

Chicopee Register

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COMMUNITY

Chicopee spreads Christmas cheer at annual tree lighting



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Newborn Jiraiya, dressed in a teddy bear outfit, meets Santa Claus during Chicopee's Christmas Tree Lighting festivities.

Residents pack City Hall for festivities

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
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CHICOPEE -- The community came out in droves on Dec. 1 for Chicopee's Annual Tree Lighting.

This year's sponsors were Polish National Credit Union, Florence Bank, Holyoke Medical Center, Westfield Bank, Dunkin' Donuts and PeoplesBank.

Also, Home Depot donated a fireplace and tree for Santa Claus, with Santa's sleigh constructed by Chicopee Comprehensive

High School's CTE Carpentry Program students

Throughout the evening, residents enjoyed dance performances from Vibe Dance Center and DanceDynamics, musical performances from Victoria Narvaez, the Chicopee High School Marching Band, Victory Chapel Choir and the Girls Scouts, donuts from Dunkin' and Bernardino's Bakery, soup from ChicopeeFRESH and hot chocolate and cookies from Chicopee Comp's Culinary Department.

Additionally, there were visits with Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus.

After Mayor John Vieau arrived with Santa Claus via fire truck from the fire department,

he addressed the crowd.

"It's about kicking off the holiday season, and Chicopee likes to do it right," Vieau said.

As Vieau led the countdown to lighting the tree and holiday lights, Santa, 2023 Grand Colleen Kailyn Poniatowski and Colleen Court member Hailey Prive then flipped the switch to huge applause.

Illianna Whitehead came with her family and friends to enjoy the festivities, having also attended the Cocoa Carnival event at the library earlier that day.

Whitehead said it's a family tradition to attend the tree lighting.

See **TREE LIGHTING** page 7

COMMUNITY



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB PANDOLI

Maxwell Edison is once again featured on and in a TJO calendar.

Chicopee's coolest cat appears again in TJO wall calendar

Maxwell Edison has made a journey from feral cat to fan favorite

By Dalton Zbierski
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CHICOPEE -- The city's coolest cat is back at it; Maxwell Edison is once again pictured throughout a new wall calendar supporting the Foundation for TJO Animals.

The exclusive Maxwell Edison 2024 wall calendar features 12 months of fan favorite Max photos, as well as a cover photo of Max, one of Chicopee's favorite animals.

Proceeds benefit the Foundation for TJO Animals, which is dedicated to raising funds to help local, homeless animals at the Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center. The center serves the cities of Chicopee, Holyoke and Springfield.

The foundation maintains a focus on providing financial assistance and grants for veterinary care and has had a direct impact on saving the lives of countless animals.

In early 2020, Max was feral, roaming the Sandy Hill section of Chicopee, and retired Chicopee resident Bob Pandoli

was looking for a friend.

After a frigid ice storm, Pandoli encountered Max for the first time.

Max was limping, shaking and seemed disoriented, and Pandoli intervened. Pandoli, a lifelong cat lover, began bringing Max food regularly, which he placed under a tree near his home.

Eventually, Max made his way to Pandoli's porch.

Pandoli worked with TJO to try to locate Max's owners but was unsuccessful, so he decided to let him stay there.

Slowly, the two formed a bond, and after some time, Max felt comfortable enough to enter Pandoli's home. The two have been living together happily ever since.

To document their time spent together, Pandoli created a Facebook page called "The Journey of Maxwell Edison". More than 1,400 days have passed since Pandoli began posting, and he continues to upload content regularly.

"I post every day. A day doesn't go by that I don't post, and people are always responding," Pandoli said.

With 1,200 likes and 1,300 followers on Facebook, Max's popularity continues to in-

See **MAXWELL** page 8

COMMUNITY

City Council approves tax classification rate and tax rate for FY24

López to assessors: 'It's not my job to do your job.'

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE -- City Council approved the city's tax classification rate and set the tax rate for fiscal year 2024 in a Nov. 27 special meeting.

The council was joined by City Assessors Brian Suchy and Victor Anop for the meeting.

During the discussion,

Anop highlighted the programs put through for FY24, including Mayor John Vieau and the council putting \$3 million dollars towards the tax rate to reduce the amount people would pay, increasing the senior exemption from \$500 to \$1,000, increasing the amount of exempted personal property for small businesses from \$1,000 to \$2,000 and the creation of the Veterans Work Off program.

"So, there's a lot of progress made towards tax reduction," Anop said.

Anop also provided an overview of the documents and numbers the council would vote on,

highlighting the values and bills.

"So, if you go to the last one in 2023, the tax rate was \$1,515 per thousand and the average home was paid \$3,819 in taxes. The average commercial value was \$715,522. The tax rate for commercial, industrial and personal property was \$3,283 and the average bill for commercial entities in Chicopee between commercial, industrial and personal property was \$23,481," Anop said.

