

# Chicopee Register

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COMMUNITY

## City recognizes Veterans Day during Nov. 11 ceremony

Ceremony was held at the Veterans Memorial Plaza

By Dalton Zbierski  
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CHICOPEE -- The weather was clear last Saturday at Veterans Memorial Plaza, as were the intentions of those who gathered off Front Street for the city's annual Veterans Day ceremony.

Chicopee, a military community, reveres its veterans, and on Nov. 11, those in attendance made it known that the contributions of the city's service members will not soon be forgotten.

"It's simple. We're a veteran proud city. Chicopee has 4,500 veterans who call the city home, and we know that freedom isn't free," Mayor John Vieau said. "We need to remember that we live in the most amazing country in the entire world, but you just don't get that overnight. Many have fallen, and many veterans are in our cemeteries."

Director of Veterans Services Stephanie Shaw organized the Nov. 11 ceremony. At Veterans Memorial Plaza, there is a monument dedicated to each



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

Members of Chicopee High School's JR Air Force ROTC participated in the Veterans Day ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Plaza on Front Street on Nov. 11.

military conflict Chicopee citizens have engaged in.

"At this time, conflict by conflict, I will recite a quote and some numbers that are quite staggering, and I will have our veterans and (JR Air Force ROTC) cadets lay our wreaths, as we continue to honor everyone who is laid to rest here and remember all of our veterans and those who we lost," Shaw said.

In the city of Chicopee, 515 Civil War veterans were laid to rest, and 1,573 WWI veterans were also buried.

A total of 6,285 WWI veterans were laid to rest in Chicopee, as were 1,375 Korean War veterans.

Over 1,000 Vietnam War veterans have been buried in Chicopee, and "so many of our residents have gone to the Aga-

wam Veterans Memorial Cemetery," Shaw said.

Seven participants in the Global War on Terror, preceding 9/11 to also include Beirut, are buried in Chicopee. The most recent was Master Sgt. Luis Deleon-Figueroa, who lost his life in Afghanistan in 2019.

U.S. Congressman Richard Neal attended the ceremony in Chicopee, a tradition for him

on Veterans Day and Memorial Day. He explained why it is important to attend the ceremonies in Chicopee each year, "where patriotism really counts."

"I call attention to that because a nation must have a memory. Chicopee, when it comes to service, always has a memory," Neal said. "We honor not only

See **VETERANS DAT** page 6

COMMUNITY



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

A close-up photo of food donations received during the PNCU Food Drive and Coffee Hour event outside Goodworks Coffee on Nov. 7.

## PNCU food drive supports military families

The event took place at Goodworks Coffee House

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer  
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CHICOPEE -- Residents and community members visited Goodworks Coffee House on Nov. 7 for a Polish National Credit Union Food Drive and Coffee Hour event.

During the event, attendees enjoyed free coffee from Goodworks Coffee while donating food and personal hygiene products to support military families and the police.

PNCU Executive Vice President Michael Sugrue explained the credit union facilitates a lot of these events to connect with the community and support lo-

cal businesses. They take place twice a month during the fall and spring.

"We like to give back. That's part of what we do is give back to the community," Sugrue said.

Sugrue said the food drives are important, especially during the holiday season, and encouraged other local businesses to give back.

"There are so many people out there that are needy. It's frankly heartbreaking, and it's hard to prioritize food to donate to. We try to keep everything, like I said, local, depending on what community our branches are in," Sugrue said.

Additionally, he emphasized supporting the military and police.

"These people do so much for us and, from our perspective, it's just showing our gratitude,"

Sugrue said. "Now that we have Thanksgiving coming up, I think it's a great time to highlight that."

Public Information Officer Travis Odiorne said the police department and local organizations partner together to support one another at these events.

"We kind of get together with all the businesses for community events just to show the support," Odiorne said. "We like to come out and return the favor and show up for them as well."

Odiorne said "It's just great to see" the community come together, including local businesses and organizations, to support the community at large.

"It's good to see everybody come together this time of year," Odiorne said.

John Beaulieu is the presi-

See **FOOD DRIVE** page 6

COMMUNITY

## Chicopee Comp holds 8th annual College Acceptance Days

\$1,925,000 in scholarships awarded to students

By Dalton Zbierski  
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CHICOPEE -- The Chicopee Comprehensive High School library was bustling on Tuesday and Wednesday, as 168 students attended the eighth annual College Acceptance Days sponsored by GEAR UP Massachusetts.

Thirteen colleges participated in the two-day initiative, and 136 Chicopee Comp students were accepted into a school. All the students who attended received financial aid information, and \$1,925,000 in scholarships were awarded during the sessions on Nov. 14 and 15.

"This gives you the opportunity to talk to admission counselors directly about the college application process and also allows you to gain scholarships that you might not be able to get. You can get to know an admissions counselor personally from schools that you might not have known existed or weren't on your radar," Izabela Tabor, a Chicopee Comp senior, said.



TURLEY PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

Sam Miller, a first-year admissions counselor at Elms College, attended College Acceptance Days at Chicopee Comp on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Carrie Chevalier Vickers, the school district's college and career readiness coordinator for career development education, said it is important to invite local schools because many students stay local. She praised the college reps who visited Chicopee Comp this week.

"For them to come out and take the time, we really appreciate."

See **GEAR UP** page 8

# Planning Department invites public to share input on Szot Park

City is developing a master plan to determine the park's future

By Dalton Zbierski  
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CHICOPEE -- The future of Frank J. Szot park lies in the residents' hands, as the city's Department of Planning & Development seeks public input to determine how to best utilize one of Chicopee's premier open spaces.

"This is a project that is looking to evaluate the entire land area that is part of Szot Park, and we're working to develop a comprehensive vision for the park and upgrades that need to be done to the facilities in the future," Director of Planning & Development Lee Pouliot said.

The City of Chicopee has partnered with Ray Dunetz Landscape Architecture, of Jamaica Plain, to help develop a master plan for Szot Park by early 2024. Residents are invited to complete a survey to share their opinions on the park; the survey can be accessed by using the QR code.

"Every resident, every stakeholder who visits Szot Park, spends time in Szot Park, uses the facilities in Szot Park, their voice counts as part of this process. We're looking for trends in the data as more people respond to start understanding what the priorities are," Pouliot said.

Even the most specific comments are welcome. In the broader context of everyone supplying feedback, Pouliot said those little things, or unique opinions, may contribute to identifying a trend that needs to be addressed in the park.

The project is currently in its very early stages, and the survey will help provide the design team with ideas, interest and any other information related to the park that could help in developing a



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE CITY OF CHICOPEE

As the city develops a master plan to determine the future of Szot Park off Front Street, it invites residents to complete a survey and share their opinions.

comprehensive plan for the park's future.

"It's very easy. Take the survey and tell us what you want," Pouliot said. "The purpose of a master plan for a park is to sort of rethink everything that's there, which will give the city an opportunity to think about how the park is laid out and then start considering improvements that will be phased in over time."

Pouliot said the ultimate goal is to develop a capital plan that is prioritized based on community feedback so the city can then begin lining up funding sources to bring that collective vision to life.

For example, as part of the open space and recreation plan efforts that were conducted earlier this year, the city heard a lot about the need for more universal design and fully accessible playgrounds, so Pouliot said his department wants to know what kind of facilities

people want to see in Szot Park.

