

Chicopee Register

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

December 1, 2023 | Vol. 25, No. 35 | FREE

www.chicopeeregister.turley.com

COMMUNITY

Stuff-a-Limo event supports children of military families

The event took place at Bridal Corner on Nov. 26

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE -- The community stopped by Bridal Corner on Memorial Drive from noon to 2 p.m. on Nov. 26 for the seventh annual Stuff-a-Limo event.

Throughout the event, attendees dropped off new, unwrapped toys in a limousine for distribution to military families and their children, enjoying free hot dogs and hot chocolate served by the Westover Galaxy Community Council, raffle drawings and coffee from Goodworks Coffee House and cupcakes from chef instructor and pastry chef Stephanie Figueroa.

Additionally, there was a visit from Santa Claus and Christmas music.

Marissa Sczcepanek, owner of Bridal Corner, said this is their seventh year holding the event, sharing that her husband served in the Navy and raised their three daughters while in the Navy as well.



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

A group photo of all the organizers and supporters that made the 7th annual Stuff-a-Limo event possible. The event took place on Nov. 26 at Bridal Corner in Chicopee.

“So, we wanted to keep everything as local as possible and to donate back to the services that helped us when we were in. Finding out that Westover (Air Reserve Base) is right here and has the Westover Galaxy Community Council, it was a no-brainer that we wanted to

definitely support them,” Sczcepanek said.

Sczcepanek said “It just feels good to give back” at events like Stuff-a-Limo, adding “there’s so many children even in the military that are still in need.”

“So, if we can give, and we have plenty to give, we definitely

want to give our services and do as best that we can to support them and their families,” Sczcepanek said.

John Beaulieu, president of the Westover Galaxy Community Council, said the donations support the organization’s Angel Tree program at Military Family

Readiness, which supports all branches of military service.

“So, it’ll make some Christmases hopefully special for the young kids, and that’s what the Galaxy does, gives back to the community,” Beaulieu said.

See **STUFF-A-LIMO** page 8

Elms College kicks off the holidays with tree lighting ceremony

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE -- Families gathered at Keating Quad on the Elms College campus on Nov. 27 for the college’s 14th annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony.

The celebration included reflections from Eileen Kirk, M.Ed., director of Campus Ministry, a Blessing of the Tree prayer led by Sr. Carol Allan, MAAT, special assistant to the President for Mission & Charism and remarks from Elms College President Dr. Harry Dumay, who led the countdown to light up the tree.

Afterward, attendees enjoyed Christmas carols sung by Fred Marion, hot chocolate, writing letters to Santa and Stories with Santa, with Elms College students reading festive children’s stories

The college invited students and families from St. Stanislaus School, St. Joan of Arc School and Blessed Sacrament School to attend the festivities.

Kirk said the tree lighting is “always a very special event on campus as it marks the first time the entire campus community comes together to celebrate the beginning of the Advent and Christmas season.”

She told attendees this time of year is one of joy and wonder, to give thanks for blessings



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

(L to R) Elms College students Emmie Lundgren, Olivia LeBlanc and Samantha Warren, Santa Claus, Dr. Harry Dumay, president of Elms College, and Elms College student Emily Kibler smile for a group photo in front of the lit-up Christmas tree during the Elms College Christmas Tree Lighting festivities. The students, dressed as elves, also took part in the event by reading children’s books to kids during Stories with Santa.

and to lend a hand or embrace to those in need.

“Let us all remember to keep the spirit of Christmas throughout the year and may the tree behind us be a symbol to us of kindness and compassion to all we encounter,” Kirk said.

Dumay said the tree lighting “was a wonderful way to start the Christmas season” with students returning from the Thanksgiving break to begin the final weeks of the semester.

Dumay was excited at the huge turnout.

“It’s the sense of community, the sense of togetherness. There’s a lot of hard work to educate students and support students, and occasions like this help us to come together, to be together,” Dumay said.

Chrissy Bernardi, an Elms alum, came with her daughter, Emilia, who attends St. Joan of Arc School.

Bernardi was thankful to the college for providing this event for local families along with a sense of community for

See **TREE LIGHTING** page 11

James K. Tillotson Memorial Day recognized

City councilors remember their longtime friend, colleague

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
dzbierski@turley.com

CHICOPEE -- James K. Tillotson, one of the most passionate, knowledgeable and longstanding elected officials in city history, passed away on Nov. 18 at age 88 following a two-year battle with cancer.

Tillotson was currently serving as a councilor-at-large and previously served as Ward 1 City Councilor, Ward 1 member of the Board of Aldermen and Ward 1 School Committeeman.

Tillotson’s career of public service spanned more than a half-century; he taught at Lambert Lavoie Elementary School and then Chicopee High School, where he was the hockey coach. He also taught at the High School of Commerce in Springfield and served as director of Social Studies K-12.

Tillotson, a veteran of the Air National Guard who was sent to France during the Berlin Crisis, passed away peacefully at home in the company of his family and is survived by his wife Joan, his four children and their families, among others.

To commemorate Tillotson’s service, Mayor John Vieau proclaimed Nov. 24, 2023, as James K. Tillotson Memorial Day in the city of Chicopee at the Nov. 22 City Council meeting. At the end of the meeting, most of Tillotson’s colleagues fought back tears as they remembered their companion.



James K. Tillotson

“Jim was a friend when I got on the City Council. Being in politics all my life, I still looked up to Jim. He helped me through a lot. One good thing is I’m glad I was able to stop over his house two weeks ago to speak to him and talk to him. He’ll be truly missed,” City Council President Frank Laflamme said.

Councilor-at-Large Jerry Roy offered his condolences to the Tillotson family, and Councilor-at-Large Robert Zygarowski noted that Tillotson was his mentor for over 20 years, dating back to Zygarowski’s time in the police department.

“He was a real gentleman, a family man and a friend. In my opinion, he’s a legend on this council,” Zygarowski said. “He loved sports, and I’m sure he’s up there either roller-skating, ice skating or playing hockey, knowing Jim.”

Zygarowski recalled seeing Tillotson about a week before

See **TILLOTSON** page 11

Yankee Home Improvement \$7,500 Holiday Sweepstakes Winner

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE -- Yankee Home Improvement visited Julia Avenue on Nov. 24 to surprise this year's holiday sweepstakes winner.

The winner was Phyllis Plouffe, who received \$7,500 towards home improvement projects or a cash fund option.

Holding a big check, balloons and flowers, Yankee Home's Prize Patrol arrived at Plouffe's home around 11 a.m. the day after Thanksgiving under the guise of a final interview.

Plouffe was shocked and emotional seeing the team on her doorstep announcing her as the winner, her daughter having answered the door first and wondering if the sweepstakes was a hoax.

"You don't know how much this means. I don't even know what to say," Plouffe said.

Plouffe explained when Yankee Home, located on Justin Drive in Chicopee, first called her, she was under the impression she was among the top five finalists.

"I didn't know I won because there's five people, so we'll see what happens. I didn't know I won," Plouffe said.

Plouffe shared she and her husband are disabled, and this will help her family.

"This is for them," she said. "I was talking with my husband. I go, 'What are we going to do for Christmas?' I go, 'We're both on disability.' and I go, 'What are we going to do this year?'" Plouffe then said. "My dreams have been



SUBMITTED PHOTO KIRSTEN COOK

Members of the Yankee Home Improvement Prize Patrol and Phyllis Plouffe smile for a group photo outside Plouffe's house after she was announced as this year's Yankee Home Improvement Holiday Sweepstakes Winner on Nov. 24.

answered."

Yankee Home explained the entry process was conducted on Facebook and at local events, with over 11,860 entries this year, adding the founder, Ger Ronan, is dedicated to giving back and the company has given out several prizes over the years.

They shared giving back during the holiday season through their sweepstakes "holds great significance" for their team.

"We take genuine pleasure in offering homeowners the opportunity to en-

hance their living spaces and witnessing the positive impact on those in need is truly rewarding to us. As this tradition continues to grow, we are excited about the prospect of even more entries in the coming years," they said.

They also reflected on how their sweepstakes helps make a positive impact on the community.

"We understand the current financial challenges for many and being able to help out with someone's home improvement plans is truly gratifying. It's a joy

for our team to contribute to bettering the lives of individuals in our community, reinforcing our mission to continuously improve the lives of our clients, our community and each other," they said.

Yankee Home, which has been part of Chicopee since 2008, said, "The holidays are a time when the spirit of generosity is magnified, and initiatives like our holiday sweepstakes exemplify the commitment to making a positive impact."

"Our holiday sweepstakes at Yankee Home is more than a chance to win a prize; it symbolizes our dedication to being a positive force in the community. By supporting homeowners in need during the holidays, we hope to inspire a ripple effect of goodwill, encouraging others to engage in acts of kindness and collectively create a more supportive and compassionate community," they said.

Yankee Home wants the community to know they genuinely care for the well-being of the residents and recognize the current challenges people face.

"Our mission at Yankee Home extends beyond enhancing the lives of our clients and customers – it also encompasses a commitment to the overall betterment of the community and fostering a sense of mutual support among us," they said.

The team had this message to Plouffe.