Anop then compared Chicopee's tax rate to those of surrounding communities, with Chicopee's average tax bill being \$3,818 compared to \$10,022

for Longmeadow as an example.

"As you can see as of fiscal year 2023, Chicopee has the lowest residential tax rate and that's mostly because of good financial planning," Anop said. "The commercial rates are about third or fourth."

Ward 1 Councilor Joel McAuliffe thanked the assessors for their presentation while raising a cautionary flag in his comments.

"Yes, the result of sound financial planning has left us in a position to maintain our status as the lowest tax bill in Western Massachusetts. But as the city increasingly becomes a no-com-

mercial development community and our residents have been sold the bill of goods by a select few politicians in our city, we are at great risk of losing that banner," McAuliffe said.

McAuliffe reiterated how Chicopee "is in sound financial standing" due to cautionary moves and financial savings and revenues built up through the pandemic and aid bills.

"But as that goes away and expenses continue to increase, the lack of commercial development in the city of Chicopee severely threatens the ability to

See **TAX CLASSIFICATION** page 12

Residents enjoy family fun and treats at Cocoa Carnival



Lily Schmitter and her mother, Yona, enjoy their hot chocolate during the Cocoa Carnival event at Chicopee Public Library.



Decker expresses excitement as he catches a fish during an ice fishing game at the Cocoa Carnival at Chicopee Public Library.



ChicopeeFRESH Intern Kristina O'Neil and Bri Jackson, farm to school coordinator at ChicopeeFRESH, smile as they offer cookies to attendees during the Cocoa Carnival at Chicopee Public Library.

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE -- Families visited the library's community room from 2:30 to 4 p.m. on Dec. 1 for the Cocoa Carnival.

The event, now in its second year, provided a variety of holiday-themed carnival games for attendees, including candy cane ring toss, ice fishing, snowman bowling, a snowball throw, an archery activity knocking down towers of icicles and a making your own lantern craft.

After finishing the games, attendees enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies overseen by ChicopeeFRESH and Library Director Laura Bovee.

Bri Jackson, farm-to-school coordinator for ChicopeeFRESH, and intern Kristina O'Neil gave out Aunt Elsie's oatmeal cookies, enjoying the opportunity to catch up with families and meet new people.

O'Neil said ChicopeeFRESH "was happy to be here and spend time with the community today."

"It's wonderful to have people out in this space and utilizing it for such a wonderful purpose, so we're able to spend time with them and kind of show a product that is local is also a wonderful thing to do with this space," O'Neil said.

Jackson said events like Cocoa Carnival also help combat winter blues.

"When there's really fun indoor events, I think it's just awesome to get out. I'm just watching kids have a really good time. They're ice fishing, they're making crafts and stuff. Anything to mix up the day and kind of combat some of that cold weather blues," Jackson said.

Bovee said, "It is a party" and "what the library loves best" in holding the Cocoa Carnival for the community.

"It's wonderful!" Bovee said. "It's just great to have this much vibrancy and life going on in the library."

TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Bovee said she enjoys holding holiday-themed events as it provides fun for the community.

"It's fun. It's a little festive," Bovee said. "It's nice to see everybody get excited about things."

Chris Nally, Melanie Grabiec and their son, Decker, had a great time at the event, sharing they are also frequent visitors to the library.

"We saw all the advertisements for it, and we decided to give it a try," Grabiec said.

Nally enjoyed the games, hot chocolate and doing something different at the event, adding Decker never tried archery before.

"It's a good event. It doesn't hurt the wallet and that's important around this time of year," Nally said.

Grabiec enjoyed seeing other families.

"It's great to see all the kids out enjoying themselves and making new friends," Grabiec said.

The family also expressed appreciation to the library for providing events like this for families.

"We love it. We think the library has done a fantastic job in the past year.

We've attended a lot of programs, done the summer reading and it's great to see them supporting the community," Grabiec said.

Bovee wants the community to know there's always something going on at the library and encourages residents to stop by.

"We're so much more than just books. There's activities, events, programs, other things other than books that you can check out at the library. There's a lot going on here," Bovee said.

Nally also encouraged residents to support the library.

"Support and then, also, it might introduce you to new avenues. Things that you wouldn't have maybe thought of yourself," Nally said. "Even walking by you could be coming to an event like this and then walk by and end up going to the library and checking out books."

Additionally, check out other events throughout the community.

"Keep taking advantage of the opportunities that the library presents," Nally said. "Not just the library but any of the city events that are run that don't cost you any money. You don't have to spend money to enjoy family time."

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Attendees toss rings during a candy cane ring toss game .

