

In her first council term, Pniak-Costello was a dedicated advocate for constituents. After receiving several neighborhood concerns, Pniak-Costello helped argue against Zone changes on James Street in January 2022 and October 2023 that would have added a business abutting a quiet neighborhood. She also became one of the first councilors to challenge former Cabotville Mills management in early 2022, voting



Mary-Beth Pniak-Costello

against several special permit continuations after listening to frustrated tenants.

In addition, Pniak-Costello collaborated with Ward 9 residents to help reduce litter impacting Memorial Drive businesses. Quality of life concerns in other wards drew equal importance. She and the council voted against a proposed Pilot Travel Center in September 2022 that would have increased traffic on Burnett Road.

Pniak-Costello strives to progress several initiatives if re-elected. In light of increased roadway safety concerns, she and council members will continue to collaborate on street safety projects, such as a road review of Anson Street, an additional blinking sign at the Prospect Street intersection, and traffic studies for Blanchard Street and Keddy Boulevard.

Curbing speeding is another essential public safety goal. As the creator of Mothers Against Speeding - a local volunteer group that advocates for road safety - Pniak-Costello will work to grow public safety enforcement. She has never voted against

a public safety finance request during her tenure, supporting police, fire and the DPW in their efforts to protect the community.

Chicopee Public Schools is facing critical challenges following the coronavirus pandemic. These are dilemmas that Pniak-Costello is well-prepared to address. She previously served on the School Committee for two decades and is the chair of the City Council's Education Subcommittee. Pniak-Costello aims to utilize her experience to help address learning loss, ensure sufficient financial support for schools and advance the district's curriculum.

Pniak-Costello is a lifelong Chicopee resident. She graduated from Elm's College with a degree in social work and elementary education before earning two master's degrees at American International College in criminal justice and public administration. Pniak-Costello also served on the Planning Board for 17 years, including 11 years as the board's chair, as well as the Council on Aging for 16 years.

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# Sports

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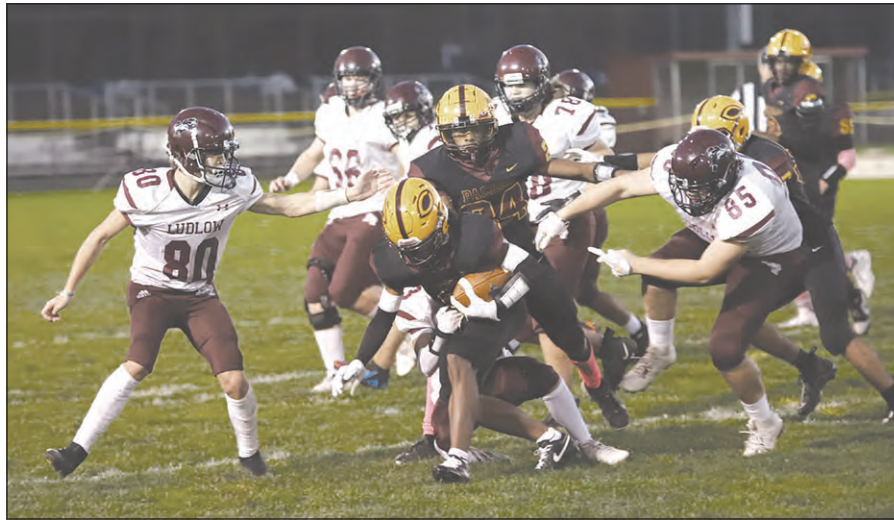
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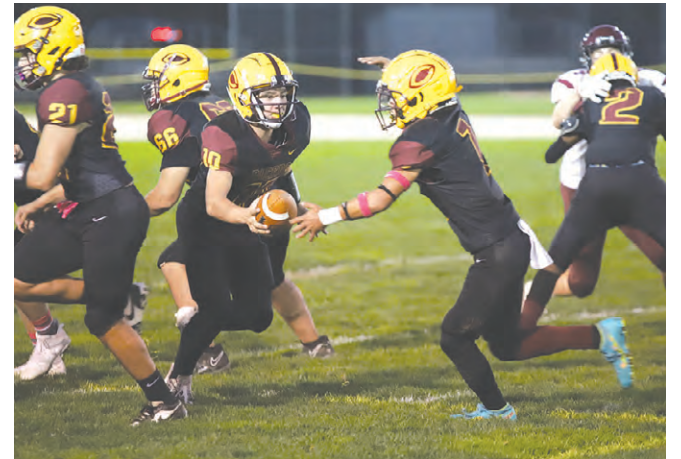
## Pacers get first win

CHICOPEE – Last Friday night, it was all about defense as Chicopee defeated Ludlow 7-6. Chicopee scored a touchdown very early, and it held up as they prevented Ludlow from scoring after their lone touchdown in the game. Chicopee went 1-7 in the regular season and are traveling to Palmer on Friday, Nov. 3 at 7 p.m. for a nonplayoff game.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Jacob Lazado is taken down while returning the kickoff.



Braeden Siano gets ready to hand off the ball.



Hector Adorno runs toward the left side.



The Chicopee offensive line blocks.



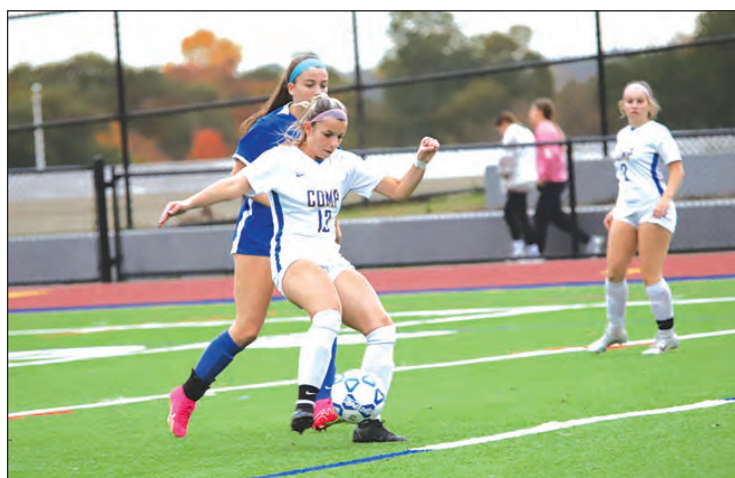
Xavion Maldonado rushes for the Pacers.

## Colts ready for state tournament

CHICOPEE – Last week, Chicopee Comprehensive girls soccer was able to play in two more games as they awaited their seeding in the Division 2 state tournament. Comp faced West Springfield in the Class A quarterfinals for Western Mass, falling 3-1 on the road. They then played Ludlow in a nonplayoff game last Saturday, tying 1-1. At 9-7-2, the Colts were supposed to find out their first state tournament opponent on Wednesday.



Arberesha Ibrahimini nearly collides with an opponent for possession.



Maddison Riffenburg is pressured by a West Springfield midfielder.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Taryn Carriveau sends a pass forward.



Danica Dorozynski tries to corral the ball as pressure comes.

## Football seeds released

*Belchertown, Chaug, Ware, South Hadley head for tournament*

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

It has not been easygoing for teams from the West and Central region of the state to make the 16-team state tournament since its inception in 2021.