"Congratulations, Phyllis! You truly deserve this generous gift. We appreciate your participation in our sweepstakes and hope you will share with others that it's not a hoax!" they said. "We are thrilled that the prize has gone to someone who can genuinely benefit from it."


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At Chicopee

Chicopee library welcomes Jason Perkins for Rock 'n' Roll Storytime event

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE -- Families visited the library's children's program room on Nov. 15 for a Rock 'n' Roll Storytime event with author Jason Perkins.

Perkins, a Chicopee resident, read his book "Rock Stars Don't Nap!", about an 18-month-old boy named Jimmy who loves to rock, refusing to fall asleep when his mom tries putting him down for a nap.

Afterward, families sang songs with drumsticks and did a create-your-own guitar craft.

The book is available at Barnes & Noble, Target, Walmart, IndieBound and Amazon.

Perkins explained when his son, Oliver – the inspiration for the book – was two months old, he didn't like to nap. But after putting on a Metallica song, he fell asleep a minute later.

"So, the next day, I tried the same thing with a little Red Hot Chili Peppers. Same thing a minute in and he was fast asleep," Perkins said. "So, I said, 'This kid is a rock star and like a rock star baby. That would make a great story!'"

From there, Perkins started writing the story, with the book officially releasing on Nov. 14.

"It took quite a while, but it's finally here. So, I'm excited to share it with friends and neighbors," Perkins said.

On visiting the library for the book tour, Perkins said his family comes all the time and takes part in summer reading and many other programs.

Perkins will next be at Bank Square Books in Mystic, CT on Dec. 2 at 1 p.m. and Comics 'N More in Easthampton on Dec. 9 at 11 a.m.

"So, I was very excited to come here and share the book with them," Perkins



Author Jason Perkins reads from his book "Rock Stars Don't Nap" to his son, Oliver, and a family in attendance at the Rock & Roll Storytime event at Chicopee Public Library.

said. Perkins stressed introducing music to kids, sharing his family always has music playing at home.

"Music's great for kids, whether it's getting them to move their bodies, whether it's math skills, being able to keep track of rhythms," Perkins said. "And it's something they can share with their kids. Something they can bond over, like playing their favorite music for them."

Perkins has two sequels planned and another story for submission in January.

"It's been an amazing experience. I've gotten so much support from the community," Perkins said. "Everyone I've talked to is so excited about the book."

Perkins also praised the library.

"We are so fortunate to have the library system here that we have in Chicopee. They do so much, not just with

children, but adults. Anything you want to learn about, you can come down here and either they have someone, or they'll find someone who can teach you," Perkins said.

He encourages residents to read to their children and visit the library.

"Picture books are a great tool for children. In our family, we read every night at 20 minutes before bed, and it's done wonders for both my children's academic performances," Perkins said. "The librarians here are very knowledgeable. They'll give you a lot of good recommendations. Let them know what your children are interested in, and they'll find the books that are just right for you."

Perkins shared this advice for aspiring authors: be careful of scams, ask questions and connect with organizations, including Josh Funk Books and the Society of Children's Writers and Illustrators, which



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Author Jason Perkins shows off his book "Rock Stars Don't Nap" during the Rock & Roll Storytime event at Chicopee Public Library.



Youth Services Coordinator Erin Daly helps kids craft their own guitars during the Rock & Roll Storytime event at Chicopee Public Library.

helped Perkins learn the writing process and connect with literary agents and fellow authors.

"Do your research, take your time. It's going to take a long time. You're going to get rejected a lot; I was probably rejected close to 100 times before this book got published," Perkins said. "Keep practicing and getting better. It'll take a while, but you'll get there."

To learn more, visit jasonperkins-books.com.



Courtesy photo

Help preserve the Edward Bellamy House

CHICOPEE -- Consider supporting the Edward Bellamy Memorial Association in preserving the Edward Bellamy House.

In addition to being the home of the 19th-century writer Edward Bellamy and a resource for people to learn about Bellamy and local history, it's also Chicopee's only National Historic Landmark.

As an all-volunteer organization, our ability to preserve the Edward Bel-

lamy House and its historical collections depends on the support of our donors and volunteers.

Please consider volunteering your time or making a donation so we can continue to preserve and share this unique part of Chicopee's history!

Go to <https://edwardbellamyhouse.org/donate/> or <https://edwardbellamyhouse.org/volunteer/>

Bowe Elementary to hold Holiday Craft Fair Dec. 9

CHICOPEE – Patrick. E. Bowe School, located at 115 Hampden St., is holding a Holiday Craft Fair on Dec. 9

at the school from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Come see all the beautiful arts and crafts from local artisans!

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GUEST COLUMN



Christmas-time questions for the Garden Lady

A reader from Palmer wrote in with this holiday question for the Garden Lady: "I enjoyed your wreath-making column last week. I thought it was interesting that you advised scouring the landscape for suitable greenery. Overgrown boxwood shrubs are plentiful at home. Can I harvest the tips for making my own holiday wreaths and swags? If so, how do I ensure that the shrubs look good come spring?"

Yes, you can certainly harvest boxwood, especially since your plants are considered "overgrown." A haircut doesn't sound as if it will do much harm, even though it's the off season.

Rather than snip just the tips, however, insert your clippers further into the plant where the growth has become woody. Cutting deeper in several random spots will make "windows" for new growth, at a reduced size!

The addition of boxwoods to your wreaths, planter boxes and swags will offer a nice variation in texture to coarser greenery.

Tabletop "trees" made almost entirely out of boxwood make great Christmas centerpieces.

Here is how you do it, straight from the archives: Cut a piece of wet floral foam into an elongated triangle and secure it in your container of choice. I prefer to use a plastic centerpiece base available from the florist - the bottom of the foam fits in perfectly.

From your collection of boxwood or other greens, choose a nice, pointed piece for the top of the tree and place it into the foam an inch or so; three or four inches will be left sticking out the top. If leaves or other stems along the branch are in the way of insertion, remove them first so that the smallest hole possible will be made in the foam.

Now, gauge the size of the rest of your tree by inserting pieces of greenery at the halfway point as well as at the very bottom.

After that, fill in between the top and middle and middle and bottom, turning the foam as you go, so that a multidimensional tree results. Once greenery completely covers the foam, you can decorate it any way you like.

Tiny glass balls, battery-powered lights, dried cranberries or cinnamon sticks are just a few options. Don't forget to water the tree at the base - the foam will absorb moisture and keep the greens hydrated for weeks of enjoyment.

Marissa, who reads the Ware River News, posed this timely question concerning flowering gifts. "I purchased an amaryllis kit as a gift for my sister. Do you have any tips for to make sure it grows and flowers well?"

Sure! As long as the amaryllis bulb is dry and free of soft spots it should bloom just fine. Like other flowering bulbs, the amaryllis is a self-contained unit ready to do its thing!

Just follow these simple planting instructions: fill the container with moistened growing medium to about one-half to two-thirds full. Position the bulb on top and add the rest of the potting soil- the upper portion and the neck should rest just above the rim of the pot.

The bulb may rot if it stays too wet, so add water only when the soil dries out. Temperatures should be kept around 60 degrees.

Once the sprouting occurs, fertilizer can be added, but the amaryllis will likely bloom well without it. Stake heavy flower stalks as they form to prevent them from snapping.

GUEST COLUMN



Song sparrow

I received an email from a Brimfield resident. He said he had a few song sparrows in his yard in late October along with white-throated sparrows.

The song sparrow is six inches long and has a whitish breast with brown streaks. A distinguishing mark is a black, central spot on its chest. The song sparrow's crown is reddish brown and it has gray eyebrows. Its tail is long and rounded. Song sparrows feed on the ground eating seeds, insects and some fruit.

This sparrow's song is a few repeated notes followed by a rich and varied warble. Its call includes a "tsp" and "tchump." The female lays three to five greenish, white eggs with dark marks in a cup like nest of grasses and occasionally leaves. She place the nest on the ground, in a shrub or weeds.

The male song sparrow defines his territory by singing from prominent perches in about 1/2 to 1 1/2 acres. The male chases the female away when she first arrives and reduces the amount of his singing. Courtship includes male diving at the female and her making a trill like call.

Song sparrows inhabit dense shrubs at the edge of open areas such as fields, yards and streams. They inhabit this area year round.

Other Brimfield birds

The Brimfield resident said he had juncos

and one golden crown and one ruby-crowned kinglet. He also saw four male Eastern bluebirds, a pair of house finches and juncos. He said, "The 'best' sighting was a male American kestrel. It was perched on a wire, flew to a tree and then down into the grass where it caught what looked like a mouse or vole."

Cedar waxwings

My daughter and family saw a flock of cedar waxwings eating berries in Granby near Horse Caves.

Pond birds

The Brimfield resident did a tour of some ponds in Brimfield, Sturbridge and Warren recently. He reported lots of Canada geese, but not a lot of ducks other than mallards. He saw two-ringed necked ducks in Warren and a robin eating fruit from a mountain ash tree.

He compiled a list of birds seen Nov. 18 in Brimfield, Sturbridge and Warren. It included 33 mallards, 76 Canada geese, a pair of hooded mergansers (male and female), two great blue herons and two mourning doves.

Feeders

I still have not put out my suet feeder until I am sure the black bears are hibernating. I have lost too many suet feeders to black bears; they either destroy them or take off with them. There must be a pile of them in the woods somewhere.