Christmas Tree Jubilee returns to St. Joan of Arc School on Dec. 15

CHICOPEE -- The Christmas Tree Jubilee is back at St. Joan of Arc School! It will be held on Friday, Dec. 15 in the school hall. The 'Family Stroll' will be held from 3-6 p.m. and an 'Adult-only Stroll' will be held from 7-9 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 for Adults and non-SJA students; SJA students are free. Complimentary beverages and snacks

will be provided at both strolls.

Adults attending the family stroll may return for free provided their event bracelet is still being worn. The Tree Raffle is \$15 per sheet and includes a door prize ticket. Bright Ideas Brewery beer tasting and cash sales will be held during the adult stroll. The public is welcome to attend this festive event!

Council on Aging to receive new vehicle, full-time driver

COA also accepts \$103,915, first installment of state grant

By Dalton Zbierski
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CHICOPEE -- Council on Aging Executive Director Sherry Manyak took to the podium during the mayor's briefing on Dec. 5 to share insight into several requests prior to the City Council meeting.

Apart from City Council President Frank Laflamme, who abstained from each vote, the councilors passed each item unanimously.

The council voted to appropriate \$31,050 from the Stabilization for Capital Budgeting Fund for the purchase of a new COA vehicle. Manyak explained the need.

"This item is for a vehicle for our transportation department. Typically, we turn away at least 50 people a week for rides to medical appointments, shopping or wherever they need to go. With this item, we hope to be able to transfer more older adults to appointments," Manyak said.

Currently, the COA has seven mini-Ford Escapes operating out of the RiverMills Center. It also has two vans, which are not suitable for transporting people that are handicapped.

"We give over 10,000 rides per year. That is down. Prior to COVID, it was



Turley photo by Dalton Zbierski

Several votes at the Dec. 5 City Council meeting pertained to the Council on Aging.

12,000, so we're hoping to build that back up and not turn people away, especially for medical appointments," Manyak said.

The council also approved a \$17,729 appropriation of stabilization funds to the COA Salary Account for Driver to fund the hiring of a new full-time COA driver. The money will fund a position that will begin in January and run through June.

"We have cars, but we don't have enough drivers also, so we're hoping

to fill the gap," Manyak said. "Prior to COVID, we had about 18 drivers that were volunteers. Now, we have five. So, there's a huge gap. Our rides are only increasing. If you look at the population of older adults, it increased over the last census, so we have more people to serve now."

Manyak pointed out that the rides the COA provides are for an underserved population, or people who have no other

means to get to their appointments.

"They don't have family. A lot of them are low-income, and we don't give rides to people that are in assisted living because those are people that are not underserved. We just do the people that are underserved," Manyak said.

The COA does charge for some rides. It costs one dollar to get to the senior center, and shopping rides are free because they're paid for out of a grant. However, medical trips cost \$2 each way.

"Gas is paid for by the city," Manyak said.

Additionally, the council voted to accept the first installment of a fiscal year 2024 formula grant in the amount of \$103,915 from the state's Department of Elder Affairs to the COA in Chicopee. Manyak said the COA receives the grant every year.

"Because of the census, it did go up tremendously. I want to say last year it was \$145,000. This year, it's (approximately) \$206,000. It does go up. This grant does pay portions of my staff's salaries and it does pay the full salary of our social worker," Manyak said.

Lastly, the council approved \$3,178 in donations to the COA, monthly donations that Manyak said the senior center receives all the time.

"People mail them in, especially for their loved ones who attended the center and may have passed away, so a lot of those donations come from that," she said.

Mayor's Office thanks Comp CTE Carpentry Program for building Santa's sleigh



CHICOPEE -- The Mayor's Office expresses its gratitude for the Chicopee Comprehensive High School CTE Carpentry Program.

A heartfelt thank you to the incredible students for embarking on an extraordinary challenge! In less than two months, these talented individuals took on the task of crafting a life-size, fully functional sleigh for our city's tree-lighting display this past Dec. 1.

This project was a testament to the power of teamwork, dedication, and craftsmanship. A big shoutout to the amazing teachers who not only accepted the challenge but also guided and inspired these students to bring this vision to life so beautifully.

In the spirit of appreciation, let's acknowledge the remarkable individuals who made it happen!

Aiden Devlin, Alexander Rivera, Evan Turgeon, Brody Fay, Korbyn Taylor-Celmer and Tucker Jones

Your hard work, passion, and creativity have not only created a stunning sleigh but also a magical experience for the children in our community. Thank you for making our city shine a little brighter this holiday season!



Photos courtesy of the Mayor's Office

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR WESTOVER AIR RESERVE BASE AIRFIELD IMPROVEMENTS WESTOVER AIR RESERVE BASE, MASSACHUSETTS

Description: Interested parties are hereby notified that a Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Final Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) have been prepared for the Proposed Action described below. The Draft EA was made available for review during the public comment period from September 28, 2023, to October 28, 2023. No comments were received.