For the third straight year, only a small handful of Western Mass. teams will make the eight 16-teams fields.

Among those heading for the tournament will be Minnechaug, Belchertown, Ware, and South Hadley.

For the third time, Minnechaug qualified for the Division 3 tournament. The Falcons went 5-2 on the regular season. Minnechaug qualified as the No. 14 team, but could have done better had it not lost a game on its schedule early in the season. The Falcons were scheduled to play West Springfield in Week 1, but severe thunderstorms on Sept. 8 forced the cancellation of the game. Attempts were made to make up the game as late as Monday, Sept. 11, but more severe weather nipped that plan, and the Falcons only played seven games in the regular season. Minnechaug will be traveling to No. 3 Milton for the first round.

Belchertown is a first-time qual-

See **FOOTBALL** page 10



# T-Birds even record with wins over Bruins

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (4-4-0-0) came back from two separate third-period deficits to knock off the Providence Bruins (1-3-1-2) on Sunday at the Amica Mutual Pavilion in a 3-2 overtime victory.

Vadim Zherenko got the starting nod and was up to par in the first, blocking aside all 14 Bruins shot attempts, including a calm breakaway stick save against Justin Brazeau in the opening minutes. Brandon Bussi was not tested much at all in period one, as the second-year Providence goalie only needed to make four saves in the opening 20 minutes.

After a chaotic first period that featured no goals but a combined eight penalty infractions, the Bruins finally broke the 0-0 tie with their fourth power-play goal in three games against

Springfield. Reigning AHL All-Rookie Team member Georgii Merkulov netted the tally with a wrister from the right circle at the 7:41 mark of the middle period, his second of the year.

The complexion of the game may have changed just past the midpoint of regulation when Sam Bitten dropped the gloves before a puck drop with Trevor Kuntar, drawing a huge ovation from his teammates on the bench. While Bitten and Kuntar would be given game misconducts for the fight, the shots and chances heavily leaned in Springfield's favor from that point forward.

2:43 into the final period, Bitten's scrap had its first tangible effect when Drew Callin took a feed from Mathias Laferrriere in the trapezoid and wrapped it home through Bussi to tie the score, 1-1.

More adversity loomed just nine seconds later, though, as Justin Brazeau scorched a slap shot into the top shelf from the right circle, and Providence had restored its lead, 2-1.

Despite the quick counter by the Bruins, the T-Birds continued to play with confidence, and in a period where they outshot Providence 18-7, Mikhail Abramov found a soft spot in the slot area to deflect a Calle Rosen wrist shot over Bussi to make it a tie game again, 2-2, with 9:34 remaining in regulation.

The T-Birds' penalty kill then had the pressure on its shoulders after Austin Osmanski inadvertently cleared a puck out of play, forcing Springfield into a delay-of-game minor with just over five minutes to play. The PK picked up their teammate, and after nothing was settled in the closing minutes, the two rivals

went to overtime, Springfield's first extra-time game of the season.

In the 3-on-3 session, Abramov helped complete the comeback when he peeled off at the right-wing boards, drawing the attention of two defenders. Meanwhile, Dylan Coghlan sneaked down the left side to receive a rink-wide pass and snap a wrister perfectly off the post and in to win it at the 1:38 mark of overtime, 3-2. It was Coghlan's second straight game with a goal.

Zherenko earned his third win in four starts by virtue of his 25 stops, while Bussi turned away 33 in the losing effort for Providence.

The T-Birds embark on yet another 3-in-3 on Friday night as they welcome the Belleville Senators to the MassMutual Center for a 7:05 p.m. puck drop.

## Railers fall to Admirals

NORFOLK, VA – The Worcester Railers HC (2-3-0-0, 4pts) fell to the Norfolk Admirals (2-2-0-1, 5pts), on Sunday afternoon by the final score of 4-0 at Norfolk Scope Arena in front of a crowd of 1,844. The Railers are back at the DCU Center against the Adirondack Thunder on Friday, November 3rd at 7:05 p.m. ET.

Norfolk attacked first with a goal from Stepan Timofeyev (2-1-3), his first of the season at 3:43 in the first period. Shots favored Worcester 13-12. Continuing momentum in the second period Andrew McLean (1-0-1) scored his second goal of the season at 9:30. Shots favored Norfolk 13-5. Norfolk added a third goal at 4:51 of the third period by Griffin Mendel (1-0-1). At 11:36 of the third period Norfolk scored their final goal by Stepan Timofeyev, his second of the game.

The first period was off to a hot start in favor of Norfolk just 25 seconds into the game after a shot off the post by Keaton Jameson warranted an instant replay. Review by head officials ruled the shot no goal. Worcester was unable to find the back of the net but participated

in a physical first period. For the Railers Christian Krygier earned a roughing penalty after a brawl with Mark Liwinski. For Norfolk Mark Liwinski was called for roughing and Simon Kubicek for cross-checking. Norfolk led the first period with a goal at 3:43 by Stepan Timofeyev making it 1-0. Shots favored Worcester 13-12.

Norfolk added another goal at 9:30 in the second period by Andrew McLean, making it 2-0. The physical nature of this matchup intensified as both sides combined earned 52 penalty minutes in the first two periods. Artyom Kulakov found himself face to face with Mark Liwinski once again at 12:18 in the second period resulting in matching unsportsmanlike conducts. Mark Liwinski earned an additional 10:00 misconduct with his fourth penalty of the game. Norfolk controlled the offense, outshooting Worcester 13-5 in the second period.

At 4:51 in the third period Norfolk added a third goal to the board with a pass picked up by Griffin Mendel. Danny Katic recorded his second assist of the game on the goal. Norfolk added another at 11:36 with a shorthanded goal scored by Stepan Timofeyev, his second of the game. Norfolk outshot Worcester 13-4, grabbing their second win of the season.



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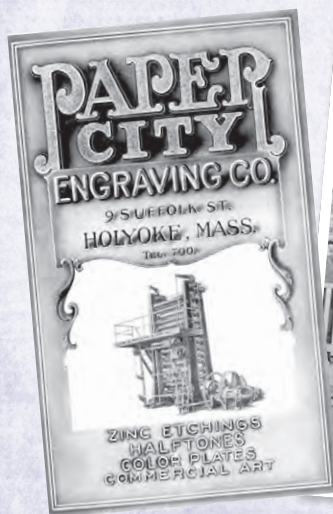
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## Cambridge half-marathon registration open

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

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

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

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

### FOOTBALL from page 9

ier to the state tournament. Belchertown received the No. 14 seed in Division 5 with a 7-1 record. The Orioles travel to No. 3 Shawsheen Valley Tech on Nov. 3 at 7 p.m.

In Division 7, South Hadley qualified at No. 14 with a 7-1 record. The Tigers made the state tournament for the second time and head for West Bridgewater, the third-seeded team.

Ware makes the state tournament in Division 8 for the third time. Ware was a perfect 8-0 and they will hold the No. 5 seed and host No. 12 Randolph on Friday, Nov. 3 at 7 p.m.

Not making tournament despite positive records are Agawam and Pathfinder. Chicopee, Palmer, Ludlow, Chicopee Comprehensive, and Holyoke join them and will be in nonplayoff games for Week 9 and 10.

### Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please

follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.