I do put some bird seed out during the day, but I only put a small amount for the birds. I include shelled peanuts as the tufted titmice, woodpeckers and blue jays love them. Yes, the squirrels do as well.

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.



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Keep blooms looking their best for the greatest amount of time by pinching away anthers before they form pollen, and by housing the plant in a cool room of the house.

Pet owners be forewarned, toxic alkaloids present in these tennis ball-sized bulbs can cause vomiting and diarrhea in animals who have consumed them. Dogs, who are more likely to play with and chew objects this size, are at greater risk.

Purdue University states that the stomach upset will likely cure itself within a few hours, but that special medical attention should be given to weak, old, or otherwise in-firmed dogs who have come in contact with amaryllis bulbs.

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, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email 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 or send it to: Chicopee Register, c/o Turley Publications, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

Chicopee Register TEAM



EDITOR
Dalton Zbierski
dzbierski@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com



SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com



STAFF WRITER
Kristin Rivers
krivers@turley.com

The Chicopee Register is published every Friday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.



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WEB

www.chicopeeregister.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

DEANNA SLOAT
Graphics Manager



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Fax: 413.283.7107
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL

Advertising Sales
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

Editor

Dalton Zbierski
dzbierski@turley.com

WEB

www.chicopeeregister.turley.com



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Chicopee High holds Network Forwarding Event



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TEDY MAKUCH, CHS STUDENT AND TURLEY CORRESPONDENT

Chicopee High School held its Network Forwarding Event on Nov. 16, introducing students to a variety of community organizations and resources .

Approximately 400 students interact with 50-plus vendors

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
dzbierski@turley.com

CHICOPEE -- Chicopee Public Schools' College & Career Center facilitated a Network Forwarding Event at Chicopee High School on Nov. 16, allowing students to practice networking, learn about different organizations, obtain employment applications and discover college, volunteer or military opportunities.

Students were also introduced to the concepts of loans, mortgages and credit scores.

"A little over 50 vendors were there and just under 400 students," CPS Director of Career & Workforce Development Kara Blanchard said. "It incorporated an understanding of professional networking, business networking, educational networking and community networking."

Employers, organizations and businesses were asked to connect with students about opportunities in their fields, career paths, employment or general resources. Both the junior and senior classes were able to participate; members of each got about 48 minutes to interact with vendors.

Vendors ranged from the Polish National Credit Union to Lorraine's Soup Kitchen & Pantry. They also included entities such as the MassHire Springfield Career Center, the Carpenters Local Union 336, the Chicopee Human Resources Department, the city's public safety departments, the library and departments from several local colleges.

To prepare for the event, students created elevator pitches to introduce themselves.

Blanchard and her team spent several months preparing, reaching out to vendors by email and driving around to provide invitations. They even traveled to UMass Amherst to consult the Isenberg School of Management, which also prepares students ahead of networking events.

"Part of the idea is some of the local employers and local community members would be accessible to students, meaning they would be in a reasonable driving distance for students to take advantage of. We wanted that community networking piece," Blanchard said.

By organizing the event, the College & Career Center worked to ensure that students understood the resources in their community in addition to their personal goals. Prior to Nov. 16, students received a list of all the vendors and were educated on what networking

really means.

"We actually had a roadmap to networking. We really wanted to empower students to map out their own idea of how they wanted to approach the event," Blanchard said.

Blanchard said she hoped that students entered the event having mapped out their learning goals, giving them a better idea of what vendors they spoke with. It was key for them to arrive ready to go, knowing fully what the initiative was about.

"Then, they had to make a goal for the event," she said. "It could be finding a volunteer opportunity, finding part-time work. We also had demonstrations they could watch... We made a pretty good effort to have something meaningful for them."

Blanchard acknowledged that 98% of people don't end up working in a career that they 100% decided on during high school so it's important to give students options and encourage them to have an open mind. Rather than calling it a job fair or career fair, Blanchard hoped to capture the idea that students should meet people from a variety of paths by tabbing it as a network forwarding event.

"The teachers felt like it was really important to do because students don't step outside of their comfort zone a lot, so we were asking a lot of them to do this," she said. "Even just introducing yourself to someone you don't know is personal growth. They felt it was important for students to understand networking and understand that their career goals and life changes."

Blanchard was thrilled to see so many vendors arrive to support the youth. She said the event wouldn't have been possible without the community members and organizations that took the time to visit the school and support students as they navigate networking.

"You hope that it's also helpful to them, but it really is a service to us and to our students, and we really appreciate it," she said.

Based on feedback, Blanchard is confident that the experience was a positive and encouraging one for students. On Dec. 5, the school will host a GEAR UP Day initiative like the one that occurred at Chicopee Comprehensive High School last month, where colleges attend and offer on the spot scholarships. The event will provide students with another opportunity to network.

"Networking, at its core, really takes practice. You're exchanging information, ideas and support and learning how to communicate and connect with someone in a very short period of time," Blanchard said.



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Events and announcements

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.

Hatha Yoga Classes

CHICOPEE -- The Chicopee Parks & Recreation Department is offering a Hatha yoga class. The class is being offered on Wednesday evenings 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. It will run from Dec. 6 – Jan. 10, 2024. This class series is open to all levels of experience from those wanting to start, restart or maintain an ongoing yoga practice. It is designed to increase strength and flexibility in an accessible way. Focusing on providing a movement-based practice that can be used for stress management, can help boost circulation and will promote overall health and wellbeing. All classes will be held at Chicopee River Mills Senior Center. Exercise Studio #17 room located on the 2nd floor of the building at 5 W. Main Street Chicopee. This Class is open to ages 15 years and older. Instructor Caitlin Lavin has over 10 years of teaching Hatha Yoga and over 15 years experiencing other various forms of yoga. The cost for a 6-week session is \$80/Resident \$90/Non-Resident or a drop-in fee of \$15/Residents \$17/Non-Residents per class. Space is limited so register now! To register go to www.chicopeerec.com.

Polish Junior League of Massachusetts

The Polish Junior League of Massachusetts welcomes area college students of Polish heritage to apply for one of our annual academic scholarships. Students must have a permanent address in one of the four Western Massachusetts counties: Hampshire, Hampden, Franklin or Berkshire. Application forms with related information are available at www.polishjuniorleaguema.org/applications. The deadline for ALL applications and related materials is May 1, 2024.

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 professor 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/>.

Fire department hangs holiday lights



COURTESY PHOTO

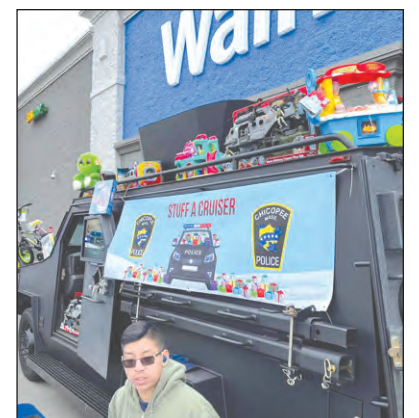
CHICOPEE – Holiday lights are being displayed around the city, and the Chicopee Fire Department looks forward to showing pictures of its stations on its Facebook page. Photo courtesy of CFD.

Stuff a Cruiser is a success



COURTESY PHOTOS

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Police Department would like to thank everyone who came out on Sunday, Nov. 26 to donate to the stuff a cruiser event outside of Walmart. It was a huge success, and the department appreciates all your support.



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City Council approves motions for James Street discussions, proposed ordinances

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE -- City Council approved several motions on Nov. 21 for discussions on James Street, proposed ordinances in the city and more.

The first highlight was a discussion on the intersection of James Street and Montcalm Street being referred to the Public Works Committee, with the Engineering Department present for the meeting.

Ward 5 Councilor Frederick Krampits wondered if there was a similar order already in the Public Safety Committee, explaining he would speak with Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello to learn more.

"I'll have to check that," Krampits said. "And then we can figure out where to go from there."

The motion passed 10-0.

Next was an update on cameras on school bus signs.

A motion for a letter from the City Council with the council's endorsement

for this item to be sent to the State Delegation representing Chicopee was presented.

Ward 8 Councilor Gary Labrie said the order was self-explanatory and the will of the board.

The motion passed 10-0.

Following this came two proposed ordinances for discussion in committees.

The first proposes no further business, commercial or industrial development on James Street from the intersection of James Street and Memorial Drive to the beginning of Syrek Street and any appurtenant street for one year beginning on Feb. 1, 2024, and ending on Feb. 1, 2025.

The proposal would go to the Planning Board, Zoning Committee and Ordinance Committee for a public hearing.

Ward 6 Councilor Derek Dobosz agreed to co-sponsor the proposal with Costello "because I do believe that there are some traffic issues on James Street."

"I met some residents that lived in that area, and I think it's worth having the discussion," Dobosz said.

Dobosz also encouraged Costello to

refile the order in January given the timing and the number of committees that would need to review the item.

"I do think that this is going to die at the end of the year. Maybe Planning might have time to vote on it, I'm not sure, but you'll definitely have to refile this January of next year because I don't think it will make it through all these committees by the end of the year," Dobosz said. "I can't speak for Councilor Costello, but hopefully the discussion can move to subcommittee."