Fortunately, the Planning Department is very experienced with developing master plans and just finished the citywide comprehensive plan, which was completed using a similar planning process.

"Then, we have a variety of other sort of master plans for the RiverMills properties in Chicopee Falls, we have the West End Neighborhood Plan for Brownfields and we're wrapping up work on a Willimansett plan for Brownfields, so all of those plans have helped the city pursue design and engineering funds or construction grant funds to start redeveloping properties or to bring new park spaces online like the post-9/11 park that we'll hopefully be ribbon-cutting by the end of this year," Pouliot said.

Pouliot said master plans are critical because they represent the community's voice and gives his team the information it needs to write competitive grants at the state and federal level to fund the projects that the plans envision.

After the plan is finished in 2024, the team will look at a number of phases of construction to begin making the plan's goals a reality.

"We would be looking to implement a first project almost immediately once the plan is completed," Pouliot said. "We don't know exactly how much scope will be included in the first phase of work, but our intention is that out of the completion of the master plan, we also identify what the first phase of work is going to be, and that is currently partially funded through the same funding source that is assisting with the master plan, which is city ARPA funds."

Following the completion of the comprehensive plan, Pouliot said it is refreshing to work on smaller scale, site specific plan. He said the city can make sure that the priorities that came out of the comprehensive plan, and the open space plan before it, are also addressed and plugged into the plan for Szot Park.

Pouliot is also thrilled with the relationship between his department and the Department of Parks & Recreation, which is thriving.

"We have been assisting Parks in understanding the plans themselves and hearing a lot from Parks about maintenance required in the parks so that when we do get to actual construction, we know we're not only improving the facilities for those who use them, but also making maintenance and long-term care easier and more efficient on city staff," he said.



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## Knights of Columbus to host 'Father Misgivings' on Dec. 2

CHICOPEE -- The Knights of Columbus, Fr. Lucjan Krolkowski Council, invite everyone to a night of food and laughter on Saturday, Dec. 2, at the St. Stanislaus School / Parish Center, 534 Front St. Join Father Patrick Aloysius Misgivings for this divine presentation of stories and one liners about growing up Catholic.

From miracles and marriage counseling to bazaars and birth control, nothing escapes the good father's razor-sharp Irish wit. This hilarious, interactive come-

dy includes a collection, a raffle and even an actual Bingo game.

The cost is \$20 per person and includes the show and dinner - spaghetti with meatballs, salad, dessert and coffee/tea. Wine and beer will be available for purchase.

Doors open at 5 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m., followed by the show.

Tickets can be purchased at the Parish Office, 40 Cyman Drive, Chicopee until Monday, Nov. 27. For more information, call 413-594-6669.

## RiverMills Photography Club Gallery

CHICOPEE -- The Chicopee Council on Aging has partnered with the Chicopee Public Library for a photo exhibition taking place at the library Community Room. The exhibition will feature over 70 photographs taken by members of the RiverMills Photo Club.

Some photographs will be for sale and make a great holiday gift.

The reception will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 21 from 6:30-8 p.m. Live music will be played by Duet Jeff and Liz Schuman. Beverages and hors d'oeuvres will be on site.

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# City Council appropriates \$1.25 million for Barry Elementary School feasibility study

Study will investigate deficiencies, issues and potential options

By Dalton Zbierski  
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CHICOPEE -- City Council approved a \$1.25 million appropriation on Nov. 9 to fund a feasibility study to investigate deficiencies and issues at Anna Barry Elementary School and explore potential options and solutions moving forward.

The study will examine studies, plans, drawings, designs, specifications and any other pertinent information regarding the school on Connell Street. Last year, the city received state approval to begin exploring the process of replacing the school.

This is Chicopee's final step in the eligibility phase to earn funding from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, as the city looks to renovate or rebuild the school. Last Thursday, the City Council unanimously voted in favor of appropriating stabilization funds to cover the study.

"It is no secret that Anna Barry School is a troubled (aging) school. That was made public by Superintendent Richard Rege many years ago when I was sitting on the School Committee. At that time, it became the priority school to get fixed or get a new one, and this is now in progress," Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello said.

Ward 2 Councilor Shane Brooks noted that the building is not ADA compliant. Both of Brooks' children attended the school, one of the oldest buildings in the district.

Brooks said the feasibility study is a requirement. He stressed the importance of moving along a process that could lead to a new school building.

"The MSBA will in all likelihood give us a substantial amount to replace this antiquated school," Brooks said. "The new school would be fully (ADA) compliant, and it will not inhibit somebody having mobility issues from enjoying a successful



TURLEY PHOTOS BY TEDY MAKUCH

City Council appropriated \$1.25 million for a Barry Elementary School feasibility study, an important step in the process of building a new school building.

elementary career."

Delmarina López, the Ward 3 city councilor, informed Costello that she was attending Anna Barry Elementary School when Costello was sitting on the School Committee. Nearly 20 years ago, she said the students were aware of the school's deficiencies.

"During that time, I could tell you firsthand that (Rege) certainly did not do a Christopher Columbus; he didn't discover anything," López said. "We knew it, as students, that the school was in disarray. We've known it for years. Back when I was there, we still had asbestos and mildew, and it's always been a mess for as long as I remember for sure."

Ward 4 Councilor George Balakier emphasized that "time is of the essence," as Chicopee has an opportunity to make a difference for future students.

Councilor-at-Large Robert Zygarowski informed the public that the school will not be built overnight, but he looks forward to the construction of an airconditioned building. Mayor John Vieau shared an update on the estimated length of the process during his briefing.

"The whole project, which we've been accepted into the program, should take about five to seven years on average, but we are looking at potential spec

schools. First and foremost, we have to go through this process where it also considers remodeling the current building," Vieau said.

Ward 8 Councilor Gary Labrie noted that the school is in his ward and there are a lot of questions regarding where a new school would be located and how it would be built. He acknowledged the possibility that the old school could be renovated but doesn't consider it realistic because it isn't ADA compliant.

"The quicker we can get this passed (the better). This has been a long time in talking," Labrie said. "(The feasibility study) is going to answer a lot of questions and get the ball rolling because the neighbors, they really don't know what to expect, where is the school going to go,

what street it's going to go on. I'd like to see this passed tonight."

Before the vote was taken, López recommended residents be ready for tax increases in the next few years because Anna Barry Elementary School isn't the only ailing school building.

"I think the city should be getting ready for a lot of new schools happening in the next few years. I don't know what that will mean in terms of the tax dollars, but all these schools were built around the same time," she said. "You look around at some of our other elementary schools. They're in the same state of disarray (as Barry) so you better be ready to open your pocketbooks and release some tax dollars because all our students deserve to be in safe schools."

## Events and announcements

### First Congregational Church to hold Holly Berry Fair Nov. 18

CHICOPEE -- The First Congregational Church at 306 Chicopee St. is having their Annual Holly Berry Fair on Saturday, Nov. 18 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Enjoy great Holiday crafts and gifts from various vendors, raffle baskets, baked goods, yummy food at the snack bar and more.

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

CHICOPEE -- Tickets are 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 at the door (\$70 per couple at the door).

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).

### Rocket Recruitment event this Saturday


LUDLOW -- Come join Cub Scout Pack 180, Boy Troop 180 and Girl Troop 180 for an out-of-this-world Rocket Recruitment event at the field behind Veterans Park Elementary School in Ludlow on Saturday, Nov. 18. The rain date is Sunday, Nov. 19. The event is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be different types of rocket building and launching including soda bottle rockets, paper rockets, vinegar and baking soda film canister rockets and balloon rockets. The Cub Pack will also have model rocket launching. Let's Rocket Into Scouting! For more info email [info@scouts180.org](mailto:info@scouts180.org).