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## Events and announcements

**BINGO for Designer Purses & Power Tools at RiverMills Center**

CHICOPEE -- The Council on Aging will be holding BINGO for Designer Handbags & Power Tools on Thursday, Nov. 9 from 6-9 p.m. at the COA's RiverMills Center located at 5 West Main St.

The FRIENDS of RiverMills Center is hosting a charity event to raise funds for senior center programming. Come out and enjoy a night of fun for a good cause! The prizes include genuine designer handbags from Coach, Michael Kors, Dooney & Bourke and Kate Spade, along with tool prizes that every fit-it person will love. There will also be chances to win great raffle prizes. All beverages must be purchased on site. Beer, wine, water and soda will be available for purchase on site. No outside beverages allowed for safety

reasons. Bring your own snacks. Tickets are \$35 a person, which includes 10 games. Tickets must be purchased in advance at RiverMills Center. If you don't buy a table, it is first-come, first-sit. Tickets are now on sale.

Dec. 9 New York City bus trip is full

Wait list is being kept in case of cancellations

All aboard! The Dec. 9 New York City bus trip is full, and a wait list is now being kept in case of cancellations. Roundtrip fare is \$77/person and includes a gratuity for the driver. If you wish to be placed on the Wait List, contact grfort127@yahoo.com and when space(s) open you will be contacted with further instructions. Thank you for choosing to travel with us.

### SCHOOL COMMITTEE from page 3

expertise to move along any curriculum issues that arise. My career has been in facilities management in a union environment. I would like to see the long-planned storage warehouse built in hopes of providing vocational with the much-needed space required to add a plumbing/HVAC program. We have begun the process of building a new Barry School. I would like to move that project along as well. I plan to remain active in the union contract negotiations moving forward.

#### Douglas Girouard – Ward 8 candidate

**Q1:** What inspired me to run for School Committee is the fact that I was born and raised in Chicopee for 50 years. I have been in the service industry running a restaurant for pretty much my entire life, and this is just one way I feel like I can advocate for students or employees of the Chicopee Public Schools. There is no better feeling than being involved as a public servant when an issue or problem arises, and we work collectively together with my colleagues to see it resolved.



**Q2:** My goal on the School Committee is to ensure that every student that attends Chicopee Public Schools receives the education that they need to have a successful future. My goal being on the School Committee is to help make sure that all of our employees in the school system have the resources they need to offer the students a quality education. I feel it's very important that we have clean, up-to-date schools and one of my biggest concerns is to ensure the taxpayers of Chicopee that their tax dollars are put to good use.

**Q3:** One big improvement I would like to see regarding our school system is a new Barry Elementary School. We are in the early stages of making a new Barry School a reality. This is a very exciting time. I am a taxpayer, and we qualified to build this new school for a fraction of the cost that it would normally cost.

#### Ronald Benard – Ward 9 candidate (Did not submit answers)

##### Additional Note

To find your polling location, visit <https://chicopeema.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1261/Polling-Locations-PDF>.

### THRILLER from page 6

Arriaga was happy to be at the event and see residents support a good cause.

"It's just great, really, when you see the community coming together to achieve a goal, right? It makes you want to live in Chicopee, so I'm happy and proud to represent this great city," Arriaga said.

Arriaga stressed the importance of community organizations like VOC providing opportunities for residents to continue their education.

"It is essential that we help them achieve those goals, because at the end of the day our folks, our families, live and work in these communities, they're going to invest in our communities and that's how we thrive," Arriaga said.

Arriaga's sister-in-law, Abigail Arriaga, serves as a board member for VOC and got involved because she wanted to help people, appreciating how events like the Thriller 5K help "you learn a lot, too, and learn what things are out there."

"There's a lot of different avenues where people can get help, but just don't know where it is and then that's where we

can kind of close that gap and be a part of things and show up and have those conversations and guide them to the direction they need to get them where they need to be," she said.

Nadeem Sikandar, director of Continuing Education & Career Center at VOC, was grateful for the support, explaining it's vital to support continuing education post-COVID as it "really gives a great opportunity to close those gaps or at least bridge them."

"Coming to these Continuing Education programs allows you to either do your high set or GED and then continue to move into a higher education institution," Sikandar said.

Sikandar had this message for the participants.

"Please keep coming, keep supporting, as VOC is committed to keep coming and supporting no matter who the benefits actually go to. We're here together to make sure we work with our community to continue to develop them," Sikandar said.

To learn more about VOC, visit [valleyopp.com](http://valleyopp.com).

## The Enchanted Pumpkin in the Mayor's Office



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHLOE SOTO, MAYOR'S OFFICE.

CHICOPEE -- A mysterious pumpkin arrived at the Mayor's Office with a carved emblem, leaving everyone in awe and gratitude. The timing couldn't have been more perfect. As autumn's colorful tapestry blanketed our city, this enchanting pumpkin made its grand entrance, like a guardian spirit embracing our municipality with its magical charm. Its vibrant or-

ange hues and the meticulously carved emblem made it an instant sensation.

An anonymous benefactor had carefully selected a plump, vibrant pumpkin and then, with great skill and precision, carved the intricate city emblem. The pumpkin is being displayed in the City Hall lobby at 274 Front Street.

## Sixth annual Chicopee Comp alumni football game to occur Nov. 22

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY JOHN GRIFFIN

CHICOPEE -- The sixth annual Chicopee Comprehensive High School Alumni Football Game will be taking place on Wednesday, Nov. 22, at 6 p.m. at Chicopee Comp, 617 Montgomery St., Chicopee.

For more information, contact Tammy Martin-Griffin at [tmg811@yahoo.com](mailto:tmg811@yahoo.com).



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### NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for The Chicopee Register, please email [chicopeeregister@turley.com](mailto:chicopeeregister@turley.com).

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# UFP Site Built expands with grand opening in Chicopee

The facility is located at 301 Griffith Road

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer  
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE -- Community members, local and state elected officials and company employees gathered on Griffith Road on Oct. 27 to celebrate the grand opening of UFP Site Built LLC's Chicopee location.

As the company moves from Belchertown, its new Chicopee location is a 150,000-square-foot manufacturing facility that designs, builds and engineers roof components, such as roof trusses and floor trusses, for light commercial, multi-family and single-family homes in the Northeast region.

Mayor John Vieau congratulated UFP Site Built on its expansion, explaining how TIF agreements help incentivize relationships with new business owners.

"We're excited about that partnership, and I want to thank the City Council for recognizing how important it is to make sure that these buildings here in Chicopee are not only paying taxes, they have great owners, but they're also providing living-wage jobs to their employees and that's what it's really all about," Vieau said.

After his remarks, Vieau was presented with a gift from Mike Ellerbrook, executive vice president of UFP Site Built, Kevin Klein, regional vice president - Northeast for UFP Site Built, and Dave Deforest, director of operations at UFP Site Built, for the city's support.

Additionally, Jason Reed, executive director of the Boys & Girls Club, was presented with a \$2,500 donation to support the Boys & Girls Club.