The motion passed 9-1.

The next proposed ordinance concerns trucks pulling up and idling on Carew Street, an ongoing issue outside the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts that numerous residents have voiced concerns about in recent months.

The proposed ordinance would go to the Ordinance Committee for a first reading and a public hearing.

Krampits explained the motion.

"This is a follow-up from our previous meeting. This is now in the form of an ordinance so that it actually is enforce-

able," Krampits said.

The motion passed 10-0.

After these was a proposed zone change from Garden Industrial Planned Unit Development Type II to Residential A for 43.83 acres of property at 0 Robbins Road and 0 Carew Street to create one continuous zoning district. This would extend the existing Residential A zoning district to five parcels, four of them at 0 Robbins Road and one for 0 Carew Street, for the future construction of a residential development.

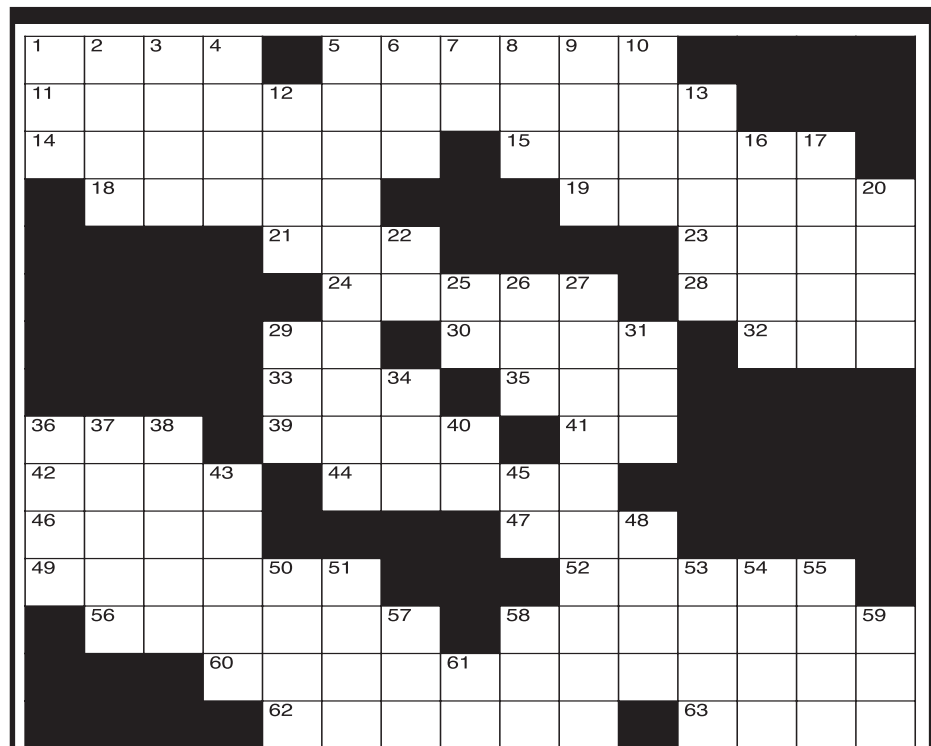
The applicant for this proposed change is Westmass Area Development Corporation.

Ward 4 Councilor George Balakier said this item will be taken up by the committee.

The motion passed 10-0.

The final items on the agenda were 2024 Class 1, Class 2 and Class 3 License renewals and 2024 Auto Repair License, 2024 Auto Body/Auto Repair License and 2024 Auto Detail License renewals.

All were approved 10-0 without additional comments.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Old English letters
- 5. Sculpture
- 11. Showing up again
- 14. Tie the knot again
- 15. Washington city
- 18. Stiff structures in invertebrates
- 19. Mark over a vowel
- 21. Explosive
- 23. Popular race: ___ 500
- 24. Pile up
- 28. Mint
- 29. Commercial
- 30. A minute amount (Scottish)
- 32. Small Eurasian deer
- 33. Baseball stat
- 35. Numbers cruncher
- 36. Japanese masked drama
- 39. Gasteyer and de

- Armas are two
- 41. Blood group
- 42. Assist in wrongdoing
- 44. Language spoken in Cameroon and Chad
- 46. Grayish-white
- 47. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
- 49. Microorganism
- 52. Place under prohibition
- 56. Calm, dependable
- 58. Congressman
- 60. Force
- 62. As a result of this document
- 63. One of two main branches of Islam

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Make a mistake
- 2. Gordon and Snider are two

- 3. Geographical region of Finland
- 4. Ejected saliva
- 5. A way of performing
- 6. Scotland's longest river
- 7. One of the six noble gases (abbr.)
- 8. Body art
- 9. Two-toed sloth
- 10. Electronic counter-countermeasures
- 12. Foolish person (Brit.)
- 13. Of the wind
- 16. Grand home
- 17. Sound
- 20. English river
- 22. Symbol indicating ownership
- 25. Exclamation of surprise
- 26. Pouch
- 27. Apart from

- 29. Satisfaction
- 31. The bill in a restaurant
- 34. Sea bream
- 36. Port in southern Japan
- 37. Double-reed instruments
- 38. Center
- 40. South Dakota
- 43. An orderly crowd
- 45. Indicates position
- 48. ___-pedi
- 50. Nonsense (slang)
- 51. Republic of Ireland
- 53. Nocturnal flyers
- 54. American state
- 55. Clusters in fern fronds
- 57. Patriotic women
- 58. A person's brother or sister
- 59. Breed of sheep
- 61. Popular film "Despicable ___"

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Chicopee welcomes Match US Collection Boutique, a beacon of empowerment and style

CHICOPEE -- Chicopee is delighted to announce the grand opening of Match US Collection Boutique, a unique and empowering addition to our vibrant city. Located at 665 Prospect St., this boutique promises to be a hub of fashion and empowerment for the community.

The grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony for Match US Collection Boutique will take place on Dec. 2 at Noon, marking a momentous occasion

for both the boutique and the city of Chicopee.

Myriam Vega, the CEO of Match US Collection Boutique, is a true local success story. Born and raised in Massachusetts, she graduated from Chicopee High School in 2008. Vega furthered her education by pursuing Business Management and recently graduated from Westfield State University in May.

Vega's background is as diverse as it is inspiring. For the past seven years, she

has been a union laborer for Local 999, working in construction. Now, she is re-directing her focus towards expanding her boutique and growing her business in Chicopee.

Vega's boutique is more than just a fashion destination. It is a platform for empowerment, self-confidence, and community upliftment. She is committed to creating a space where women not only discover the latest fashion trends but also find a supportive environment that fosters

self-assurance. Vega believes that confidence is an essential accessory for every woman and aims to instill this belief in her clientele.

The grand opening of Match US Collection Boutique on Dec. 2 promises to be a momentous occasion for Chicopee. Join us in celebrating this inspiring journey, as Myriam Vega, a dedicated business owner and devoted mother, embarks on a mission to make Chicopee even more vibrant and empowered.



(L to R) Sparty, the Chicopee Fire Department mascot, Miss East Longmeadow Teen Maddie Mathias, Santa Claus and Miss Hampden County Teen Laila Hosnander smile for a group photo alongside donated toys during the Stuff-a-Limo event at Bridal Corner in Chicopee.



Rich Marion, Roger Korell, Bob Houldson, Santa Claus, Connie Brown and Rodney Furr pose for a group photo at the Westover Galaxy Community Council canopy during the Stuff-a-Limo- event at Bridal Corner in Chicopee on Nov. 26.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

STUFF-A-LIMO from page 1

Beaulieu was moved by the turnout and seeing the limo fill up with many toys.

"You can't lose faith in people, okay? People are good people. They will do what they need to do to rally around their military," Beaulieu said. "It just gives me a warm spot in my heart to see what the community is capable of when they can put some differences aside and come together for a common good of our brother and sister airmen or service person that's out there that may not be home this Christmas."

Justine Therese donated a toy at the event and a raffle prize of hair products as she works as a hairstylist, sharing she was having a great time and came to support Sczcepanek.

"I just think it's good to see people coming out for the event. It kind of makes your heart smile a little bit that everyone cares and that everyone wants to support them and their cause," Therese said.

Therese appreciated how the event gives back.

"I feel like it goes without saying: everyone just needs help sometimes. It's nice for communities to rally together," Therese said.

Beaulieu wants the community to know that the organization is here to support the military and their families with what they need during difficult times, thanking everyone for their support at the event.

"They're doing what they signed up to do. They're doing what they love to do, so let's just show the love out to them and your local businesses and your neighbor. It is that time of year," Beaulieu said.

Sczcepanek had this message for the community as she reflected on Stuff-a-Limo.

"Don't forget about the military. They're still just as important," Sczcepanek said. "Look out for your family and definitely be there for your family and hug your loved ones. Make sure you reach out to those loved ones you might not have spoken to in a while."



An interior shot of the toys collected during the Stuff-a-Limo event at Bridal Corner in Chicopee on Nov. 26.



2023 Chicopee Colleen Court Member Haley Prive helps place toys in the limousine during the Stuff-a-Limo event at Bridal Corner in Chicopee.