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**Deadline for photos and forms is Friday, December 6, 2023**

## EDITORIAL



### Cooper's hawk

I received an email from a reader, who had a Cooper's hawk in his yard for two days. He said, "The barred tail was distinctive flying through the yard ... and looked like a dart with the tail straight out. Many people don't realize they, like the Peregrine Falcon, were decimated by DDT and pesticides."



The Cooper's hawk is 16 inches long and as the reader said in his email they have a long tail with barring. They also have fine streaking on the breast. They are gray above with reddish brown barring. Their crown is darker than the back. The immature Cooper's hawk is dark brown above and light below with thin streaking. Immature plumage is kept for one year.

During the breeding season, these hawks have a regular feeding route where it hunts for common medium sized birds such as mourning doves, blue jays and starlings.

The female lays three to six pale blue green eggs with dark marks in a platform nest of sticks place in a tree ten to 70 feet high.

Cooper's hawks may show up at bird feeders especially during the winter months, when it roams a wider area for food. Cooper's hawks inhabit mixed forests and open woodlands. They make a loud repeated "kek kek kek kek" call given during alarm or during pair interaction. As mentioned in the email above, the Cooper's hawks were decimated in the 1950s and 1960s due to the use of DDT.

### Other birds by the lake

He lives on a lake and said, "There is an old pine the Bald Eagles love to fish from. There are two Red Shouldered Hawks' nests within three or four hundred feet of each other and when the young start yelling for food the other nest invariably starts and I have them in stereo. Last year a pair of Blue Heron nested, but this year there is only one who patrols the cove shoreline alone. The eagles seem to ignore the adult." He also sees Golden eagles as well.

### Bird tally

I received an email from a reader, who visits ponds in Warren. He sent a tally of bird observed on Nov. 2, 3 and 4. They included on Nov. 2 46 Canada geese and again the same number on Nov. 3 and six on Nov. 4; one pied-billed grebe on Nov. 3, four great blue herons on Nov. 2, two on Nov. 3 and 3 on Nov. 4; a red-tailed hawk on Nov. 2 and one bald eagle on Nov. 3.

He also reported seeing two American crows on Nov. 2, a yellow-bellied sapsucker on Nov. 2, two blue jays on Nov. 2, a titmouse on Nov. 2, one bluebird on Nov. 2 and two on Nov. 3, six robins on Nov. 2, two yellow-dumped warblers on Nov. 2 and again on Nov. 3 and three song sparrows on Nov. 2. Yellow-bellied sapsuckers, yellow-rumped warblers and bluebirds were eating poison ivy berries.

### Canada geese

This weekend my granddaughter and I saw about two dozen Canada geese fly over her house. They were honking as they flew overhead. They headed for a beaver pond across the street.

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

## GUEST COLUMN



### Thanksgiving thoughts

My dad has been gone a long time.

I sometimes feel badly that he is not in my thoughts as much as he used to be. A lot has happened since his death - marriage and children, a new (old) house.

Sometimes it's easy to get caught up in the day to day, but today, as I write, I think of him. Holidays at my childhood home were always a lot of fun.

I reflect on that now, as we make plans for our Thanksgiving and Christmas gatherings. I can still picture him standing at the counter by the sink, carving the turkey and later in the day enjoying a whopping piece of apple pie (with American cheese?) from his recliner.

My mom still keeps some of the traditions alive as do other family members. Read on to learn about some of the favorite vegetables, fruits and even herbs that make an appearance at the table.

I am not exactly sure where my mom's stuffing recipe originally came from, but it is always a big hit. My Illinois based brother loves it so much that my sister-in-law asked for a copy and now makes it for him on Thanksgiving.

I guess if you can't be at home, having mom's stuffing is the next best thing! Her recipe wouldn't be the same without sage and I doubt yours would either.

Common garden sage (*Salvia officinalis*) is a shrubby perennial plant native to the Mediterranean.

Its leaves start out lime-green in color, but at maturity end up more grey than green. They are somewhat "pebbly" in texture and are very aromatic.

For the most pungency, sage leaves should be harvested just prior to flowering. Hang the leaves and stem tips in loose bunches upside down in an airy, dark place to dry.

Once completely dry (crispy to the touch), leaves can be stripped from their stems and stored in an airtight container.

Remember, as with any herb, drying concentrates the oils in the foliage. Use only half the amount of dried herbs if you have to substitute them for fresh in any recipe.

Because sage is nearly evergreen (actually, "evergrey") I rarely dry any, but harvest it for immediate use even through the winter months - it is freeze-dried but still tasty! Cut back the plant hard in early spring- you will sacrifice a few flowers, but will be rewarded with a lush bushy plant, rather than one that is woody and sparse.

Another one of mom's cherished contributions to Thanksgiving dinner is her apple cranberry relish. This is a simple recipe in which fresh cranberries and peeled apples are chopped fine and mixed together with a little sugar.

So easy yet incredibly yummy! I tried growing cranberries only to be disappointed that voles chewed the roots and killed the plants.

Maybe I'll try again sometime in the future. They don't need a bog, but the water does help with harvesting.

My mom always bought a small turnip for my Dad to enjoy at Thanksgiving dinner. I have to say that I don't recall any other members of the family eagerly anticipating it, not the way he did anyway.

I remember mom carefully cutting away the hard outer skin and then cubing the flesh. It was then boiled and mashed as you would potatoes, with lots of butter.

Turnip must be one of those foods that you acquire a taste for, and as of yet I have not.

To produce the best-tasting, largest turnips time your plantings to grow and mature in cool weather. For Thanksgiving turnips sow seeds 90 days before the first fall frost is expected.

Simply make a shallow trench one-quarter to one-half inch deep and position seeds one to one and a half inches apart. Once germination occurs and plants have developed their first set of true leaves, thin seedlings to three inches apart.

Deep, loose soil is best for root vegetables of any kind. Turnips benefit from extra water during droughty periods.

If an early frost threatens and your roots aren't yet mature you can cover turnip plants with a sheet or blanket on chilly nights to get through the cold spell and sneak out some additional growing time. Do watch out for frigid temps, however, since mercury that measures below the twenty-five degree mark can damage the crown of the plant.

This type of injury can make turnips more susceptible to rot and reduce storage capabilities. Turnips are best stored at temperatures around thirty-five degrees.

They can be packed in damp sand or leaves in a cold cellar and should keep for at least two or three months. Some books recommend wrapping individual roots in plastic wrap to hold in moisture as well as prevent the strong turnip odor from permeating other vegetables.

Commercial turnip growers use a food grade wax for this purpose, which makes cutting away the outer flesh all the more challenging.

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

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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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## Senior center launches Deck the Trees Holiday Fundraiser



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

(L to R) Stan Walczak, president of the Friends of RiverMills Senior Center, and members Linda Gauthier, Denise Saluk and Steve Tanhauser smile for a group photo at the Happy New Year tree inside RiverMills Senior Center. The tree, sponsored by the Friends, is part of this year's Deck the Trees Holiday Fundraiser.