State Sen. Jacob Oliveira (D-Ludlow) presented a certificate of recognition on behalf of the State House and Senate, stressing the importance of creating jobs and how "having somebody who understands how the culture works in the City of Chicopee and Western



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Jason Reed, executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee, Kevin Klein, regional vice president - Northeast for UFP Site Built, Dave Deforest, director of operations at UFP Site Built, and Mike Ellerbrook, executive vice president of UFP Site Built, take a group photo during the UFP Site Built ribbon-cutting ceremony in Chicopee. UFP Site Built presented Reed with a \$2,500 donation to the Boys & Girls Club.

Massachusetts is so important."

"We're just proud to welcome you to this part of Chicopee and anything that we can do on the state side to encourage more businesses to be here is part of the job we do," Oliveira said.

State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee) praised the business for not giving up on moving into Chicopee, citing Ellerbrook's story during the ceremony about losing a bid for the location until they connected with the owners.

"You did not take that as a no. You guys decided to continue and say, 'You know what, Chicopee is a place we want to set up shop. Chicopee's our home' and you made that happen," Arriaga said.

State Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield) said how "it's really good to see a

lot of people that are actually going to be bringing the bacon home" by "putting people to work."

"Congratulations to you guys, and (I'm) looking forward to working with you guys and seeing all of the amazing product that comes out of this facility," Gomez said.

After the ribbon-cutting, Ellerbrook and his team gave attendees a tour of the facility, watching employees at work and learning how the trusses are built and how employees are supported on the job.

Klein later shared how the location is also ideal for the employees.

"I think a lot of our employees were living in this area or near this area, so being closer to home allows them more time with their family and it also allows

us to save our retention rates and get our retention better because they're at home more, they're happier, they're not commuting back and forth, so it's been great on both fronts," Klein said.

Ellerbrook had high praise for his employees.

"They're some of the hardest working people, the most committed people I've ever seen and met," Ellerbrook said.

Ellerbrook wants the community to know they're here and will continue to grow, create jobs and support the community however they can.

"We're a manufacturing plant, but we're going to be a great resident of the city of Chicopee just like the rest of them," Ellerbrook said.

To learn more, visit [ufpsitebuilt.com](http://ufpsitebuilt.com).

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The sign outside UFP Site Built, which celebrated its grand opening in Chicopee on Oct. 28.



Mayor John Vieau and Mike Ellerbrook, executive vice president of UFP Site Built, shake hands as Kevin Klein, regional vice president - Northeast for UFP Site Built, and Dave Deforest, director of operations at UFP Site Built, watch during the UFP Site Built ribbon-cutting ceremony in Chicopee. UFP Site Built presented Vieau with a gift in recognition of the city's support.



## Ofc. Beshara starts trick or treating early



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE CHICOPEE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
**CHICOPEE** – On Oct. 31, Ofc. Linsey Beshara got Trick or Treating off to an early start by handing out some candy to the kids at the Side By Side Preschool & Child Care Center. She may have even found a new recruit.

## Polish National Credit Union to host November events

CHICOPEE -- The Polish National Credit Union has announced its November 2023 community events schedule.

PNCU, a full-service community credit union, aims to meet the needs and contribute to the growth of their communities. By hosting a variety of events throughout the year, they bring support and education to the Western Massachusetts community. To learn more about PNCU, visit their website at <https://www.pncu.com>.

November events include:

Elder Financial Abuse Workshop on Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023, from noon to 2 p.m., located at the Pleasant View Senior Center, 328 N. Main St., East Longmeadow

Fancy Steps on Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. located at Log Cabin, 500 Easthampton Road, Holyoke

Veteran's Coffee Hour & Galaxy Council Food Drive for Servicemen on Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023, from 8-9 a.m., located at Goodworks Coffee House, 46 Center St., Chicopee

Toy Drive to Benefit Westover Military Families until Monday, Nov. 20, 2023, located at all PNCU branches for donation drop-off

PNCU aims to grow lasting relationships to improve people's lives. They continue to maintain their goal by engaging the community in these monthly events. December 2023 events to come.

If interested, or have questions please contact Meghan Rothschild at (413) 218-4994 or [meghan@chik-media.us](mailto:meghan@chik-media.us).

## St. John the Evangelist in Agawam Holding Christmas Bazaar Nov. 18

AGAWAM -- St. John the Evangelist Church in Agawam will be holding their annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 18 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the Parish Center at 833 Main St.

There will be many different booths at which to shop. Stop at the Christmas Booth for your Christmas decorations or the Bake Booth for delicious baked goods. You can visit the Knitting Booth for hand knitted items and the Candy Booth for sweet treats. The Book Booth will have a variety of books from fiction and nonfiction, mysteries and romance novels, to religious books and cookbooks and don't forget our selection of children's books. The Guild will have their beautiful handmade items. Then finish your shopping at the ever-popular Jewelry Booth and by taking a chance on the basket raffles. If all this shopping made you hungry, stop at the kitchen to get a snack or early lunch. Santa will also be making a visit! We look forward to seeing you there!

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# It's time to get your flu shot, if you haven't already

*CDC recommends getting your flu shot by end of October, but there is still time to protect yourself and others around you*

SPRINGFIELD -- It's flu shot time.

No one knows exactly what to expect about the severity of this flu season, but flu is already in the community.

While the Centers for Disease and Control recommend getting your flu shot by the end of October, it's never too late, and if you haven't gotten the vaccine yet, don't wait any longer to protect yourself and those around you.

"Whether we have a severe or mild flu season predicted should not matter when it comes to getting your flu shot. Everyone with some exceptions needs to get one," said Dr. Armando Paez, chief, Infectious Disease Division, Baystate Health.

The CDC recommends that everyone six months and older who does not have any conditions that may prevent them from getting flu vaccine, such as a prior reaction after receiving the flu vaccine, should be vaccinated now, preferably before the end of October. The flu vaccine composition for 2023-2024 has been updated to best match the flu viruses that are anticipated to be commonly circulating this season.

One-dose flu shots are appropriate for most people, with rare exceptions for children younger than six months of age and those with severe, life-threatening allergies to any ingredient in the flu vaccine or who have had a previous severe allergic reaction to a dose of flu vaccine.

Some children ages six months through eight years may require two doses. Flu vaccinations are particularly important for those individuals at risk of severe illness and complications from flu. These include older adults, residents of long-term care facilities, women who are pregnant, adults and children with a weakened immune system and those with chronic medical conditions and obesity. Persons who live with or care for individuals at risk of severe infection such as healthcare personnel and others living in the home are also essential to be vaccinated.

For people 65 years and older, there are three preferentially recommended higher-dose or adjuvant flu vaccines: Fluzone High-Dose Quadrivalent vaccine, Flublok Quadrivalent recombinant flu vaccine and Fluvad Quadrivalent adjuvant flu vaccine. More information is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/highrisk/65over.htm>.

Yet another concern, according to Paez, "In addition to flu, COVID-19 and RSV infections can complicate and pose additional threats to vulnerable individuals with weakened immune systems."

And a flu outbreak can be devastating for children.

"Influenza and RSV have always been a significant illness in young children. Children with underlying medical conditions, especially prematurity, asthma and immunodeficiencies, kids under age five, as well as those with asthma or serious underlying pulmonary, cardiac, neurologic, or immune system illnesses are at particular risk for

a serious influenza infection," said Dr. Cecilia Di Pentima, chief, Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Baystate Children's Hospital.