Miss Hampden County Teen Laila Hosnander and Miss East Longmeadow Teen Maddie Mathias give out raffle tickets to attendees during the Stuff-a-Limo event at Bridal Corner in Chicopee.

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 June 5, 2022
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 Grandparents: Marc Davignon & Lisa Dube, Chicopee
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 Parents' Town of Residence: _____
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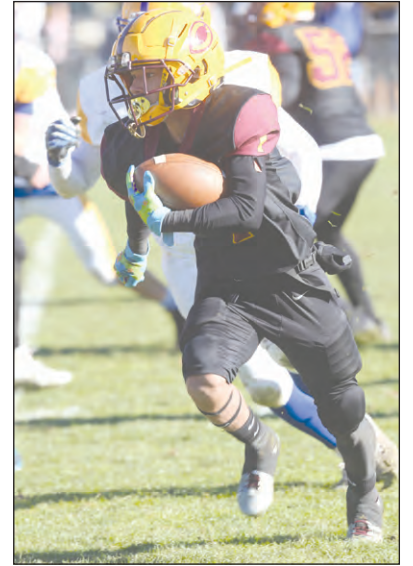
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Colts win 'Sword' for sixth straight year



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Mayor John Vieau presents the Sword to the captains of Chicopee Comp football.

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Comprehensive High School football team picked up its sixth straight win on Thanksgiving, winning the city's "Sword" Game over rival Chicopee High School. Comp, despite having a rough season, shut out the Pacers 38-0. Calvin Kagan had a big game with four touchdowns and led the attack on offense. The Pacers had a couple of chances, but were not able to get into end zone.



Hector Adorno heads toward the sideline on a carry.



Cyair Charles attempts to make a tackle for the Pacers.



Calvin Kagan takes on a long rush.



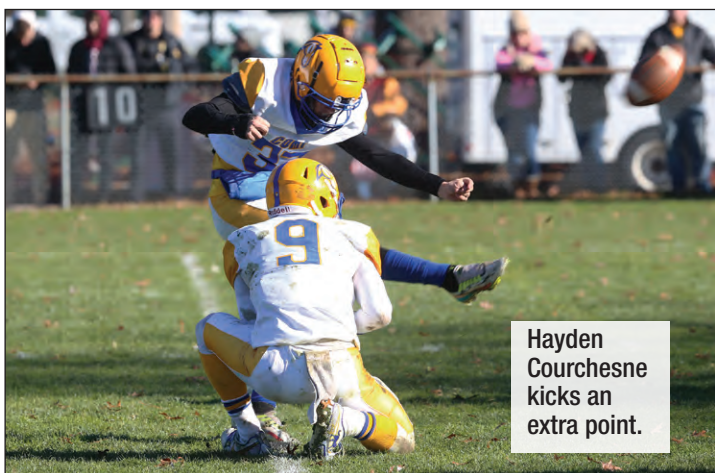
Josiah Feliz jukes before heading up the middle.



Jacob Lozado takes off down the sideline.



Jacob Lozado takes off down the sideline.



Hayden Courchesne kicks an extra point.



Colin Chechile completes a tackle for the Colts.



Kayden Cormier makes a big block on the line.

Chicopee players make all-star teams

SPRINGFIELD – Last Monday evening at Pope Francis High School, the Senior All-Star Games were held. Two games took place, with Class C and D playing in one game and Class A and B playing in another. The games featured the best senior players from all Western Mass. High School girls soccer programs.



Avery Placzek heads up the field in the all-star game.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Danica Dorozynski dribbles up the field.



Danica Dorozynski tries to overcome an opponent as she represents Chicopee Comprehensive in the game.

Team effort results in big shutout of Utica

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (10-8-1-0) put together a total team effort and dominated the Utica Comets (6-6-3-0) in a 7-0 shutout win inside the MassMutual Center on Saturday night in the team's Hockey Fights Cancer game.

Vadim Zherenko got the start in the net for the T-Birds and had a perfect performance, stopping all 33 saves he faced on the night for his first career AHL shutout. In the opposite crease, Utica goaltender Isaac Poulter surrendered seven goals on 29 T-Birds shots in the loss.

It was a special night for the Bitten family, as the team donned lavender jerseys for the game to support Will and Sam Bitten and the Bitsy's Army cause. Bitsy's Army was created by the brothers to raise awareness for those battling cancer and to honor their late cousin Martin Piche. Piche tragically passed away from brain cancer back in 2021.

Springfield had several prime scoring opportunities in the opening minutes. Nathan Walker saw linemate Adam Gaudette sneak behind the Utica defense on the left side, threading the team's top scorer a perfect breakaway pass. Unfortunately, Gaudette's shot was stopped by the left pad of Poulter.

The work of the Springfield penalty killers got their team on the board first. While creating pressure in Utica's zone, Walker found Matthew Peca for a one-timer in the high slot after stripping a Utica

skater of the puck in the left-wing corner. The captain fired home a perfect one-timer for a shorthanded goal, his fifth goal of the year, which gave the T-Birds a 1-0 lead at 13:16. The score would remain 1-0 as the teams entered their dressing rooms for the first intermission.

Exactly halfway through the second period, the T-Birds struck once again. Defenseman Matthew Kessel controlled the puck at the blue line before firing a low shot toward Poulter. Although Poulter made the initial stop, MacKenzie MacEachern was there to backhand the rebound home for his fourth goal of the season to make it 2-0 Springfield. The scoring did not stop after MacEachern's goal. On a power play, Will Bitten snapped a shot on goal from the hash marks. Poulter made the initial stop, but T-Birds forward Mikhail Abramov was there to clean up the rebound with a snapper from the left side. Abramov's goal made it 3-0 with 6:32 to go in the period.

As the period drew to a close, defenseman Dylan Coghlan was taken down from behind by Comets forward Kyle Criscuolo. In response, Wyatt Kalynuk stood up for his teammate and engaged in a fight with Criscuolo. Kalynuk's fight fired up his teammates and the crowd, but there would be mayhem that would follow. After a scrum ensued with multiple players going at it, Gaudette and Utica defenseman Cal Foote were given fighting majors with just 13 seconds left in the period. The T-Birds held on to

the 3-0 lead, setting the stage for a third period out of the movies.

The T-Birds added to their 3-0 lead in the third, as Zach Dean ripped a shot home for his first professional goal of his career to make it 4-0 at 4:09 off a 2-on-1 rush. The scoring party would continue after Dean's goal, as Bolduc capitalized for Springfield's second power play marker of the night at 9:54, beating Poulter on the stick side with a perfectly placed wrist.

It was a poetic night for the Bitten family. With 7:02 to go in the game, Will took the puck and raced up ice before dancing around a Utica defender to go in alone on Poulter. Bitten faked a slapper before slipping a five-hole shot into the twine before pointing skyward in celebration. The poetic script got better just a few minutes later when Will tipped in a Coghlan shot for his second of the night. Sam also recorded a milestone on his brother's second tally, as he notched his first AHL point on the secondary assist.

After having just three points in his first 14 games of the season, Will tallied two goals and two assists on this night alone. It was one of five multi-point performances by Springfield skaters on the evening.

The T-Birds return home next Friday, December 1 for another Deuces Wild Friday to take on Wilkes-Barre/Scranton. Puck drop is set for 7:05 p.m. at the Thunderdome.

Railers sweep Thunder

GLENS FALLS, NY – The Worcester Railers HC (7-6-2-1, 17pts) took down the Adirondack Thunder (7-4-2-0, 16pts) on Saturday night by the final score of 4-2 in front of a crowd of 4,297 at Cool Insuring Arena. The Railers are back at home against the Kansas City Mavericks this Wednesday, November 29th at 10:05 a.m. ET.

Neither team scored in the first period as Tristan Lennox was excellent in net for Worcester in the first. He made 15 saves on 15 shots to open the game. Scoring opened in the second as Worcester's Anthony Callin (1-0-1) put Worcester ahead 1-0. Adirondack responded with two straight goals from Travis Broughman (1-0-1) and Yushiroh Hirano (1-0-1) to give the Thunder the 2-1 lead heading into the third. Worcester scored three unanswered in the third from Ashton Calder (1-0-1), Jake Pivonka (1-1-2), and Zach White (1-0-1) to seal the win and the weekend sweep, 4-2.

Both goalies were solid in the first period for Worcester and Adirondack as Tristan Lennox turned away 15 shots for the Railers, while Jeremy Brodeur made 7 saves for the Thunder. Two of Lennox's saves came in the dying seconds of the first as the Thunder headed down ice on an odd-man rush. Lennox sprawled across the ice and denied Travis Broughman with an outstretched right leg to keep the game level going into the second.

Anthony Callin (4th) unleashed a perfect wrist shot from atop the right circle on a spinning feed from Todd Goehring to give the Railers the first goal of the game. Both Callin and Goehring now have points in four straight games. The Thunder struck back with two straight goals to wrap up the second. Travis Broughman (2nd) picked up a Grant Jozefek rebound and deked around Lennox to tie the game 1-1. Four minutes later, Yushiroh Hirano (6th) scored on the power play in his third straight game, putting the Thunder ahead 2-1 going into the third.