*The fundraiser supports the Friends of RiverMills Senior Center*

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer  
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CHICOPEE – The Council on Aging and the Friends of the RiverMills Center kicked off the fifth annual Deck the Trees Holiday Fundraiser earlier this week.

The fundraiser supports the Friends, a nonprofit that raises money for senior center programming and resources.

This year, there are 12 trees sponsored by local businesses, organizations and community members.

For a chance to win a tree, seniors can purchase tickets for \$5 each. Tickets went on sale Nov. 14 and can be purchased from the Friends and placed in a box in front of each tree.

The winners will be chosen on Dec. 1.

Friends President Stan Walczak said the event is one of the nonprofit's biggest fundraisers of the year and that people are excited to see the trees and try to win one.

Walczak added that the Friends sponsored a tree called "Happy New Year" with New Year-themed decorations.

"It's a great event. People come in droves. They really enjoy seeing the Christmas spirit here," Walczak said. "It does wonders for the seniors to come in, see everything decorated, especially if they're by themselves at home and don't have a tree."

Walczak said the Friends group supports the senior center by funding many programs and resources, including entertainment for summer concerts, an emergency fund for seniors, Bingo for Bags & Tools, cakes for birthday parties and more.

"There are 136 members right now that belong to the Friends group. They pay a \$10 membership to belong to the Friends group," Walczak said. "They all help and volunteer in some way."

Walczak stressed the importance of bringing the holiday spirit to seniors by coming together to socialize and enjoy programs.

"I think the spirit itself, you know,

just the Christmas trees and lights are what Christmas is all about," Walczak said. "Just enjoying the scenery and the people laughing and having a good time and stuff like that."

COA Executive Director Sherry Manyak appreciates how Deck the Trees brings joy to the seniors, sharing a woman's excitement about one of this year's trees and telling staff "How it made her holiday."

"I think that's one of the good things about this. We have so many people coming here and this is their happy place, and so to bring in some new things just makes them really enjoy being here more," Manyak said.

Manyak said the Friends helps fund a lot of the senior center programming, adding how seniors deserve everything and "we wouldn't be able to do that without our Friends group."

"I think it's very important that we support them any way we can," Manyak said.

COA Assistant Director Holly Angelo loves how all the trees have different themes.

"It's just a nice festive display that's very pretty and gets people in the spirit of the holiday season," Angelo said. "You can tell people are just enjoying it sitting out there looking at the lights and the different decorations."

Angelo also enjoys seeing the seniors purchase raffle tickets to try and win their favorite tree.

"They really get into it," she said. "It's a lot of fun."

Angelo encourages everyone to stop by.

"Just come on down! The center's open to everyone. Check out the trees, buy a raffle ticket, take a chance, and you'll support programming for the older adults in Chicopee," Angelo said.

Walczak also encourages residents to stop by to check out the trees along with the senior center's programs.

"If you don't have a Christmas tree and you want to win one, this is the place to come to," Walczak said.

To learn more about the Friends, check out the senior center newsletter, stop by the front desk or visit <https://www.chicopeema.gov/740/Friends-of-Chicopee-Senior-Citizens-Inc>.

## City Council denies special permit application for Oiko Court structure

*Also, discussion on a car wash construction moratorium*

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer  
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CHICOPEE -- City Council voted on Nov. 9 to deny a special permit application for constructing a membrane-covered structure on Oiko Court.

Ward 4 Councilor George Balakier explained the Zoning Committee "had quite a discussion with this," citing neighborhood concerns and Chapter 275 9-M.

"(The) proposal has potential for creating a nuisance due to air and water pollution, flood noise, dust, vibration, lights or visually offensive structures and accessories," Balakier said.

Balakier added the applicant's plan "is not compatible with the appearance of the neighborhood" and "not in general harmony with the purpose and intent of zoning ordinance."

"We had strong opposition from neighbors and concerns with this property regarding various amounts of issues and, additionally, a police officer had to break up a potential altercation between the applicant and (a) concerned neighbor," Balakier said. "So, there was some strong feelings, and this was a contentious situation."

Ward 6 Councilor Derek Dobosz thanked the Zoning Committee for supporting the residents, saying it "was a tough issue."

"The applicant has been a problem property for some time. He has a lot of illegal storage; he's running a business out of there. He had a couple of illegal fires. He was burning mattresses and other trash and he would take the scrap metal and recycle it. So, it's been an issue for quite some time," Dobosz said.

Dobosz also thanked incoming Ward 6 Councilor Samuel Shumsky for supporting the residents and the police department for stopping the near altercation.

"I'm very glad that they were in attendance," Dobosz said.

The motion to deny the special permit passed 11-0.

Another highlight of the Nov. 9

meeting was a discussion around a moratorium for constructing car washes from the intersection of Montgomery Street to the South Hadley line.

Dobosz proposed a withdrawal for this motion, explaining how "we don't have the authority to do this, but we want to bring some attention to it."

"They're building a few car washes on Memorial Drive right now. There's one behind the Chipotle on Memorial Drive and I believe, I think, there's going to be one where Denny's is, is that correct? Yeah, so they're building two new ones on Memorial Drive, in my ward," Dobosz said.

Dobosz reiterated the motion was to bring attention to it and how "we don't control what somebody can't do with their property."

"Hopefully, we can look at incentivizing types of development that are more popular. I know a lot of residents are voicing concerns that, you know, they'd like to see some more for recreation, so that's why we filed it," Dobosz said.

Ward 7 Councilor William Courchesne said he's seen many people on social media complain about banks, oil change places and car washes.

"At the end of the day, obviously the person who owns a plot of land can do what he wants as long as it's within the legal guidelines of our ordinances and stuff, so we can't restrict what they build," Courchesne said.

Courchesne said the city is not building banks and opening oil change places and "it's people who own land who want to do it," adding if the process to open a business is difficult, "then we're probably doing something right."

"Because we're making sure we're protecting everybody and our residents and the city itself," Courchesne said.

Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello also said the item "is a matter of public discussion."

"I don't want residents to think that we're not aware of what their concerns are and that we, like Councilor Courchesne has always said, we want to be transparent, and that's what we're doing here," Costello said.

The motion to withdraw passed 11-0.




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# Elms College to hold distinguished lecture in culture on Dec. 7

CHICOPEE -- On Thursday, Dec. 7, Elms College and the St. Augustine Center for Ethics, Religion, and Culture at Elms will hold its Distinguished Lecture in Culture on the topic of spirituality and secularism at 4:30 p.m. in the college's Alumnae Library Theater.

The guest speaker, Dean Emerita Carolyn Jacobs, Ph.D., MSW, will examine the role spirituality plays in an increasingly secular society. Jacobs has written extensively on spirituality and spent 35 years on the faculty at the Smith College School for Social Work, including several as dean.

The lecture will explore how society can tap into the richness of the Catholic intellectual tradition and the

teachings of Jesus of Nazareth in order to re-ignite our shared purpose and sense of community and rebuff the secularism in today's culture.

"I am deeply grateful to Dr. Jacobs for her willingness to leverage her expertise to foster a robust conversation that promises to engage people of all spiritualities and faith traditions," said Professor Peter A. DePergola II, '07, Ph.D., ThDc, MTS, HEC-C, executive director of the CERC, Shaughnessy Family Chair for the Study of the Humanities and associate profes-



Carolyn Jacobs.

sor of Bioethics and Medical Humanities at Elms. During her tenure at Smith, Jacobs also directed Smith's certificate program in contemplative clinical practice. In her retirement, she has served as a past and current member of the Elms College Board of Trustees.