During the 2022-23 Influenza season, 174 children of all age groups died of influenza.

She noted the best way to protect children from more severe influenza infection is with annually available vaccines. While protection from immunization might not prevent getting sick with influenza, it does offer protection against more severe illness. Children between six months and eight years of age who have never received at least two doses of flu vaccine at any point in time during their lives (not necessarily during the same flu season) need two doses of flu vaccine given at least four weeks apart in order to be better protected from flu.

But it's not just about the flu for kids this fall and beyond.

"As the RSV season arrives, newborns, and infants under eight months of age can be protected for severe RSV infection with a single intramuscular injection of a newly-approved monoclonal antibody (Nirsevimab). Older infants between eight months and 19 months of age with underlying risk factors are also eligible to receive Nirsevimab," said Di Pentima.

Monoclonal antibodies are man-made proteins that mimic the antibodies our bodies naturally produce when exposed to harmful germs. Because these antibodies are not produced by our own immune system, they are called "passive-immunization."

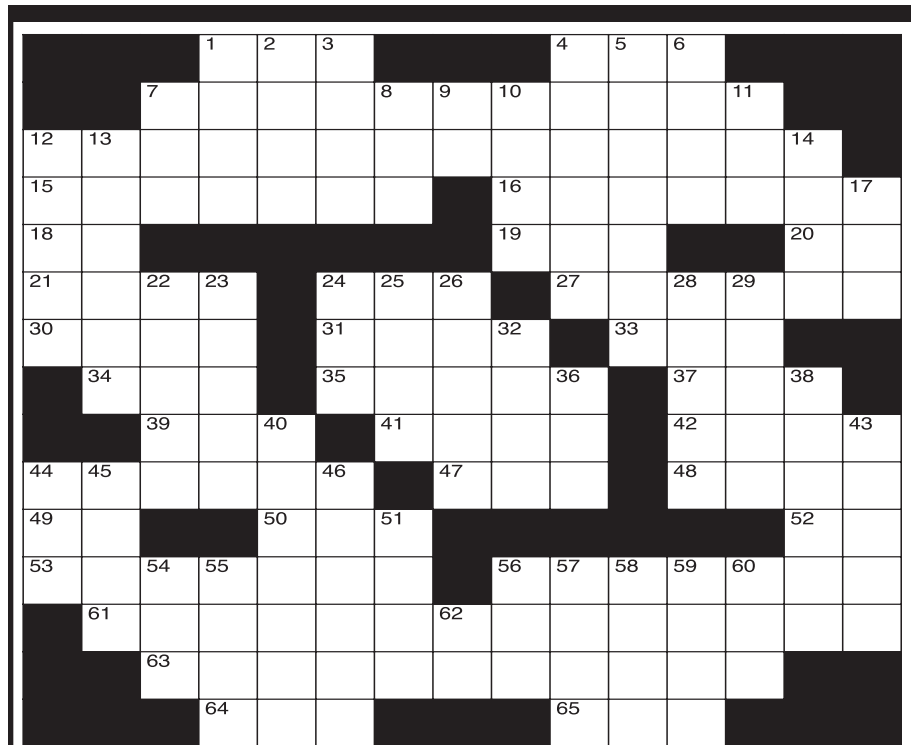
Although COVID-19 infections in children tend to have a milder impact than in adults, severe lung and heart disease can lead to complications in children as well. Since the onset of the pandemic, over 2000 children and teenagers 17 years of age and younger have died of COVID-19 infection. Infants as young as 6 months of age and older can be protected with the updated COVID-19 vaccines.

"The best way to learn more about influenza, RSV and COVID-19 prevention is by talking to your pediatrician now, before the colder weather increases the risk of transmission of all respiratory viruses," said Di Pentima said.

Given the potential triple-demic of respiratory infections by respiratory syncytial virus, flu and COVID, Paez noted Americans at risk of severe disease from these infections are urged to get vaccinated.

Flu shots can be given at the same time as other vaccines, including the updated COVID-19 vaccine. However, there are mixed messages on adding the RSV vaccine at the same time. The CDC has stated that it may be given at the same time as other vaccines. However, some health experts cite the fact there is little research about administering an RSV shot with another vaccine. Consult your doctor if you are unsure as to what to do.

For more information on Baystate Health, visit [baystatehealth.org](http://baystatehealth.org) or for more information about Baystate Children's Hospital, visit [baystatehealth.org/bch](http://baystatehealth.org/bch).



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. A way to drop
- 4. Bits per inch
- 7. Ghosts
- 12. Presents
- 15. Noises
- 16. Honorable fourth name in ancient Rome
- 18. Elevated railroad
- 19. A way to drench
- 20. The Tarheel State
- 21. Lilly and Manning are two
- 24. Where golfers begin
- 27. Harvester
- 30. Unit of subjective loudness
- 31. Jewish calendar month
- 33. Dash
- 34. Armed conflict
- 35. Daisy \_\_: Broadway actress
- 37. Jump

- 39. Get free of
- 41. A written proposal or reminder
- 42. Organic chemistry reactive structure
- 44. African country
- 47. Cool!
- 48. Used to treat Parkinson's disease
- 49. \_\_ route
- 50. Ed Murrow's home
- 52. Lethal dose
- 53. Give cards incorrectly
- 56. A treeless grassy plain
- 61. Famed R.L. Stevenson novel
- 63. In an incisive way
- 64. Mark Wahlberg's screen partner
- 65. Criticize

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Mountain in the Julian Alps

- 2. A domed or vaulted recess
- 3. Trade agreement
- 4. Larger
- 5. Edged
- 6. Data
- 7. Something curved in shape
- 8. Root mean square (abbr.)
- 9. Farm state
- 10. Pre-1917 emperor of Russia
- 11. Short-term memory
- 12. Indigenous peoples of central Canada
- 13. Honor as holy
- 14. Monetary unit of Samoa
- 17. Company that rings receipts
- 22. City in Finland
- 23. Small finch
- 24. Arctic explorers (abbr.)
- 25. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
- 26. Very willing
- 28. Partner to "ooled"
- 29. Turntable
- 32. Major Hindu deity
- 36. Move head slightly
- 38. Plain-woven fabric
- 40. Die
- 43. Shipped as cargo
- 44. Something highly prized
- 45. Individual thing or person
- 46. Humbled
- 51. Speak indistinctly
- 54. No seats available
- 55. Financial obligation
- 56. Green vegetable
- 57. Tough outer skin of fruit
- 58. \_\_ Spumante (Italian wine)
- 59. Troubles
- 60. Singer Charles
- 62. Camper

## The Healing Voices Project achieves 501c3 non-profit status to combat addiction in communities

AGAWAM -- The Healing Voices Project, an initiative dedicated to raising awareness and supporting community programs to combat addiction, announced its official designation as a non-profit 501c3 organization.

Led by Mike Tourville, author of "Voices from the Fallen", this groundbreaking project has been making a significant impact by fostering open conversations surrounding addiction and recovery.

The Healing Voices Project broadcasts weekly episodes across various media platforms, including popular podcast apps and its official website, [www.healingvoicesproject.org](http://www.healingvoicesproject.org).