Ashton Calder (8th) extended his team lead in goals thanks to a great forecheck from Worcester. Keeghan Howdeshell and Jake Pivonka forced the Thunder defense to turn over the puck. As Howdeshell found it beneath the goal line, he passed it to Calder in front who beat Brodeur five-hole to tie the game 2-2. Jake Pivonka (7th) found the puck alone in the slot about a minute later and beat Brodeur clean glove side to make it a 3-2 Railers lead. Zach White would finish things off with an empty-net goal with just 6.9 seconds left to give Worcester the 4-2 win, picking up all four points this weekend and sweeping the Thunder in Glens Falls.

Papermen to join Union Hockey League

HOLYOKE – Brian Pratt, president of the Holyoke Papermen Hockey Club, recently announced his team's participation in the newly-formed Union Hockey League. The UHL consists of 16 teams in the northeast and Midwest and is a senior level semi professional league. Pratt said the Papermen are putting together their roster at this point.

"We have 14 skaters and two goalies signed, looking to add about 8 more players," Pratt said. "We have four preseason games in December and 20 regular season games starting Jan 5."

The schedule for the league has not been released yet and Pratt did not say where the Papermen would be playing their home games. Closest to Holyoke are Fitzpatrick Rink,

state-run facility right in Holyoke next to Holyoke High School's Roberts Sports Complex, and nearby is Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield. More information will be forthcoming about the team and the new league as the Papermen prepare to participate in the new league. For more information, go to: <https://www.unionhockey-league.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 Mas-

sachusetts-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.

All games will be held at the Mullins Center on the UMass-Amherst campus.

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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TREE LIGHTING from page 1

everyone who attended.

"It gives you hope. It gives you hope, and it gives kids something to look forward to and set goals upon too," Bernardi said.

Bernardi encouraged residents, especially families, to come to events like the tree lighting.

"Keep an eye out for free events like this because they're always happening and all you have to do is a little bit of research to find a really nice evening for your family," Bernardi said.

Pamela Cote-Hammarlof, a new faculty member at Elms for the Biology Department, came with her son, Leonardo, who was excited to meet Santa and enjoyed Stories with Santa.

Cote-Hammarlof loves events like this because they're in calm, relaxed environments and feature a little bit of excitement to bring the community together.

"I think it's great because it really allows us to get to know more of the community at Elms, the students, as well as the families of the faculty members and staff here, and we get to engage and have a nice time and get together," Cote-Hammarlof said.

Cote-Hammarlof added "It means a lot" that Elms provides events like this for the community.

"I think it really shows how much Elms is doing not only for the students but everybody here and so it's a real community and we get to interact with one another and be a part of the Elms community," Cote-Hammarlof said.

Dumay encourages residents to check out the tree with their families and take pictures. He hopes they know the college is here and loves being part of Chicopee.

"Know that we are part of, and we are proud members of, the Chicopee community," Dumay said.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Fred Marion sings a Christmas Carol during the Elms College Tree Lighting Ceremony on Nov. 27.



Chrissy Bernardi and her daughter, Emilia, smile for a photo by Santa's mailbox during the Elms College Christmas Tree Lighting festivities. Emilia wrote and dropped off a letter to Santa asking him what she wants for Christmas



An evening shot of the Elms College Christmas tree alight during the Elms College Tree Lighting festivities.

TILLOTSON from page 1

his passing. He looks back fondly on visiting Tillotson at his home to share news clippings.

"I used to bring him the Chicopee Register, and one of his good friends Chet Szetela was on the front page, and he really enjoyed getting it," Zygarowski said.

Ward 1 Councilor Joel McAuliffe brought a photo of Tillotson to the meeting and placed it at Tillotson's seat. McAuliffe joked that there was nothing he could say about Tillotson that Tillotson never said himself.

"A legendary figure in Chicopee history; it's a tremendous loss," McAuliffe said. "The amount of institutional knowledge that this board loses as a result of losing Jim is really tremendous. Just a really phenomenal guy. I loved debating with him, and we both had conversations that he enjoyed, the debates as well. Just a breath of knowledge that is irreplaceable."

McAuliffe had many memorable back-and-forth discussions with Tillotson during meetings. He shared his favorite memory of Tillotson, which occurred about a decade ago when Tillotson skated against 'then-Mayor Richard Kos Mayor Richard Kos at Ike Alpert Park in a pick-up hockey game.

"You may or may not be surprised to know that Jim was pretty nimble even in his upper 70s skating to the last second that he could," he said.

Ward 2 Councilor Shane Brooks said it was a hard time for many of the councilors who had known Tillotson for decades. Brooks met Tillotson back in 1996 when he first took elective office.

"After one of our first meetings,

Clerk (Keith) Rattell pulled me aside and said, 'Make sure you listen to Tilly.' And that kind of stuck," Brooks said.

Brooks noted that during his first term on the Board of Aldermen, Tillotson called him almost daily to check in. Brooks hopes the Tillotson family takes solace knowing the positive impact he had on so many people.

"To the community of Chicopee, we're at a loss today," Brooks said. "It will be a loss that's probably felt for years to come. The legacy is immeasurable in comparison to anybody who's ever worked for the city before. I don't think you'd get any argument about that."

Ward 3 Councilor Delmarina López was not in attendance, but Ward 4 Councilor George Balakier noted how much he learned from Tillotson during their shared time on the council.

"Mr. Tillotson was a wealth of knowledge; I used to say to him, 'You're a walking encyclopedia.' He would chuckle. He was always helpful with educating and providing fellow councilors with advice and knowledge for the city," Balakier said.

Ward 5 Councilor Frederick T. Krampits recalled that Tillotson cared for this father, Frederick R. Krampits, during hospice two decades ago. Tillotson and the senior Krampits served on the council together, and Tillotson encouraged the younger Krampits to fill the position left open by the death of his father.

"He was always there as a guiding force to help me along," Frederick T. Krampits said. "Sometimes, we had pretty knockout discussions, and people got heated, but afterwards he was always, 'Okay, the meeting's over with, the argument is over with.' He was always a true



TURLEY PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

Councilor-at-Large James Tillotson, pictured here on March 2, 2021, during the opening of the refurbished City Hall Auditorium.

gentleman, and you could have a friendly conversation with him afterwards."

Ward 6 Councilor Derek Dobosz said no one knew the city ordinances as well as Tillotson, who he would call from time to time to ask for advice. The eldest councilor was always available, even if the two were on opposite sides of an issue.

"He'd still be willing to hear me out and would give me advice not just on issues but on how to debate and how to speak and things like that," Dobosz said. "He must have been the longest serving elected official in this city's history, and it's a huge loss to the city."

Ward 7 Councilor William Courchesne was not in attendance last Tuesday, but Ward 8 Councilor Gary Labrie described Tillotson as a mentor for over a decade.

"We always stayed very close," Labrie said. "He was a wealth of knowledge that had no boundaries when it came

to government. Anything you could ask him; he knew it and he had an answer for you. He's going to be truly missed."

Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello was present but under the weather on Nov. 21 and will speak at the next meeting.

Rattell, who served on the council with Tillotson dating back to its time as the Board of Aldermen, spoke during the meeting, which he acknowledged is a rare occasion. After entering City Hall at age 22, Rattell worked with Tillotson for more than 30 years.

"I was always honored to consider him a friend and be able to call him whenever I needed him. As I'm sitting here listening to everybody, I just wrote down three words: knowledgeable, caring and hard-working," Rattell said.

Rattell said Tillotson knew everything about the city, its rules and its ordinances and that if he didn't know, he would find out. He said he cared about the city and the people he worked with and that Tillotson put in the work himself.

"There's no way you could get done what Jim got done without putting in the work. He knew his figures, his facts. He knew the numbers, he asked the tough questions, stood up to mayors and, at times, he wasn't treated respectfully by mayors I thought, but he stood his ground and was always honorable and respectful. The city loses today. We lose Jim."

Editor's Note: Councilor Tillotson was always available for a phone call, regardless of what the discussion was. He always made himself available to the public, who he dedicated his life to serving. Tillotson was one of the city's great resources, and he will be missed by many, including this paper.

Holiday Stress Management Workshop provides tips on managing stress

The workshop took place at RiverMills Center

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE -- Seniors visited the RiverMills Center on Nov. 28 for a Holiday Stress Management Workshop.

The workshop, led by Jeffrey Wyda, RN, HN-BC, H.S.M.I., board-certified holistic registered nurse, provided tips on managing stress during the holiday season.

During the workshop, Wyda provided information on some of the causes behind holiday stress, including loneliness, sense of loss/grief, gift affordability, too much pressure, responsibility and obligation, health concerns and more.

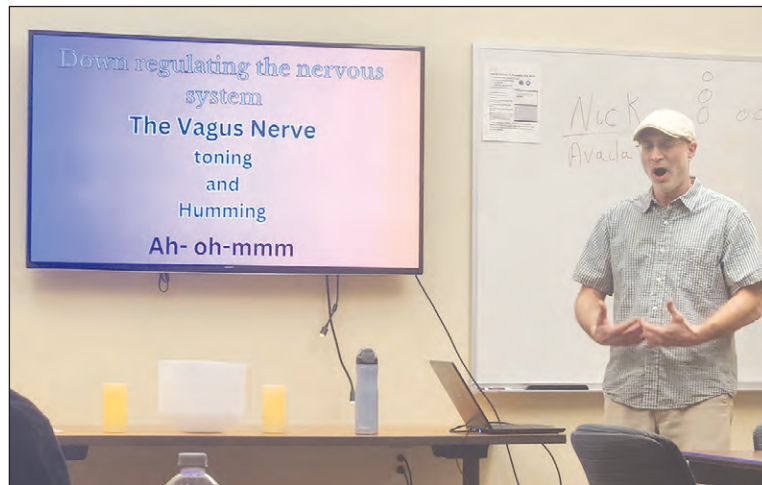
From there, he shared ways for seniors to address stress through breathing exercises, setting healthy boundaries, self-care, honoring and processing grief, journaling and asking for help.