The CERC was launched three years ago thanks to an anonymous naming gift and several significant contributions and is one of the most visible manifestations of the college's Catholic mission. The center aims to increase engagement and discourse on the most

pressing and complex questions related to ethics, religion and culture in today's society and to lead the regional community in thoughtful, engaging dialogue.

In June, the CERC launched its own international, open-access, peer-reviewed journal, *Charity in Truth: A Journal of Ethics, Religion, and Culture*, which publishes original research and scholarship at the intersection of ethics, religion, and culture. DePergola serves as the journal's founding editor-in-chief.

The lecture is free and open to the public. To register for the lecture, visit <https://www.elms.edu/events/catholic-spirituality-in-dialogue-with-secular-culture/>.



Members of the JR Air Force ROTC join a Chicopee veteran in saluting the WWII monument in the Veterans Memorial Plaza off of Front Street.

**VETERANS DAY** from page 1

our veterans today that are with us, but we honor those veterans who have passed in succeeding wars from the time that President Eisenhower formally established Veterans Day."

Vieau, whose grandfather was an Army private in WWII, spoke on how much the city values its relationship



Director of Veterans Services Stephanie Shaw speaks at the Veterans Memorial Plaza on Nov. 11.



A veteran salutes the flag on Veterans Day in Chicopee.

with Westover Air Reserve Base. He noted that a lot of the Westover veterans remain in the city when they retire because they fall in love with the community.

Vieau was also thrilled to see the JR Air Force ROTC cadets in attendance, representing Chicopee High School.

"I'm so proud of the JR Air Force ROTC. Their numbers are growing every year. They're up to a compliment of 120, and I'm so proud of what they do. On these holidays that honor the military very seriously, they're here, they're supportive, and I'm so proud of them. I wish every student would go through their program," Vieau said.

On Nov. 11, Vieau was able to interact with veterans representing every conflict dating back to the Korean War. He noted that military members are the ones who miss birthdays and major moments in their children's lives because of their commitment to serving and protecting this country.

"Freedom isn't free, and we take for granted some of the freedoms this country has given us because of those who have signed up and sacrifice. Today's a day we should all stop, pause and honor them. And thank them, everywhere we go. Every American should reach out and thank a veteran today," Vieau said.



A group photo of Police Capt. Doug Lambert, Police Chief Patrick Major and Public Information Officer Travis Odiorne with their Chicopee Police truck filled with food donations during the PNCU Food Drive and Coffee Hour event outside Goodworks Coffee on Nov. 7. The police department also lent their support and partnered with Polish National Credit Union for the event.

**FOOD DRIVE** from page 1

dent of the Westover Galaxy Community Council, an organization on Westover Air Force Base that raises funds for business partnerships and community partnerships to support all military families and operations in Chicopee and surrounding communities.

Beaulieu has been with the organization for over 15 years and explained the organization supports all military branches.

"That's where a lot of this food today is going to go is to help every organization and every service branch on base," Beaulieu said.

Beaulieu also shared that on Nov. 26, the organization will hold a Stuff-a-Limo from noon to 2 p.m. at The Bridal Corner on Memorial Drive to distribute toys to military families.

"All of those toys will be distributed through the Angel Tree program that we have out of Westover," Beaulieu said. "Santa Claus will be there, we'll have hot dogs and hot chocolate."

Beaulieu said it's important to give back and thank the military.

"It's a feel-good feeling that you should have to give back to our veterans and to our current service members and their families," Beaulieu said. "My thing is, you see a vet, you thank a vet because we wouldn't be here without them."

Beaulieu wants the community to know that "we do not do what we do



A resident and member of the military drops off his donations during the PNCU Food Drive and Coffee Hour event outside Goodworks Coffee Nov 7.

without veterans and active service members doing what they're doing."

"Those men and women give a lot and gave a lot. Some gave all, so we should be able to stop and look and listen and thank to move forward," Beaulieu said. "A couple of canned goods here and there, \$2, or \$3, you know, it all goes to a great cause because there is power in numbers. As our military shows that we have power in numbers, we as a community should have power in numbers to support them."

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# Sports

## Colts look for ninth straight over High



STAFF PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Chicopee Comprehensive High School football once again took the Sword in the annual Thanksgiving Day matchup with rival Chicopee High School last year

CHICOPEE – On Thanksgiving morning, Chicopee and Chicopee Comprehensive High School will meet for the sixth time since the two teams started playing their “Sword” Game on the holiday.

Chicopee Comprehensive will look for its sixth straight win and ninth overall in a row against Chicopee High while the Pacers will be looking to break through losing streak.

For the eighth straight year, the “Sword” remained with Chicopee Comprehensive last year. The Colts defeated the Pacers 28-10 on Thanksgiving last Thursday, despite the Pacers entering this year’s game with a much better record than the Colts.

Comp also won on Thanksgiving for the fifth straight year.

Jacyion Cox had the big game for the Colts with three touchdowns in just the first half. He would score the fourth touchdown in the second half. The Pacers only managed one score in the end zone, but did get a safety.

This year, both teams are coming off pretty rough seasons.

Chicopee needed eight games before picking up a win this year. They went 2-7 overall with wins coming over Ludlow and Palmer in consecutive weeks.

Chicopee Comprehensive did not have a win all season before defeating Easthampton in Week 10 26-24.

Kickoff for the annual matchup takes place at 10:15 a.m. at Szot Park.



Jacyion Cox makes a throw for the Colts.



Jareem Garvin returns the ball for the Pacers during last year’s matchup.



Xavion Maldonado attempts to make a tackle.



Elijah Ramirez tries to escape trouble on a run.

## Unified basketball action

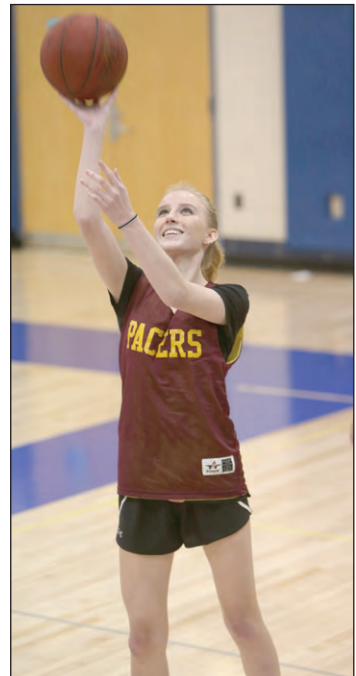
CHICOPEE – The Unified basketball team at Chicopee High School has had another successful season.

Chicopee has both uni-

fied basketball and track. Their counterparts at Chicopee Comprehensive also field teams and participated in the end-of-season jamboree event

at Chicopee Comprehensive last Thursday.

More highlights from the event will be in next week’s edition.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Julia Fettes attempts a shot.



Ttathan Delrio sends a shot into the arc.



Dominic Mason tries to avoid a block.



Ryan Bizon makes his way down the court.

## Volleyball All-Star Showcase set for next Tuesday

HOLYOKE – The 11th IVHF All-Star Showcase will feature the top players in Western Massachusetts in two showcase matches. The event will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 21 at the Holyoke Community College Bartley Center located at 303 Homestead Avenue, Holyoke.