The inspiration behind the Healing Voices Project stems from the success of Tourville's book, *Voices from the Fallen*, which powerfully explores the multifaceted nature of addiction through the personal stories of eight diverse individuals. The book has been used by several recovery centers as a useful teaching tool, and for groups, as it highlights the causes and effects of addiction, and sheds light on its enduring impact on families and communities.

Building on this foundation, the Healing Voices Project takes it a step

further, by involving individuals from all walks of life who have experienced addiction, including those in recovery, bereaved loved ones, substance use professionals and community leaders.

Tourville emphasized the project's purpose as more than just a podcast.

"Our conversations delve deep into the personal struggles related to addiction, from broken families, incarceration and homelessness to inspiring stories of recovery, renewed lives and healed families. While we may never fully grasp our impact, shared experiences can motivate and encourage people while reducing the stigma that often prevents individuals from seeking help," Tourville said.

The Healing Voices Project frequently features experts, care providers, and community leaders who provide essential updates on prevention, intervention, and treatment options.

"Without the right education, well-intentioned families can make decisions that may lead to unfortunate consequences," Tourville said.

In addition to podcast formats, each program is available on YouTube, offering viewers a more personal experience.

"Seeing the person, getting to know them, and experiencing their emotions through body language and expressions adds depth to our storytelling," Tourville said.

The Healing Voices Project is proud to announce its official non-profit status under 501c3 (#93-2357377) and encourages community support and sharing the program to enhance its effectiveness to combat addiction.

**Support the local businesses that support your local newspaper.**

*Let them know you saw their ad in the*

**Chicopee Register**



# PUBLIC NOTICES

## CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL LICENSE COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The License Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Monday, November 20, 2023 at 6:30 PM\*** in the Auditorium, 3rd floor, City Hall, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Application for a Home Occupation License for the purpose of administrative tasks in home office located at 156 Pendexter Avenue. Applicant – Leeandrew Wilson, 156 Pendexter Avenue, Chicopee, MA 01013.

The November 20, 2023 License Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. Zoom credentials are available upon request by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM or by email at [aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov](mailto:aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov).

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013. You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email [aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov](mailto:aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov). 11/03, 11/10/2023

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD23C0311CA

In the matter of: **Alondra Marie Mateo Silva CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**  
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Alondra Marie Mateo Silva of Chicopee, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Alondra Marie Figueroa Silva**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/20/2023.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: October 20, 2023  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**, Register of Probate  
11/03/2023

## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT HAMPDEN, Div. Probate & Family Court Dept. HD23E0048PP

To **George Carvalho Gendreau of Granby, in the County of Hampshire, and to all other persons interest-**

A petition has been presented to said Court by Valerie Laplante, of Chicopee, in the County of Hampden, representing that they hold as joint tenant in an undivided part or share of land lying in Chicopee, in the County of Hampden, setting forth that they desire that all of said land may be sold at a private sale or public auction for not less than Two Hundred Fifteen Thousand

(\$215,000.00) Dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof after full adjudication of the equitable claims contained in said petition and supplemental memorandum filed with the Court.

### EXHIBIT A

The land in Chicopee, Hampden County, Massachusetts, together with all the buildings thereon, bounded and described as follows:

Being Lot 4 on Plan in the City of Chicopee, Mass., Durkee, White, Towne and Chapdelaine, Civil Engineers and Land Surveyors, Dec. 5, 1972, which plan is recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book of Plans 155, Pages 124 and 125; said premises being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Southerly by Beaudry Avenue as shown on said Plan, seventy-five and 00/100 {75.00} feet; Westerly by land of one Heck, as shown on said Plan, one hundred nine and 00/100 {109.00} feet, Northerly by land of Memorial Realty Trust seventy-five and 00/100 {75.00} feet; and Easterly by Lot 3 {three} on said Plan one hundred nine and 00/100 {109.00} feet.

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney, should file a written appearance in said Court at **Springfield** before ten o'clock in the morning on the **fourth day of December 2023**, the return day of this citation.

Witness, **BARBARA M. HYLAND**, Esquire, First Justice of said Court, this 3rd day of October 2023.  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**, Register  
10/27, 11/03, 11/10/2023

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD23C0313CA

In the matter of: **Ronald Joseph Ensslen CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**  
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Ronald Joseph Ensslen of Chicopee, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Ronald Joseph Certer**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/22/2023.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.  
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: October 23, 2023  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**, Register of Probate  
11/03/2023

## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS Probate and Family Court Department HAMPDEN, Division Docket No. HD23PI313PM

To all persons interested in the estate of Anita Gondek, of Chicopee, in said County, a person under Conservatorship, single.

A petition has been presented to said Court for license to sell at private sale - certain real estate of said Anita Gondek for her maintenance.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at 50 State Street, Springfield, MA, before 10:00 a.m. on the **29th day of November 2023**, the return day of this decision.

Witness, **BARBARA M. HYLAND**, Esquire, First Justice of said Court this twenty-fifth day of October 2023.

**Rosemary A. Saccomani**, Register  
11/3/2023

## 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 11/3/2023, at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2001 Chevrolet Blazer  
VIN: 1GNDT13W61K196733  
Jacob Hanecak  
620 Meadow St.  
Chicopee, MA 01013

2003 Lincoln LS  
VIN: 1LNHM87A23Y688878  
Efrain Santana Rosario  
70 Broadway St. Apt. 222  
Chicopee, MA 01020

2003 Toyota Corolla  
VIN: 2T1BR32E73C145314  
Luis Garcia  
48 Alvord Ave.  
Chicopee, MA 01020

2004 Acura Tsx  
VIN: JH4CL96884C034812  
Linda Humphries  
197 High St. Apt. 203  
Holyoke, MA 01040

2005 BMW 325Xi  
VIN: WBAEU33475PF63085  
Sean O'Grady  
30 Regency Court  
Chicopee, MA 01020

2007 Hyundai Azera  
VIN: KMHFC46F87A211483  
Andrew Diaz  
36 Kelso Ave.  
West Springfield, MA 01089

2012 Hyundai Elantra  
VIN: KMHDH4AE8CU192613  
Carlos Velez  
175 Walnut St.  
Holyoke, MA 01040

2014 Chevrolet Malibu  
VIN: 1G11B5SL1EF239542  
Vincent Thompson  
7149 Whitestone Rd. Apt. B  
Indianapolis, IN 46256

2016 Mazda Cx-5  
VIN: JM3KE4CY1G0853642  
Nelson Ortiz  
22 Spring St.  
Chicopee, MA 01013

2002 Chevrolet Tahoe K1500  
VIN: 1GNEK13Z8J338248  
Joseph Lucia  
1084 Montgomery Rd.  
Chicopee, MA 01013

2002 Toyota Camry  
VIN: 4T1BE32K82U095943  
Konan Martes  
431 Appleton St. 2R  
Holyoke, MA 01040

2003 Chevrolet Malibu  
VIN: 1G1ND52J73M722942  
Dylan Lynch  
229 Miller St. Trlr D10  
Ludlow, MA 01056

2006 Cadillac DTS  
VIN: 1G6KDS7Y16U231774  
Boyd McCraney  
PO Box 1712  
Springfield, MA 01101

2007 Honda Accord  
VIN: 1HGCM66547A052437  
Alex Soto  
93 Orange St.  
Springfield, MA 01108

2007 Hyundai Santa Fe  
VIN: 5NMSH13E47H003878  
Maria Guaman  
29 Stevens St.  
Danbury, CT 06810

2009 Toyota Corolla  
VIN: 1NXBU40E99Z037467  
Travis Marks  
4 Pomeroy St.  
West Stockbridge, MA 01266

2009 Volvo S80  
VIN: YV1AS982891106433  
Tracy Weston  
45 Wolcott St., Apt. 1R  
Holyoke, MA 01040

2012 Infiniti G25  
VIN: JN1DV6AR9CM861311  
Angel Gonzalez  
70 Chestnut St. Apt. 303  
Holyoke, MA 01040

2019 Ford Raptor  
VIN: 1FTFW1RG0KFC51566  
Lisa Vasquez  
124 Westwood Ave.  
East Longmeadow, MA 01028

2003 Chevrolet K1500 Suburban  
VIN: 3GNFK16Z73G121017  
John W Bazille  
445 Cleveland Ave. SE  
Apt C44  
Atlanta, GA 30354