Additionally, Wyda led attendees in deep breathing and sound healing exercises.

Wyda, who has been a nurse for 25 years, works at Baystate Medical Center with nurses and in different community centers in the area. He got into this work after a catastrophic injury in his lower back.

During the healing process, he identified his biggest challenge was stress and wanted to help other people conquer their health and wellness struggles.

"This is my life's passion, my life's work, so I feel blessed to be able to just have a room full of people that are so open-minded and just interested in what I have taught," Wyda said.



Jeffrey Wyda, RN, HN-BC, H.S.M.I., board-certified holistic registered nurse, demonstrates a breathing technique during the Holiday Stress Management workshop at RiverMills Senior Center.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Jeffrey Wyda shares stress management tips with attendees during the Holiday Stress Management workshop at RiverMills Senior Center.

Wyda hopes attendees walked away with strategies to manage stress, knowing they're not alone and someone cares about them.

"My hope is that everybody would walk away today with at least one thing that they would go home and be turned on and be interested in maybe go research further and maybe use that one tool and practice it and become a little more in control of their own health and wellness, so that's really my intention," Wyda said.

When asked why it's important to bring these workshops to seniors, Wyda shared he's also worked with seniors at long-term care facilities and observed how the places were not thoughtful, degrading and had low-quality living.

"I see local senior centers as models for what I have envisioned for years and just bringing love and that compas-

sion into the senior centers and not just filling space with empty activities but being thoughtful and mindful of the holistic paradigm," Wyda said. "It's really important to see activities."

On the breathing exercises, Wyda wants people "to take an opportunity to pause" and understand the importance of breathing.

"If we control it through exercise and commitment and over a long period of time, we will gain control of more and more every day. There's a residual effect to these practices," Wyda said. "I just really wanted the seniors to stop, pause and realize the importance of something so simple without seeming degrading."

Wyda said the feedback and engagement from attendees fulfills his work the most.

"I get a different story from everybody. One woman recently told me, 'My

husband passed a few weeks ago. He was here with me the whole time. Thank you.' I've had people telling me that, like, 'I haven't felt grounded in years, and this is my breakthrough. You know, this sound? I never knew,'" Wyda said. "It's so rewarding to hear the feedback from people and what they received from it, but also the gratitude that naturally comes from it and fills my heart."

Wyda's number one tip for holiday stress management is this.

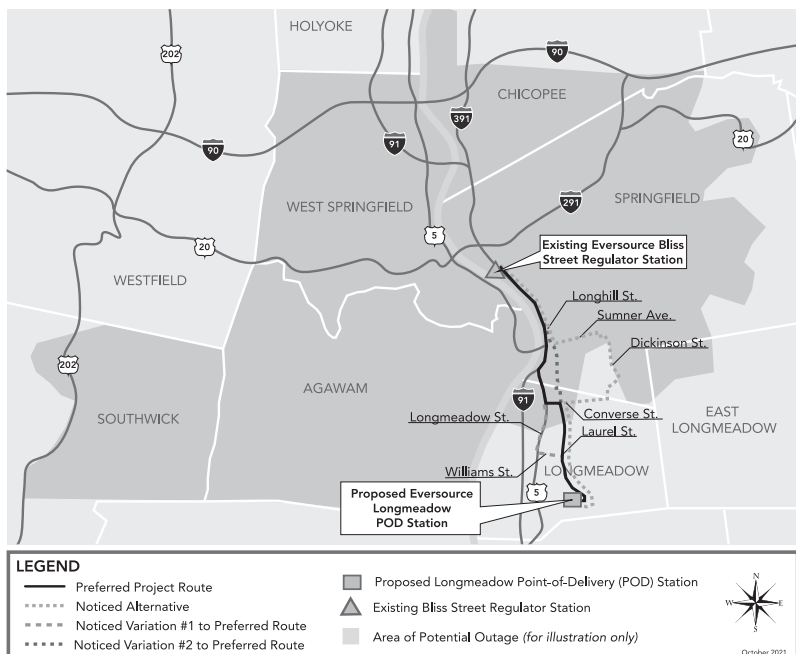
"Find what brings you joy and do it often," he said. "We often learn from that, including myself."

Wyda wants the community to know he's "trying to bring loving care and putting it into action one heart at a time," and there are resources available.

"We're not alone, especially during the holidays, even when it feels so," Wyda said.

Learn about a proposed natural gas system upgrade in your area.

The **Western Massachusetts Natural Gas Reliability Project** will provide system reliability to approximately 58,000 existing natural gas customers in the Greater Springfield area. This project includes constructing a new point-of-delivery (POD) station in Longmeadow and installing, upgrading, and operating a steel main between this new POD station and the company's Bliss Street Regulator Station in Springfield.



Please come to our Open House on December 5th, where you'll learn what this project will mean for the Greater Springfield area. Project team members will be available to provide information and answer your questions.

Visit eversource.com/wma-gas-reliability to learn more about the proposed project and see details about the Open House.

Questions?

For more information, please email Eversource at ProjectInfo@eversource.com or call **800-793-2202**. You can also keep up to date on the project by visiting our website at eversource.com/wma-gas-reliability, or by scanning the QR code below with your smart device.



EVERSOURCE

Si necesita que le traduzcan esta notificación, envíenos un correo electrónico a ProjectInfo@eversource.com y escriba "Gas Reliability Project" en el asunto.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 6:30 PM*** in the Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Ordinance Amendment Chapter 275-66 Burnett Road, add new language to 275-66 B "or Transportation Impact Assessment or any other such report whose official name may be changed by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation." Full text available in the City Council Office. Applicant: Councilor Frank Laflamme (At Large) and Councilor William Courchesne (Ward 7), City Council Office, 274 Front St. Chicopee, MA 01013.

Ordinance Amendment Chapter 275-50 Signs, delete 275-50 B (f). Delete "Duration of Placement" Full text available in the City Council Office. Applicant: Councilor William Courchesne (Ward 7), City Council Office, 274 Front St. Chicopee, MA 01013.

Ordinance Amendment Chapter 275-51 Motor Vehicle Repair and Storage, delete language from Chapter 275-51 D. Delete "or inoperable or not currently registered or with a current state inspection sticker". Full text available in the City Council Office. Applicant: Councilor William Courchesne (Ward 7), City Council Office, 274 Front St. Chicopee, MA 01013.

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

The December 20, 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.

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. 12/01, 12/08/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD20P1719EA Estate of: Janice M Charter Date of Death: 06/22/2020 CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by James D Wright of Holyoke, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

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 12/27/2023.**

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

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

Date: November 24, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/01/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD23P2334EA Estate of: Roberta D Falcone Date of Death: 09/13/2023 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Donald F. Falcone of Chicopee, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Donald F. Falcone of Chicopee, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/12/2023.**

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: November 14, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/01/2023

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 December 15, 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.

1997 Jeep Wrangler Sport
VIN: 1J4FY19S7VP490622
Jodi Carter
12 Jackielyn Circle
Granby, MA 01033

2002 Ford Explorer
VIN: 1FMZU73E32ZA23990
Micheal Suppe
16 Freemont Ave.
Milford, CT 06460

2002 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCG668X2A036141
Mariela Rodriguez
177 Elm St Bldg. Apt. 3R
Holyoke, MA 01040

2003 Buick rendezvous
VIN: 3G5DB03EX3S509388
Brianna McCown
15011 White Ave.
Grandview, MI 64030

2005 Lexus Es330
VIN: JTHBA30GX55135905
Jill Humann
18 Huron Ave.
East Freetown, MA 02717

2006 Kawasaki Vn900B
VIN: JKAVN2B116A004953
Rondy Penolo Pi
26 Cambridge St.
Springfield, MA 01109

2010 Chevy Traverse
VIN: 1GNLVEED1AS132088
Hector Baez Rodriguez
116 Fort Pleasant Ave. Apt 1L
Springfield, MA 01104

2007 Ford Expedition Ltd
VIN: 1FMFU20567LA40898
Jason Blakely
270 Main St. Apt. 4L
Holyoke, MA 01040

2012 Ford Fusion
VIN: 3FAHP0HA9CR147620
Steven Nikiel
20 Wyben Rd. Unit A
Southampton, MA 01073

2013 Nissan Altima
VIN: 1N4AL3AP5DN568350
Luis Rodriguez
43 Greene St.
Springfield, MA 01109

2014 Toyota Rav4
VIN: 2T3BFREV9EW205383
Dat Nguyen
4 Oliver St. Apt. 2
Worcester, MA 01603

2017 Honda Civic
VIN: 19XFC2F7XHE067743
Mabelis Colon Roman
49 Jean Circle
Chicopee, MA 01020

2002 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCG225X2A018999
Jean Jones
3056 39th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53210