Authority: This notice is being issued to all interested parties in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 United States Code 4321, et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and the Air Force Environmental Impact Analysis Process (32 CFR Part 989).

Proposed Action: The United States (U.S.) Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) proposes to construct airfield improvements at Westover Air Reserve Base (ARB) to better accommodate training capabilities and airfield operations in support of the 439th Airlift Wing's existing C-5M aircraft. The improvements include two primary activities: 1) construction of a paved training apron, and 2) extension of the existing Taxiway Golf (G). The paved training apron and associated stormwater feature would be constructed within the Dog Patch Training Area. Construction of the paved training apron would create approximately 1.2 acres of impervious surface, and a 0.3-acre stormwater feature (bioretention basin) would be constructed to the north of the paved training apron to collect runoff. The Taxiway G extension would involve constructing a new concrete taxiway surface between the existing Taxiway G and Pad 5 within the Westover ARB airfield. This extension would create approximately 16.1 acres of impervious surface. Stormwater management options are anticipated to include installation of new drain lines and surface grading in areas adjacent to the runway extension, while existing underground utilities at the site would be relocated or abandoned in place. The ARFC is considering two alternatives: the Preferred Alternative, which would implement the Proposed Action; and the No Action Alternative, which would not implement the Proposed Action but provides a comparative baseline for potential impacts as required under CEQ regulations.

The Final EA evaluates the potential impacts on the environment from implementing the Proposed Action. The evaluation concludes there would be no significant impact, either individually or cumulatively, as a result of implementing the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action would include compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations, including consultation and permitting and routine best management practices.

Availability: The Final EA and FONSI are available at the Westover ARB 439th Airlift Wing website at <https://www.westover.afrc.af.mil/About-Us/Resources/Environmental-and-Noise/>. Printed copies of the Final EA and FONSI are also available to the public at the Chicopee Fairview Branch Library, 402 Britton Street, Chicopee, Massachusetts 01020.

SUBMISSIONS ALWAYS WELCOME
Send your stories and photos to dzbierski@turley.com

GUEST COLUMN



Fox sparrow



I received an email last month from a Brimfield resident who reported an acquaintance from Hardwick had a fox sparrow and pine siskin in his yard recently.

The fox sparrow is a large sparrow, seven inches. It has rufous sneaking on a gray head and back, whitish underparts and boldly streaked with brown or rufous. It has an irregular central dot on its breast and a reddish brown rump and tail.

These sparrows feed on the ground with seeds, fruits and insects making up its diet. They often jump forward and back to remove debris from the ground to uncover food. They come to feeders eating the seeds scattered on the ground by other birds.

The female lays four to six light blue, green eggs with darker marks in a cupcake nest if grasses, lichens and leaves lined with grasses, fur and rootlets. It is placed on the ground under a small tree or shrub. Their song is a series of clear melodious whistles and is more melodic than most sparrows.

Loon life span

In the Loon Preservation Committee newsletter, they discussed the loon life span.

"How long do loons live?" is one of the most common questions that LPC biologists are asked.

The two oldest known loons in the world breed in Michigan, at the Seney Wildlife Refuge. They used to be a pair, however, in recent years they have gone their separate ways. The male's exact age is known because he was banded the year that he hatched. The female's exact age is unknown because she was banded as an adult, however, we know her minimum age. This summer, the female was at least 37 years old, while the male turned 36 years old.

New Hampshire has a male loon who was banded as an adult in 2000, making him at least 26 years old. In addition to his advanced age, he has another claim to fame: he is the only loon, so far, in New Hampshire that has produced chicks after surviving lead poisoning.

The oldest known loon in New Hampshire is a female, who occupies a territory on Lake Umbagog. She was originally banded as an adult in 1993. Because she was banded as an adult, we don't know her exact age. We only know for sure that she was at least three years old in 1993. However, loons don't hatch chicks, on average, until they are 6 years old, and this loon hatched chicks the year she was banded. That means she was likely 6 years old or older in 1993. She is at minimum 33 years old, but more likely 36 or older.

Decrease in bird activity

I received an email from a man who said this year he has a very noticeable decrease in bird population.

He reports he has a male and female bobcat and squirrels, rabbits and chipmunks have disappeared. He said "maybe that's part of it."

See **BACKYARD** page 10

GUEST COLUMN



Seventy-five years and going strong

I was opening the curtains in my bedroom this morning to find that my Babci's Christmas cactus had burst into bloom!

How exciting for an indoor plant to live for seven plus decades, never mind that the last two have been under my care. It's no secret that I am not an indoor plant aficionado, but I do have my favorites, and this is one of them.

Read on to learn about this beloved plant, straight from the archives.

One horticulture related Christmas memories involves my mother's Christmas cactus. I remember the arching, woody stemmed plant on an iron stand in her bedroom; before that it lived in my Babci's house.