The event will start with a 3-set Second team all-star match at 6 p.m. followed by the award presentation and a 3-set First team match at 7:30 p.m. Adult tickets are \$10, Seniors 65-and-over are \$5 and Students/Children are free of charge. Admission to the All-Star Game also includes a free of charge future admission pass to the Internation-

See ALL-STAR page 10

## Alumni game at Chicopee Comp

CHICOPEE – All Chicopee Comprehensive High School football alumni are invited to participate in the 6th annual CCHS Alumni Football Game. The game will be taking place on Wednesday, Nov. 22 at 6 p.m. at Chicopee Comp High School, 617 Montgomery Street, Chicopee. All proceeds will benefit the Chicopee Comprehensive football team. For more information, please contact Tammy Martin-Griffin at tmg811@yahoo.com.

## UMass hosting Pioneer Valley Tip-Off

AMHERST – The Pioneer Valley Tip-Off is a student-run high school basketball showcase featuring some of the best talent in Central and Western Massachusetts.

The PVTO was started in 2011 by Scott Moses and Pat Salle, both students at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and it continues to be entirely student-run by the McCormack Student Leaders Club today.

The PVTO is held each December on the University of Massachusetts Amherst campus, where we strive to create a professional environment for fans and players alike. This year's event will be held on Dec. 9 and 10 and will feature teams from throughout the region.

A schedule is online at [www.pioneervalleytip-off.com](http://www.pioneervalleytip-off.com). All games will be held at the Mullins Center on the UMass-Amherst campus.

## T-Birds fall in overtime

BRIDGEPORT, CT – The Springfield Thunderbirds (7-6-1-0) got a terrific netminding performance, but the offense went cold in a 2-1 overtime loss to the Bridgeport Islanders (4-6-1-0) on Saturday night at Total Mortgage Arena in Bridgeport.

The starting goaltenders were the best performers in the opening period. Malcolm Subban got the nod for the T-Birds after a strong relief effort in Providence on Friday and helped Springfield kill off a pair of Islander power plays in the first, denying nine shots in the period. At the other end, Ken Appleby was far busier than he was last Sunday when he needed to make just 17 saves in 60 minutes against the T-Birds. He had an answer for all 11 Springfield shots in the first frame.

The scoreless affair was broken at the 5:54 mark in the second period. After Springfield failed to generate a chance on an odd-man rush, it sprung the Islanders into the T-Birds zone on a 3-on-1, and Ruslan Iskhakov elected to take the shot himself from the right circle, slipping it between Subban's legs to give Bridgeport the 1-0 advantage and snap a streak of more than 75 minutes without a goal for the Isles.

Despite some shaky moments in the stanza, the T-Birds fought back to even the score at 15:28. Near the end of a shift, Will Bitten entered the offensive zone on the left wing, dropping a pass at the top of the left circle for Joey Duszak. After stumbling slightly, Duszak regathered his footing and surprised Appleby with a low shot along the ice that sneaked home, equaling things



at 1-1. Bitten picked up his first assist of the year, while Duszak's tally was his first goal as a Thunderbird.

Subban remained stout in between the pipes, as he shut down each of the other 13 shots he faced in the period, allowing just the Iskhakov wrister to beat him, taking the 1-1 tie into the final 20 minutes.

Shots and chances heavily favored the Islanders in the third period, as Springfield just a single shot on goal in the final 20 minutes. Subban, though, maintained his poise and nearly singlehandedly earned a standings point for the T-Birds, forcing the 1-1 tie into overtime.

After winning their first two overtime games of the season, Springfield could not make it three straight, as Iskhakov stormed up the ice to create a 2-on-1 with Sam Asselin with under a minute left in overtime. Asselin hit Iskhakov in stride, and the skilled winger made no mistake in beating Subban on the stick side to seal the victory at 4:08 of extra time.

The T-Birds come back home next Friday, Nov. 17 for another Deuces Wild Friday at the Thunderdome, where the T-Birds will take on the Utica Comets for their first of four matchups on the season, with puck drop at 7:05 p.m.

### ALL-STAR from page 9

al Volleyball Hall of Fame Museum. "The IVHF is very proud to have its home in Western Massachusetts and we are very excited to again recognize the top players in our area," said IVHF Executive Director George Mulry.

Selected players are chosen by vote of the Western Massachusetts girls high school coaches. For more information on the Hall of Fame Girls All-Star Volleyball Showcase, contact [events@volleyhall.org](mailto:events@volleyhall.org).



PHOTO COURTESY CARRIE CHEVALIER VICKERS

Jennifer McNeill, STCC admission representative, sitting with students who applied to the college during College Acceptance Days at Chicopee Comp earlier this week."

### GEAR UP from page 1

ciate it for sure, especially because they spend the whole day here, sitting down with the students, seeing them one-on-one," she said. "The best thing about it for this event is (students) apply for free, so every student here gets a free application. They can be accepted on the spot if they have all their materials in, and they can sometimes get a merit scholarship depending on the school."

Guidance counselors began preparing for College Acceptance Days in June, said Chicopee Comp Principal Andrew Lamothe, who complimented their effort. Lamothe was impressed by the range of colleges that traveled to Chicopee Comp, a location convenient for students.

"It's very cool; public schools, private schools, two-year schools and schools from Connecticut, Rhode Island and New Hampshire are here. It's a variety," Lamothe said. "The fact that we have it here kind of pushes (students) to make that step and start reaching out to the colleges... It's early in the year, and it starts them in the process. Everybody here, the guidance counselors and staff, are pushing them to make that leap so it's good."

Over the course of two days, representatives from American International College, Assumption University, Bay Path University, Assnuntuck Community College in Connecticut, Elms College, Fisher College and Holyoke Community College made their way to the Chicopee Comp library.

They were joined by representatives from Johnson & Wales University in Rhode Island, Keene State College in New Hampshire, Springfield College, Springfield Technical Community College, Western New England University and Westfield State University.

Sam Miller, a first-year admissions counselor at Elms College, ventured across the city to Chicopee Comp on Tuesday and Wednesday. She noted that the experience is a good opportunity for students to speak directly with people who work on college campuses.

"This helps put the ball in their court," Miller said. "It's also really great for the school. Yesterday, I ended up coming home with about 17 applications. I mean that is so good. Today will probably be around 10, so 27 altogether is a huge amount in just two days."

Miller said having the event in the school library saves students some valuable time.

She said Elms College focuses on visiting schools in Chicopee and surrounding communities such as Springfield and Holyoke because "people are very busy, and we recognize that not everybody has the opportunity to come do campus tours or come visit our college."

Miller also enjoyed communicating with reps from other colleges. She noted that Elms College brought paper applications, whereas other schools brought computers, a change she said she would propose when she returned to her office on campus.

"I feel like we got to talk a lot about just our offices and the differences, and we can see what they're doing that's beneficial to their students, and we can implement it into Elms so it's nice getting to talk about things that work and don't work, and we just take that into account on our side," Miller said.

Kathy Bailey, an admissions rep for Johnson & Wales University, covers Western Connecticut and Western Massachusetts and attends similar programs multiple times each year. She spoke on what makes Chicopee Comp unique.

"They have great students here, and we love to meet them," she said. "So far, everyone I've met has been a solid candidate for our school so that's awesome. It's nice to see them one-on-one; have a little extra time to spend with them than just reading the application from home. It's nice to be able to this and answer their questions."

GEAR UP stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, a national initiative, and GEAR UP Massachusetts endeavors to substantially increase the number of low-income students who obtain a secondary school diploma and are prepared to succeed in postsecondary education.