2002 Toyota Camry
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

2001 Toyota Sequoia
VIN: 5TDBT44AX1S027411
Creighton Wheeler
4448 Patton Rd.
Maysville, MI 64469

2007 Chevrolet Malibu
VIN: 1G1ZS57F97F284723
Jermone Michael Williams
15 Camp Ave.
Greenfield, MA 01301

2008 Mercedes-Benz C300
VIN: WDDGF81X98F116433
Shenequa White
13 Oxford St.
Lynn, MA 01902

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

2010 Acura TL
VIN: 19UUA8F28AA013355
Chyann Robinson
281 Dwight St. Ext. Apt. 4
Springfield, MA 01105

2014 Honda Civic
VIN: 19XFB4F23EE201894
Rogelio Perez
83 Jackson St. Apt. L2
Holyoke, MA 01040

2015 Jeep Compass
VIN: 1C4NJDEB6FD427267
Vennetia Prevost
2 Johnson Ave. Apt. 2
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

2016 Kia Forte
VIN: KNAFK4A68G5471533
Capten Auto Sales & Repair LLC
2835 Louisville Rd.
Bowling Green, KY 42101

2019 Kia Optima
VIN: 5XXGT4L30KG348370
American International College
1000 State St.
Springfield, MA 01109

12/01, 12/08, 12/15/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD23A0111AD In the matter of: Raymond Julio Matta CITATION G.L. c. 210, §6

TO: Raymond Santos Matta, Jr. any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented to said court by: Omeiry Cruz of Springfield, MA Michael Angel Rivera of Springfield, MA requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to

Raymond Julio Rivera-Cruz If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person.

An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3.10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court

will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT Springfield ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: 12/22/2023.

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

Date: November 21, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/01, 12/08, 12/15

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD23A0099AD In the matter of: Robert William Mustakangas, Jr. CITATION G.L. c. 210, §6

TO: any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented to said court by: Denny Peña of Chicopee, MA

Kelly Anne Peña of Chicopee, MA requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to

Robert Peña If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person.

An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3.10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT Springfield ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: 12/22/2023.

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

Date: November 29, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/01/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD23P2338EA Estate of: Thomas Raymond Pezda Also known as: Thomas R Pezda

Date of Death: 09/16/2023 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Sharon L. Szady of Chicopee, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Sharon L. Szady of Chicopee, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/13/2023.**

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

Date: November 15, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/01/2023

See More Legals on Page 14

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 6:30 PM*** in the Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Zone Change application from Business A to IPUD II for 3.59 acres of property located at 0 East Main St. (0133-00001) & (0133-00002) for the purpose of office space and utility. Applicant – KOI2KOI Associates, LLC c/o Christopher P Lapinski, 9 Wellesley Cir, South Hadley, MA 01075.

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

The December 20, 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.

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. 12/01, 12/08/2023

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 6:30 PM*** in the Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

2023 at 6:30 PM* in the Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Zone Change application from Residence A to Residence C for 0.3501 acres of property located at 15 Wavel St. for the purpose of infill housing. Applicant – JCD Realty, Inc., (c/o Jeffrey Daigle), 55 Fuller Rd., Chicopee, MA 01020.

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

The December 20, 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.

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. 12/01, 12/08/2023

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 6:30 PM*** in the Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Zone Change application from Residential A & Business A to Res C for 28,827 SF for property located at 19 Beaumont Ave. for the purpose of 3 family and

to create 2 legal conforming single family building lots. All lot numbers to convey are 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89 90. Applicant – David Labrie, DCL Cons., 187 Nelson St., Chicopee, MA 01013.

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

The December 20, 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.

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Special Permit application under Chapter 275-58 (c)(5) for the purpose of a property becoming a mixed property. The creation of one residential unit in a business building located at 386 Chicopee Street. Applicant – Dance Dynamics/Angela Klusmen, 386 Chicopee Street, Chicopee, MA 01013.

The plans/application can

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

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD23P2419EA Estate of: Catherine V. Bai Date of Death: 09/21/2023 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Roxanne Bai Avdoulos of Chicopee, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Roxanne Bai Avdoulos of Chicopee, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsu-**

pervised 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 12/26/2023.

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: November 28, 2023

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/01/2023

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 6:30 PM*** in the Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Zone Change application from split zone Bus A/Res B to Res B for 9,000 SF located at 580 Meadow St. for the purpose of Boys & Girls Club (existing) eliminating a small portion of zoning overlapping and causing a split zone on the site. Applicant – Chicopee Boys & Girls Club, Jason Reed, 580 Meadow St., Chicopee, MA 01013.

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

The December 20, 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.

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HEALTH

DFS launches tool to track lithium-ion battery fires

New form will assist local fire departments in gathering data

STOW -- State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine announced that the Department of Fire Services will begin tracking fires involving lithium-ion batteries, which are increasing in frequency nationwide and have killed more than a dozen people in New York City this year.

“Across the country, and most visibly in New York City, fires caused by or involving lithium-ion batteries are on the rise, and often with deadly consequences,” Davine said. “One of the greatest challenges in addressing the increase in these fires is quantifying them. We are launching a new effort to gather more and better data on lithium-ion battery fires in Massachusetts.”

Massachusetts fire departments report their fire data to DFS using the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System, which mirrors the National Fire Incident Reporting System. The NFIRS tool gathers data on battery fires but does not distinguish between various types. Fires may also be coded by the type of device rather than the type of battery, missing the factor that makes lithium-ion battery fires particularly dangerous.

To address this, the Massachusetts State Police Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit assigned to the State Fire Marshal’s office will now gather certain additional information whenever they respond to fires that may involve lithium-ion batteries. This will include the make and model of the device, where it was purchased, whether it was charging at the time of the fire, and information on the battery itself.

Because the great majority of fire investigations in Massachusetts are undertaken by municipal fire departments without state assistance, Davine has requested that local fire investigators gather the same information. Toward that end, DFS has created a checklist known as the Form FP-031 to assist them in gathering this detailed information. This checklist, which has been sent to the chiefs of all of Massachusetts’ fire departments and posted to the DFS website, was first announced on Oct. 13 at a lithium-ion battery fire symposium hosted at DFS headquarters in Stow.

“We believe these batteries are underreported as a factor in significant fires,” said Davine. “More comprehensive data will help the fire service gauge the true scope of the issue and help guide future regulations and legislation.”

Lithium-ion batteries power everything from small devices like e-cigarettes and smartphones to scooters, e-bikes, and electric vehicles. If they are overcharged or abused, they can fail rapidly and without warning. A lithium-ion battery that goes into thermal runaway will erupt in an explosion of toxic gases and flames that will ignite nearby furnishings. Water and traditional fire extinguishers are significantly less effective against burning batteries.

Davine offered the following safety tips for preventing lithium-ion battery fires:

Be sure you have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home.

Use only the original equipment manufacturer’s batteries and charging equipment. Aftermarket or generic batteries and chargers may be cheaper but are more likely to pose a burn, fire, or explosion hazard.

Store scooters and e-bikes outdoors if possible. If you must store them indoors, keep them and their batteries clear of doors, windows, and stairways.

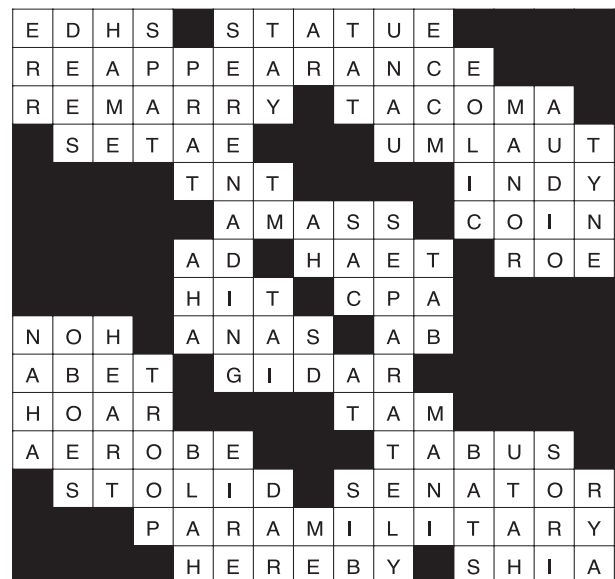
Charge the battery directly from a wall outlet, not an extension cord or power strip. Place it on a hard and stable surface, not a bed, couch, or pillow.

Charge only one battery or device at a time and unplug it when it’s fully charged. Don’t allow a charged battery to continue charging.

If you notice changes to the battery or the device, including damage, an unusual odor, a change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, smoking, or not keeping a charge, stop using it right away.

If and when it’s time to dispose of the battery, don’t put it in the trash. Lithium-ion batteries should be recycled, and you can find a location to take them at <https://www.call2recycle.org/locator/>.

Residents can learn more about lithium-ion battery safety at the Department of Fire Services’ website.



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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



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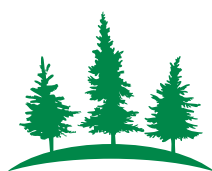
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