Every year, just in time for the holiday, it would flower, putting on quite a show, beautiful and exotic in hot fuchsia-pink.

Today, only five original branches remain. But if you look closely within the base of the plant, you'll see lots of new growth.

Perhaps if I follow the advice, I have outlined below this heirloom will be blooming in the home of my future grandchildren!

The Christmas cactus (*Schlumbergera bridgesii*) is an epiphyte, native to South America where it happily grows hanging from trees in the jungle. Inside, it prefers a location with indirect light. Positioning it in front of a north or east facing window is best.

During the summer months many people prefer to move the plant outdoors. I have had good luck placing it under the shade of a tree; too much sun will burn its leaves.

When night temperatures begin to dip into the forties it is time to bring the Christmas cactus indoors. Gradually acclimatize the plant to its winter home by increasing the number of hours spent inside each day.

It is very important that the Christmas cactus be planted in a well-drained growing medium. For this reason, either coarse sand or perlite should be added to any homemade potting soil.

A recipe that combines equal parts of either of these along with garden loam and leaf mold or compost should work out just fine. Christmas cactus like to be somewhat pot bound, but if the plant has been growing in

the same pot for several years its soil is likely exhausted of nutrients.

Repot by gently teasing away some of the soil from the plant's roots. Replace it with the new soil mixture. Choose a pot that is a single size bigger than the existing root ball, or reuse the old pot.

Many people hear "cactus" and think that the plant is drought tolerant. With the Christmas cactus this is only partly true.

Although its leaves are succulent and can retain a fair amount of water, it is not a true cactus. As a general rule you should water Christmas cactus when the potting soil is dry to the touch.

Adequate moisture is especially necessary during the spring when it begins its growth and once buds are set. A diluted amount of liquid fertilizer can be added then as well, especially if the soil hasn't been refreshed in many years.

When the plant is done flowering, it will go into a period of rest; almost no water is necessary for nearly two months. Just prior to bud set it will rest again but this time the soil shouldn't dry out completely.

Two environmental factors are responsible for coaxing a plant into bloom. The first is temperature and the second is light.

If temperatures at night range between 55 and 60 degrees for a six week period, the plant will set buds regardless of day length. If temperatures run higher than that, thirteen hours of uninterrupted darkness will bring about buds.

Simply put the plant to bed each night from 6 p.m.-8a.m. until buds form. My luck has been temperature related; because I leave the plants outside until early fall its temperature requirements are met and I am delighted with blooms come Christmas time.

If your plant sets buds and then drops them prior to full bloom it is likely due to overwatering or exposure. For this reason, keep it away from drafty windows, doorways or radiators.

If you don't already own Christmas cactus, consider purchasing one this holiday. Better yet, start a plant.

Simply get a leaf - no longer than two or three segments, from a friend. They are easy to root in regular potting soil.

Two or three of these per four inch pot is perfect. By year two you should be delighted with some beautiful flowers and maybe the start of your own family tradition.

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.

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.

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City Council approves pace car funding, digital archiving, fingerprinting equipment and more

By Dalton Zbierski
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CHICOPEE -- City Council passed all 11 orders from Mayor John Vieau on Dec. 5 unanimously, with the exception of several abstentions pertaining to Council on Aging items.

One well-received request was for a \$12,000 appropriation to the Emergency Management Salary Account from stabilization funds to offset some of the cost of the city's pace car. Vieau explained the initiative; he said it has proven to be effective and will operate throughout the school year.

"(The pace car) actually drives at the speed limit through areas of concern throughout the city of Chicopee, particularly areas like Chicopee Street and Meadow Street and typically during times when there are students out there trying to get to either their bus or pedestrian students walking to school to slow down traffic at the pace which is within the speed limit for that particular street," Vieau said.

Vieau said the public has responded positively to the pace car program. He credited Emergency Management Director Glenn Joslyn for creating the idea, noting he "thought that this would be a great way to make sure the public understands what the speed limits are in the city of Chicopee."

Several councilors voiced appreciation for the program. City Council Presi-

dent Frank Laflamme said he was glad to see the item move forward.

"I've (heard from) residents on Moreau Drive, there was a big concern up there; we received phone calls. We got compliments about (the pace car driving) on Moreau Drive... This is a win-win for us," Laflamme said.

Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello thanked Vieau specifically for supporting the program, noting that it was a great idea.

"A lot of people seem to think this works. It slows traffic down, especially near those schools. I appreciate your innovation," Costello said, as Vieau deflects credit to Joslyn.

City Council also voted to approve an \$18,124 appropriation of stabilization funds to the Planning Expense Account for Special Services so that the city can continue digitally archiving all its paper and physical records to secure them on the city servers.