2003 Honda Accord  
VIN: 1HGCM55693A108614  
Victor Arzola  
72 Virginia St.  
Springfield, MA 01108

2006 Acura TL  
VIN: 19UUA66256A000591  
Haciel Conception  
100 Shield St.  
West Hartford, CT 06110

2006 Volvo Xc70  
VIN: YV4SZ592761210031  
Amare Smith  
12 Hiawatha Rd., Apt. 1  
Mattapan, MA 02126

2007 Chrysler Pacifica  
VIN: 2A8GF68X17R176176  
Jennifer Arris  
100 Ducharme Ave.  
Chicopee, MA 01020

2007 Honda Cr-V  
VIN: JHLRE48717C073245  
Kiarra Rivera  
18 King St. 2nd Floor  
Westfield, MA 01085

2008 Mercedes-Benz  
VIN: WDDGF81X78F112932  
David Torres  
139 Union St. Unit 5  
Westfield, MA 01085

2009 Hyundai Elantra  
VIN: KMHDU46D39U788152  
Jenny Marie Simons  
14 Gate St.  
Palmer, MA 01069

2015 Chrysler 200 C  
VIN: 1C3CCCB4FN521919  
Allelu Morgan  
9 Highland Village, Apt. B  
Ware, MA 01082

2016 Hyundai Elantra  
VIN: KMHDH4AE6GU520973  
Terenz DeLeon  
3 Lawn St.  
Westfield, MA 01085

2016 Volkswagen Passat  
VIN: 1VWAT7A33GC028166  
Kenan Ahmeti  
398 Elm St.  
West Springfield, MA 01089

2018 Acura TLX  
VIN: 19UUB2F56JA007493  
Desiree Anderson  
1 Main St.  
Oxford, MA 01540

2018 Freightliner M2 106  
VIN: 3ALACWFC6KDKD4833  
Sharon Foods  
7 Food Mart Rd.  
Boston, MA 02118

2022 Volkswagen Tiguan  
VIN: 3VV2B7AX4NM030776  
Denison Kapllani  
41 Nahant Ave  
Winthrop, MA 02152

Boat w/ Trailer  
VIN: Unknown  
Charlie Gore  
738 Main St.  
West Springfield, MA 01089  
10/20, 10/27, 11/03/2023

## 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 24, 2023,

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

2002 Toyota Camry Soara Se  
VIN: 2T1CE22P12C014468  
John Renaud  
8E Townhouse Rd  
Broad Brook, CT 06016

2006 Honda Accord  
VIN: 1HGCM56436A055071  
Raymond Grabiec  
109 Honey Pot Rd.  
Hadley, MA 01035

2002 Honda Accord  
VIN: 1HGCG225X2A018999  
Jean Jones  
3056 39th St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53210  
10/27 11/03, 11/10, 11/17/2023

## CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL LICENSE COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The License Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Monday, November 20, 2023 at 6:30 PM\*** in the Auditorium, 3rd floor, City Hall, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Application for a Home Occupation License at 120 Applewood Drive for the purpose of doing cakes and cupcakes. Applicant – Wilma I. Albelo Arce, 120 Applewood Drive, Chicopee, MA 01020.

The November 20, 2023 License Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. Zoom credentials are available upon request by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM or by email at [aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov](mailto:aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov).

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013. You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email [aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov](mailto:aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov). 11/03, 11/10/2023

More legale  
on page 14



# EARLY DEADLINE

In observance of **THANKSGIVING PUBLIC NOTICES** WILL HAVE AN EARLY AD DEADLINE Place your public notice no later than **Thurs., Nov. 16 Noon** FOR PUBLICATION THE WEEK OF NOV. 20-24

A **TURLEY PUBLICATION**  
24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069  
413-283-8393 • [www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)



# Oliveira and Senate colleagues pass comprehensive tax relief package

BOSTON -- On Thursday, Sept. 28, Senator Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) and his colleagues in the Senate passed one of the most generous tax relief packages in decades aimed at providing responsible tax relief to Massachusetts' residents and businesses and making the Commonwealth more affordable, equitable, and competitive.

The total impact for fiscal year 2024 will be \$561.3 million, with a \$519.3 million on-budget impact. In fiscal year 2027, when fully phased in, the total impact will be \$1.02 billion, with a \$969.3 million on-budget impact. Senator Oliveira was encouraged by the package that will "put money back into people's pockets."

"When you look at this considerable and well thought out package, you're going to see tax relief that is focused on not only bringing equity to those who need it the most but also one that is both inclusive and far-reaching," said Oliveira.

Oliveira highlighted the significant impact the package would have on families.

"The expanded Child and Dependent Tax Credit will more than double what families can claim per dependent by 2024, going from 180.00 to 440.00," he said. "This will benefit more than 565,000 families and become the most generous universal child and dependent tax credit in the country. I'm grateful to the Conference Committee for this incredible expansion and my colleagues in the Legislature for agreeing to support families as much as possible."

Additional package highlights include increased earned income tax credit and the Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit. The earned income tax credit will increase from 30% to 40% of the federal credit increase and provide crucial support to working individuals and families, benefitting nearly 400,000 taxpayers with incomes under \$60,000. The Senior Circuit breaker credit increase doubles the maximum senior circuit breaker credit from \$1,200 to \$2,400. This increase will make it easier for approximately 100,000 seniors who struggle with high housing costs to stay in their homes.

Oliveira also praised the Conference Committee's decisions to include credits for users of Regional Transit Authorities. A choice he believes shows the Legislature's commitment to regional equity. "The decision to make regional transit passes eligible for the commuter expense tax deduction shows the Legislature's commitment to all of Massachusetts, including the many folks out here in Western Mass who use regional transit in their daily lives."