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# New RiverMills Center program supports caregivers, people living with dementia

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer  
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE -- A new program at the senior center is helping those living with dementia and their caregivers receive support and form connections.

Memory Connections takes place every first Wednesday of the month from 3 - 5 p.m. and is supported by grants from Health New England, Polish National Credit Union and WestMass Elder Care.

Registration is required.

Every month, caregivers meet with Laura Lavoie, president and founder of Our Dementia Life, to discuss strategies, topics and ways to support their loved ones living with dementia. Meanwhile, their loved ones participate in activities such as crafts, music or exercise with trained staff.

Afterward, everyone comes together for an early dinner.

Holly Angelo, assistant director of the Council on Aging, explained the Alzheimer's Support Group's numbers were increasing and, in response, the staff wanted to offer another program that also engaged with loved ones with dementia.

"We immediately thought of Laura, and she was enthusiastic about the idea. Laura trained about a dozen staff members about dementia and how to interact with people with dementia so we could provide a safe environment for them while their caregivers are with Laura during the program," Angelo said.

Angelo stressed how "caregivers



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Laura Lavoie, president and founder of Our Dementia Life, discusses sensory/motor connections as Sue Raymond listens during the Nov. 1 Memory Connections program meeting at RiverMills Senior Center. The new program supports those living with dementia and their caregivers.

need all the support they can get" and "also need information about the disease that their loved ones have."

"The hour the caregivers spend with Laura is a time for them to learn and is also a time for them to be with others who are dealing with the stresses that come with caring for someone with dementia. They know they're not alone, and that can be a very comforting thing. For the people who have dementia, it's important that they socialize and participate in activities that engage them," Angelo said.

This month, caregivers learned about sensory/motor connections by understanding touch and emotional indicators of distress, later practicing what they

learned through interactive demonstrations led by Lavoie.

Lavoie, a former board member for the COA, said helping people fulfills her work.

"It's for people that say, 'Oh, that's why,' or 'Now, I tried that, and my dad doesn't do this anymore,' or 'My mom is so much happier now,'" Lavoie said. "I love it when people have those ah-ha moments and something changes for them in a better way."

Lavoie said there should be more programs like Memory Connections around the country and additional support for caregivers.

"It's so necessary, so needed. Every-

body needs something like this in their community with real skills and technique and answers," Lavoie said.

Marie Bucalo has come to Memory Connections since its inception. This month, she learned about different stages of dementia and how to use different sensory/motor connections.

"It's wonderful knowing that other people are going through the same thing, you know, because it's tough," Bucalo said. "It's great that they have programs like this."

Bucalo shared her husband, Michael, was diagnosed with dementia about two years ago.

"He's got a wonderful sense of humor. That's what keeps him going. He likes to dance, and he loves people, which is good," Bucalo said.

Bucalo encourages residents to check out Memory Connections.

"It's just nice to know that other people are in the same boat as you because you feel alone. It's pretty hard to deal with," Bucalo said.

Angelo said she wants the community to know that the senior center wants Chicopee "to be a dementia-friendly community in every way possible."

"We want people to feel independent, empowered and engaged, and Memory Connections is a program that helps achieve those goals," Angelo said.

Memory Connections meets again on Dec. 6 and will focus on the five senses.

To learn more, call 413-534-3698 or check out the senior center newsletter.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at 6:30 PM\*** in the Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Special Permit application under Chapter 275-59 (c) (6) for the purpose of selling beer and wine in a restaurant located at 32 Center Street. Applicant - Deepthi Fernando, 123 State Street, Chicopee, MA 01013.

The plans/application can be viewed on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>

The November 29, 2023 Zoning 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, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>). You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email [aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov](mailto:aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov). 11/10, 11/17/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD23C0339CA

### In the matter of: Kayla Elizabeth Brown CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Kayla Elizabeth Brown of Chicopee, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Kayla Elizabeth Ashley**  
**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 12/08/2023.**

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: November 10, 2023  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
11/17/2023

### INVITATION FOR BID CHICOPEE ELECTRIC LIGHT

**725 FRONT STREET, CHICOPEE, MA 01020**  
**BID NO. CEL 23-0508**  
**ISSUE DATE: November 10, 2023**

Sealed proposals are being accepted for: "**CALIX CENTRAL OFFICE EQUIPMENT**"

BID OPENING DATE, TIME AND LOCATION: **Thursday, November 30, 2023 at 10:00 AM** at Chicopee Electric Light, 725 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01020-1778.

BIDS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED IN DUPLICATE. PLEASE READ AND COMPLY WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS ENTITLED 1.0 PREPARATION OF

### BIDS.

Bid documents are available at the business office located at 725 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01020-1778.

The Vendor/Contractor shall comply with the provisions of Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order No. 11375, entitled "Equal Employment Opportunity" and of Chapter 164 Sec. 56D as amended, of the Massachusetts General Laws, both of which are here incorporated by reference and made a part of this contract.

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

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

Please submit Bids in duplicate placed in a sealed envelope, clearly marked with the Bid Number and Title:

BID NUMBER: CEL 23-0508

TITLE: "**CALIX CENTRAL OFFICE EQUIPMENT**"

Natalie A. Colberg,  
Purchasing  
11/17/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD23C0330CA

In the matter of: **Teanna Yvette Cody**  
**CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**  
**A Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed

by **Teanna Yvette Cody of Chicopee, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Teanna Yvette Rodriguez**  
**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 12/05/2023.**

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: November 07, 2023  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
11/17/2023

### INVITATION FOR BID CHICOPEE ELECTRIC LIGHT

**725 FRONT STREET, CHICOPEE, MA 01020**  
**BID NO. CEL 23-0509**  
**ISSUE DATE: November 10, 2023**

Sealed proposals are being accepted for: **NEW/UNUSED FORD F550 CAB & CHASSIS**

BID OPENING DATE, TIME AND LOCATION: **Thursday, November 30, 2023 at 10:00 A.M.** at Chicopee Electric Light, 725 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01020-1778.

**BIDS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED IN DUPLICATE. PLEASE READ AND COMPLY WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS ENTITLED 1.0 PREPARATION OF BIDS.**

Bid documents are available at the business office located at 725 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01020-1778.

The Vendor/Contractor

shall comply with the provisions of Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order No. 11375, entitled "Equal Employment Opportunity" and of Chapter 164 Sec. 56D as amended, of the Massachusetts General Laws, both of which are here incorporated by reference and made a part of this contract.

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

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

Please submit Bids in duplicate clearly marked with the Bid Number and Title:

**BID NUMBER: CEL 23-0509**

**TITLE: NEW/UNUSED FORD F550 CAB & CHASSIS**

Natalie Colberg,  
Purchasing  
11/17/2023

### 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

### 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: 3FAHPOHA6BR295433  
Emely Ramirez  
21 Worcester Pl Apt 3  
Holyoke, MA 01040

2012 BMW X5  
VIN: 5UXZV8C57CL424470  
Symphony Winborne  
9 Walden Estates Rd  
Walden, NY 12586  
11/03, 11/10, 11/17/2023

# Roca and DoorDash partner to offer local communities resources and support

By Dalton Zbierski  
Editor  
dzbierski@turley.com

HOLYOKE -- Roca, Inc., a Massachusetts-based nonprofit organization dedicated to disrupting incarceration, poverty and racism by promoting hope and driving change, has partnered with DoorDash to provide support for residents in need across the state.