"This specific request is related to historic images that we have found in Planning Department records that were in the annex attic, stemming back to the 1950s. A lot of these images are on 35-mm slides. We have a lot of film negatives and a lot of old planning poster boards that we do not have the inhouse capability of digitizing," Planning & Development Director Lee Pouliot said.

The city is working with UBEO, a contractor for copy machine and scanning machine rentals that is also on the state bid list. Pouliot said the vendor pro-

vides services for records management and archiving.

Once converted to digital files, the city can use the material for projects.

"For some of the negatives, we can't really tell what the images are of, but we'd like to digitize them and have them in our archives for any other departments to use if there is ever a need for historical references once we can identify what all of the images are of," Pouliot said.

On Tuesday, City Council voted to appropriate \$11,043 of stabilization funds to the Human Resources Expense Account for Departmental Equipment. Vieau explained.

"We do IDs and fingerprinting of employees, and our fingerprint reader and printer have broken down because of their age and we're unable to replace them or get replacement parts," he said.

Before he stepped down from the podium, Vieau asked the council to accept the \$4,800 FY24 Bulletproof Vest Grant Reimbursement from the state's Executive Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security to the police department. He also made an announcement regarding new staff at the police department.

"One of our favorite words is grants. We'll be receiving one from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security, and this should help us with the purchase of about five vests," Vieau said. "For the general public's knowledge, we are right now vetting and about to move forward with the interview process to hire 12 more police officers for the city."

Chicopee High School incident

CHICOPEE -- On Tuesday, Dec. 5, at approximately 2:15 p.m., the School Resource Officer at Chicopee High School was made aware of a fight that was taking place in front of the school at dismissal time. The SRO made his way to the front of the school and attempted to intervene. While breaking the fight up one of the involved parties, a juvenile male, ran up Wheatland Avenue. As the party began to run away, another party in the area of the disturbance yelled to the SRO that the juvenile may have a firearm.

With this information the SRO immediately called over the police radio for assistance and began to chase the juvenile on foot. Responding officers secured the area and assisted with locating the juvenile.

This is still an active investigation and many of the parties involved are juveniles, so information may be limited. The police department is aware of several videos circulating on social media and are asking that anyone with video of the altercation please forward it to the Detective Bureau at DB@Chicopeepolice.com

Situations like this can escalate very quickly and we appreciate the response from the community. As more information becomes available updates will be provided. Courtesy of the Chicopee Police Department.

Library schedules exciting programs for children, teens

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
dzbi@turley.com

CHICOPEE -- The Chicopee Public Library is ushering in the holidays with several exciting weeks of children's and teens' activities.

Youth Services Coordinator Erin Daly recently discussed the range of programming that is on deck to close out the year, beginning next Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. with "Wassail: A Victorian Holiday".

"This is a 90-minute program of Victorian dancing, sing-alongs, readings and seasonal music celebrating Hanauka, Christmas and the New Year. It's an all-ages event," Daly said.

The following day, on Dec. 13 at 10:30 a.m., the library will hold its Story Time program, which typically meets every other Wednesday but will break on Dec. 27. Daly said the program is focused on early childhood literacy.

"We read some books, we do some rhymes, we sing and dance and move around and usually have some kind of craft or activity," she said. "Our topic for Story Time on the 13th is hats, so we're going to read some books about hats and talk about keeping our heads warm during the cold time of the year."

On Dec. 14 at 4 p.m., the library will host "Winter Watercolor Wonderland". Daly said the library has been delving into painting with families recently and wanted to hold a watercolor program; hot cocoa left over from the Cocoa Carnival will be served.

The program is for children aged five and up and is open to grownups who want to participate with their children or family members.

"It's a time for families to come and paint together. We're going to do a structured activity as well, but if you want to go and play with paint, you can do that

too," Daly said. "We're going to show you how to make a little wreath by painting on the rim of something round and then painting some leaves around it and adding twigs and other shapes."

Teens are invited to the watercolor activity also and don't have to bring an adult for supervision.

On Dec. 15, the Little Movers program will occur at 11 a.m. and is open to toddlers who have just started crawling up to those who are 24 months old. Daly described the activity as playtime mixed with a bit of story time.

At 10:30 a.m. on Dec. 19, the library will host its Little Kid Dance Party, which typically happens every other Tuesday. Daly said the program is exactly how it sounds.

"I call it my favorite workout ever," she said. "It's for the under-five crowd and whatever grownups they bring us; often a lot of grandparents, and we love to see that. We do singing and dancing and big moves. We use the Community Room, so we have lots of space to move around. It's really fun."

At 4 p.m. that day, there will be a Kids Room craft activity, and on Dec. 21 at 4 p.m. there will be a "Maker Zone" program, which is a mix of science and art.