Having passed the House of Representatives and Senate, the bill now goes to the governor for her consideration.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD23C0310CA

In the matter of:  
**Lyandra Marie Mateo Silva**  
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Lyandra Marie Mateo Silva of Chicopee, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Lyandra Marie Figueroa Silva**  
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/20/2023.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

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

Date: October 20, 2023  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
11/03/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD23C0312CA

In the matter of:  
**Shumayl Jaide Shiek Syed**  
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Shumayl Jaide Shiek Syed of Chicopee, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Hunter Jaide**

IMPORTANT NOTICE  
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/20/2023.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

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

Date: October 23, 2023  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**,  
Register of Probate  
11/03/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD23P2122EA

Estate of:  
**James Walter Rokosz**  
Date of Death: **07/30/2023**  
CITATION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for S/A -Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Alfred C Bobek, Jr. of Astoria, NY** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Alfred C Bobek, Jr. of Astoria, NY** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve 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 11/21/2023.**  
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a 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 24, 2023  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
11/03/2023

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 22, 2023, at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2001 Saturn L200  
VIN: 1G8JU52F81Y573457

Hennesie Cruz  
112 Tokeneke Rd  
Holyoke, MA 01040

2003 Honda Pilot  
VIN: 2HKYF18513H557949  
Halilu Daraja  
19 Moseley Ave  
West Springfield, MA 01089

2007 Honda Ridgeline  
VIN: 2HJYK16207H538341  
Rozeley Fernando Patricio Neto  
49 Hosmer St Apt 1  
Everett, MA 02149

2011 Ford Fusion  
VIN: 3FAHP0HA6BR295433  
Emely Ramirez  
21 Worcester Pl Apt 3  
Holyoke, MA 01040

2012 BMW X5  
VIN: 5UXZV8C57CL424470  
Symphony Winborne  
9 Walden Estates Rd  
Walden, NY 12586

The estate is being administered under informal

procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
11/03/2023

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 22, 2023, at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2001 Saturn L200  
VIN: 1G8JU52F81Y573457

Hennesie Cruz  
112 Tokeneke Rd  
Holyoke, MA 01040

2003 Honda Pilot  
VIN: 2HKYF18513H557949  
Halilu Daraja  
19 Moseley Ave  
West Springfield, MA 01089

2007 Honda Ridgeline  
VIN: 2HJYK16207H538341  
Rozeley Fernando Patricio Neto  
49 Hosmer St Apt 1  
Everett, MA 02149

2011 Ford Fusion  
VIN: 3FAHP0HA6BR295433  
Emely Ramirez  
21 Worcester Pl Apt 3  
Holyoke, MA 01040

2012 BMW X5  
VIN: 5UXZV8C57CL424470  
Symphony Winborne  
9 Walden Estates Rd  
Walden, NY 12586

The estate is being administered under informal

JOB OPENING

## STAFF WRITER

Turley Publications, based in Palmer, is seeking a storyteller who is curious about everything, and who understands how town government works to join our team of weekly reporters.

Experience in covering town government is a huge plus, and any experience in community journalism is as well. Staff writers cover all aspects of communities from features to municipal meetings to crimes and fires. Successful candidates must have people skills, plenty of curiosity and able to tell a story.

If you're a self-starter who enjoys community journalism and who can envision themselves connecting with our communities, we encourage you to apply for this position. Not a remote position.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
- A determination to get the story, whatever it might be
- Equally comfortable writing hard news, features and event coverage
- Ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style

Please tell us in a cover letter why you would be a good fit for this position and send it along with a resume and three writing samples to



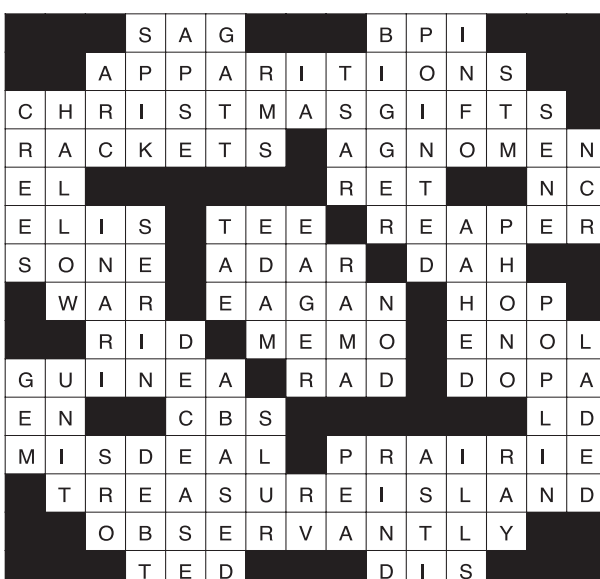
Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor  
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069  
or email directly to  
ekennedy@turley.com

## PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)



OPPORTUNITY

## newspaper correspondent

Turley Publications seeks **Experienced Writers/Journalists** to produce news and/or feature stories of local interest for various towns and cities.

- **Must be dependable, professional and able to meet strict deadlines**
- **Salary based on a flat rate by story and photo**

Send writing samples with resume to



Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor  
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069  
or email directly to  
ekennedy@turley.com



# Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

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COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

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**CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE**  
**November 4th-5th,**  
**9am-5pm,** both days.  
 Antiques and vintage, Christmas collectibles and jewelry.  
**Wintergarden Farm Antiques,**  
**359 Stafford Rd., Rt. 32,**  
**Monson, MA near CT State line.**

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 Fresh cut & split \$200.00  
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 All hardwood.  
 Tree length available  
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 Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.  
 We load it & take it.  
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 Work done at your home.  
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QUABBIN & SUBURBAN – FRIDAY AT NOON  
 HILLTOWNS – MONDAY AT NOON

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit Card:  MasterCard  VISA  Discover  Cash  Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount of charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Quabbin Village Hills**  
 Circulation: 50,500

**Hilltowns**  
 Circulation: 9,800

**Suburban Residential**  
 Circulation: 59,000

Buy the Quabbin Village Hills or the Suburban Residential ZONE for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word. Add \$10 for a second Zone or add \$15 to run in ALL THREE ZONES.

First ZONE base price \_\_\_\_\_ Includes additional words  
 Add a second ZONE **\$10.00**  
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Run my ad in the following ZONE(s):  
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QUABBIN & SUBURBAN  
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 HILLTOWNS  
 MONDAY AT NOON



# MAYOR VIEAU



*Moving Chicopee Forward, Together!*

***"For the past 4 years it has been my honor and privilege to serve as your Mayor. In that time we have accomplished many things... but the best is yet to come with a new Barry School and redevelopment of Cabotville Mills and Uniroyal now a reality."***

**"I HUMBLY ASK FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT, BY CASTING YOUR VOTE, TO KEEP MOVING CHICOPEE FORWARD"**

*Mayor John Vieau*



**PLEASE VOTE  
NOVEMBER 7!**

**PROUD TO HAVE THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR PARTNERS IN PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT, AND COMMUNITY**



Sheriff Nick Cocchi   Sheriff Mike Ashe   Greg Bernat Polish Deli   Raj and Kamy Business Owners   Sam Newell Fruit Fair   Harvey Lafleur Veteran   Senator John Velis   Ernie Laflamme Senior   Senator Jake Olivera

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*Lowest Tax Rate of Surrounding Communities*

*Significant Investment in Public Safety and Life Safety - Chicopee is Safe!*

*Commitment to Our Seniors and Veterans*

*Record Investment In Education - 11 Million In Stabilization for Schools!*

*Millions in Tax Relief - 27 Million Stabilization Account - Growing Economy*

**HONESTY - TRANSPARENCY - INTEGRITY**

*Paid for by the Committee to Elect John Vieau*