Through its Community Credits Program, established in 2021, DoorDash has committed to donating Roca \$3,000 in gift cards to support its programming and community engagement. This represents Roca's first corporate funding partnership.

Roca works to achieve its mission by engaging young adults, police and the systems at the center of urban violence in relationships to address trauma and make an impact. Roca has five sites in Massachusetts, including Holyoke, Springfield, Boston, Chelsea and Lynn; it also has a location in Baltimore, MD.

Roca currently serves 103 young women in Western Massachusetts and 126 young men in Holyoke alone.

"Having these community credits is a gamechanger," said Chris Judd, Roca's vice president of individual and corporate giving. "I think it's important I emphasize that our young people, not only being at the highest risk, are also very transient population. A lot of times, a lot of young mothers are in shelters, or, for young men, they're couch surfing and not always in a great living situation."

Roca can use the community credits to encourage young people to visit the facilities and attend programming. To make a difference, Judd said it is important to first get people through the doors.

"Sometimes, having these tokens will give them some incentive as well," Judd said. "We can say, 'Hey, your next meal is on us,' instead of them having to worry if their baby has (enough to eat)."

DoorDash launched its Community Credits Program to help empower local

organizations such as Roca and work with those in need. DoorDash Public Engagement Manager Darrel Davis said his team met with Roca earlier this year to learn more about the organization's mission and the communities it serves and left impressed.

"Just hearing from Roca, we were able to understand that these gift cards can definitely help them make a greater impact on the folks they interact with directly," Davis said. "From our perspective, this was really about how we could come together to support a really great community organization that's doing amazing work across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

Davis said community is at the heart of everything that is done at DoorDash, which has been able to partner with more than 200 local, state and national organizations to help enhance programs.

Davis said recipients have informed DoorDash that the gift cards help promote youth development, entrepreneur-

ship, workforce development programs and even vaccinations. He said that year after year, DoorDash has seen the program continue to grow in terms of the number of partners it unites with and supports, as well as understanding the needs of communities.

"We're trying to fine tune different ways to keep our Community Credits Program top of mind for organizations, but we're really proud to be supporting organizations across the commonwealth, including Roca, because it just means so much to the participants of their programs," Davis said.

Judd said that if she was being honest, she wishes DoorDash could offer more credits, but expressed great appreciation for the donation Roca will receive. She knows it will be significant.

"We'll be able to give young men and women these credits and say, 'Here you go. Set yourself up,'" she said. "For a nonprofit that is working with a population that is hard to engage, this is a valuable partnership."

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25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

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 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount of charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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# “Chicopee Public Library’s photo booth is holiday-themed

Booth will be available through mid-December

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer  
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE -- The library recently set up a holiday photo booth to provide residents an opportunity to take fun do-it-yourself holiday photos.

The free photo booth, located in the lower lobby, includes a winter-themed backdrop, a tripod to set up your phone for photos and a bucket of varying props including giant stockings, a holiday sweater, holiday-themed headbands such as reindeer antlers and more.

Additionally, there is a Bluetooth-connected remote people can access if they use available chairs for their photos. No pets are allowed.

Youth Services Specialist Corrina Stokes was one of the organizers and explained she saw another library in a library idea-sharing group talk about theirs.

“Everyone deserves to be able to have the opportunity to take a nice photo with their family, by themselves or with friends, and we would be able to provide that,” Stokes said.

Stokes said the photo booth is open to everyone, no matter what holidays you celebrate. She shared how important it is to provide space for people during the holidays, whether it’s a happy time or a sad time.

“It’s just for trying to spread some joy in the winter when things can start to seem a little bit dark to be able to have an opportunity to do something fun and to share,” Stokes said.

Stokes said the photo booth also



(L to R) Anne Gancarz, assistant director at Chicopee Public Library, Becca Mastronardi, acquisitions librarian at Chicopee Public Library and Corrina Stokes, youth services specialist at Chicopee Public Library, pose for a group photo with Christmas garb at the library’s Holiday Photobooth.

helps bring people together.

“I’ve seen families come in with their whole brood, all their kids and everything, to try and line them up to take photos, which has been really fun to see. I’ve seen friends come by after school and just take goofy-like selfies together. I just want it to be able to be a spot for everyone,” Stokes said.

Looking ahead to the holiday season, Stokes is excited to see people at the library.

“It’s always fun to see people come and spread the joy of the season,” Stokes said. “Just continuing to offer whatever we can to help the community and meet

them where we are and get them what they need.”

Stokes added the library is also one of the drop-off spots for unwrapped toys during the Toys for Tots campaign.

Residents can drop off their donations through Dec. 1.

“When you first come in, you’ll see it in our upstairs lobby,” Stokes said.

For upcoming programs, Stokes highlighted the library hosting the second annual Cocoa Carnival on Dec. 1 from 2:30-4 p.m. in the Community Room.

“It is a big program for people and families of all ages where you can come, play games, do a craft, and the really fun thing is everyone who comes and participates will be able to enjoy a free cup of cocoa,” Stokes said. “Then you can actually walk down the street and go and enjoy the tree lighting down at Chicopee Center.”

Stokes expressed joy at being able to offer this to residents.

“Like I said, everyone deserves to be able to celebrate the holidays as best they can and so it’s important,” Stokes said. “I really like the idea of being able to offer something that would be no cost that could still, hopefully, bring a little bit of fun to people’s winter.”

Stokes invited the community to come by the library, saying “We’d love to



A Toys for Tots box on display inside Chicopee Public Library. The library is a spot for residents to drop off gently unwrapped toys for needy



A full shot of the holiday backdrop display for the library’s Holiday Photobooth.

see you.”

“We have a lot of different programming happening right now for all ages,” Stokes said. “If you’re not sure about something, always give us a call, contact us any way you want to, and we’ll be happy to give you more information.”

To learn more, visit the photo booth, [chicopeelibrary.org](http://chicopeelibrary.org) or check out the library’s social media pages.

## Senior center needs volunteer driver

CHICOPEE -- The Council on Aging at the RiverMills Center is looking for licensed drivers who are willing to volunteer a few hours a week and provide rides to Chicopee’s older adults. The City of Chicopee provides the vehicles that the drivers will be using, and these cars are fully insured and maintained by the city’s maintenance department.

The COA’s Transportation Department provides rides for any Chicopee resident who is 55 years old or older.

This service is for medical, dental, legal and hairdresser appointments, pharmacy pick-ups, banking and shopping. The service is available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Any licensed driver who is interested in becoming a volunteer driver should contact the Council on Aging Volunteer and Activity Coordinator at 413-534-3698 Ext: 130 for additional information or stop by the reception desk to pick up an application.

# CRAFT FAIR

**THE Arbors**  
Assisted Living Residential Communities  
At Chicopee

**929 MEMORIAL DRIVE**

**Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**from 9AM-3PM**

Stop by and shop with our local vendors, take a chance on raffles, buy a great lunch, and be sure to save room for homemade bake sale goodies!

VENDORS INCLUDE but are not limited to Tupperware, Color Street, Sir Barks a Lot Dog Treats, Papparazzi, Bayhorse Soaperie, Wooden Holiday Crafts, Paper Pie Books, Brodester’s Bandanas ... and more!

Proceeds from this event will be donated to the **Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center**

**Still Time To Order!**

**THANKSGIVING REVIEW**

“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

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