"That is a monthly program for ages six to nine-ish, and it is science and technology kind of activities that sort of go towards art as well, so we just say it's a STEAM activity. It seems like everyone always has a lot of fun at that one."

In a program geared towards teens and adults, the Anime Club will meet on Dec. 21 from 3 - 4:30 p.m. The activity of the day will be selecting a favorite Pokémon, which was thought of by Senior Library Associate for Youth Services Brent Tenerowicz.

"Brent has found something online that can let people vote for a favor-

ite Pokémon," Daly said. "It's going to (have) different rounds, and they're going to try to narrow it down to choose a Pokémon that is their favorite and best. We'll see how that goes. It's probably going to get pretty contentious. People who love Pokémon should really come out for that. I think it's going to be hilarious."

The library's teen space has four computers, where teens can access the internet, play games or do homework. The space also has a huge collection of comics and Manga books, as well as comfortable seating.

Daly has been at the library for 13 years and reflected on what made 2023 unique.

"It really felt like it was back to booming business in the afternoons. We've been seeing everybody, and I think we're having a pretty good time," she

said, noting that programming will take a break between the holidays and return in January.

When asked what motivates her to continue in her position, Daly was proud to say that every day is different. She enjoys being engaged in her work.

"I hate being bored and don't want anyone else to be bored either. We just keep doing things and creating things and having fun with books and creating art and just playing. It's what we do. It's always exciting because we have different people to hang out with and different topics that are popular. We try to build off that," Daly said.

The library, located at 449 Front St., is open on Sundays from noon to 4 p.m. and Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. On Friday it is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Saturday it is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Match US Collection Boutique opens its doors in Chicopee

The boutique is on Prospect Street

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE -- Residents, local and state elected officials and other community members gathered on Prospect Street on Dec. 2 for the grand opening of Match US Collection Boutique.

The boutique, overseen by CEO Myriam Vega, offers clothing for women, Mommy and Me matching outfits, shoes, accessories including hats, scarves, handbags and more.

Match US Collection Boutique is open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with potential for extended holiday hours on Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

During the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Mayor John Vieau said he was wowed when he walked inside the boutique.

"It is absolutely beautiful in there; the prices are very reasonable and it's all about supporting small businesses. They're the backbone of the city and when you are a stakeholder in Chicopee, you're part of our family so I want to welcome you," Vieau said.

State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee) shared she's known Vega since they were children and the grand opening "is a very special moment."

"Whether it's this endeavor, which is of course a passion and dream of hers that she has worked tirelessly and endlessly to make happen, everything she's done since I've known her has been a success, so I



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

(L to R) State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), Myriam Vega, CEO of Match US Collection Boutique, and Mayor John Vieau pose for a group photo ahead of the ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the grand opening of Match US Collection Boutique on Dec. 2.

have no doubt in my mind that this is going to be a true success," Arriaga said.

Vega expressed gratitude for the support she's received, sharing her passion for fashion was sparked from a young age when she was doing her friends' hair and playing dress-up. As she got older, Vega also received compliments on her style.

Vega had owned another business in Chicopee, Exclusive Hair Salon, and worked in the corporate world. After graduating from Westfield State University with a bachelor's degree in business management, she decided to pursue her passion.

"I started it from my home from a small room. I did live videos, started in social media just creating content and communicating and encouraging other females and helping them style, whether that's putting an outfit together or match with their families," Vega said.

The Mommy and Me outfits, Vega shared, were inspired by her son, Janiel Santiago. When he was born, mother and son wore matching outfits all the time, receiving compliments.

It was this collection that made Vega realize "I truly enjoy this."

"I love that I not only get to style women and their children and their families but also get to serve as an inspiration and encourage females and also dress them up with confidence," Vega said.

Vega wants the community to know she is passionate about helping others, giving and serving and wants to inspire women, including single mothers, to follow their dreams.

"I want to encourage small business owners, single mothers, women that are struggling that don't enjoy their corporate job to really take the leap of faith and do something they truly love because they're passionate about (it). It will all work out, God has a plan," Vega said. "Taking risks and dressing up with confidence knowing that God always provides, it's very important."

Vega also encourages residents to visit the boutique, adding she will be having a holiday event soon.

"There's something for everyone here. Whether it's a shoe, accessories, clothing or something for your little one, we have that here, so we want to welcome you guys all to join us," Vega said. "We're waiting for you guys to come, and I'd love to encourage and support our community so I will be waiting to meet everyone and encourage



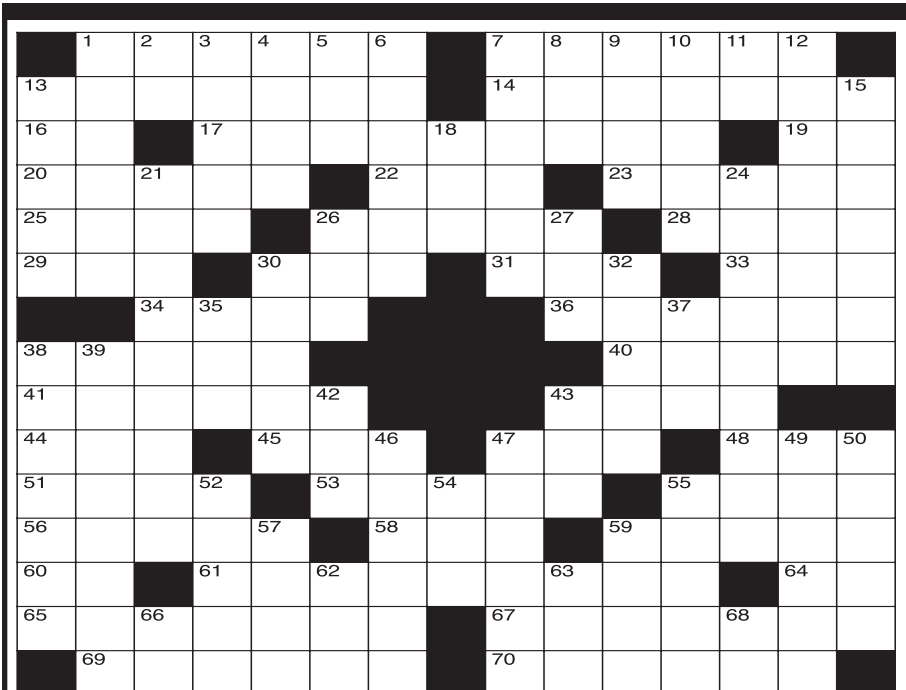
A sign for Match US Collection Boutique on Prospect Street in Chicopee.



A selection of clothes, handbags, shoes, scarves, hats and more on display inside Match US Collection Boutique during its grand opening on Dec. 2. The boutique offers a selection of fashion pieces and accessories at reasonable prices.

them and uplift them."

To learn more, call 413-331-8784 and check them out on Facebook and Instagram.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Spiritual leaders
- 7. Salt
- 13. Fortified wine
- 14. Edible mollusk
- 16. It begins with them
- 17. A way to compare
- 19. Government lawyer
- 20. Back parts
- 22. 8th month (abbr.)
- 23. Very willing
- 25. ___ ex machina
- 26. Satisfies
- 28. Quebec river
- 29. A doctrine
- 30. Popular pickup truck
- 31. Dekagram
- 33. Naturally occurring solid material
- 34. Company officer
- 36. Villains
- 38. Cricket frogs
- 40. German founder of psychology
- 41. Endured
- 43. A female domestic

- 44. A "place" to avoid
- 45. Cigarette (slang)
- 47. Canadian politician Josephine
- 48. French ballet/acting dynasty
- 51. Employee stock ownership plan
- 53. Belonging to the bottom
- 55. Sound
- 56. Yankees' slugger Judge
- 58. Dickens character
- 59. More wise
- 60. Flash memory card
- 61. Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule
- 64. Atomic #79
- 65. Longtime Braves pitcher Julio
- 67. Humor
- 69. Shawl
- 70. Preliminary assessment of patients

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Animal disease
- 2. Commercial
- 3. Craft supply
- 4. Storage units
- 5. Investment vehicle
- 6. Colorado Heisman winner
- 7. In a way, sank
- 8. Post-birth brain damage (abbr.)
- 9. Lay about
- 10. Intestinal
- 11. The opposite of yes
- 12. Caused to be loved
- 13. Messianic in Islamic eschatology
- 15. Showing since conviction
- 18. Not safe
- 21. The number above the line in a fraction
- 24. Yard invader
- 26. Pouch
- 27. Swedish krona
- 30. Start anew
- 32. While white or

- yellow flower
- 35. Fourteen
- 37. Graphical user interface
- 38. Up-to-date on the news
- 39. Campaigns
- 42. Touch softly
- 43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
- 46. Violent seizure of property
- 47. One who supports the Pope
- 49. Anxiety
- 50. Body fluid
- 52. Phony person
- 54. Title of respect
- 55. Chilean city
- 57. City in central Japan
- 59. Silk garment
- 62. Draw from
- 63. Automobile
- 66. Man
- 68. Legal bigwig (abbr.)

ANSWERS ON PAGE 14

Pet Photos with Santa

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Comprehensive High School National Honor Society invites you to take Pet Photos with Santa on Dec. 9 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. at the school at 617 Montgomery St.

Join the festive fun with your beloved pets, and human siblings are welcome too. The cost to participate is \$5, and proceeds benefit the TJO Animal Control & Adoption Center. Scan the QR code to book your photo or just walk in.



Lodge 711 PNA Annual Meeting, Election of Officers and Children's Christmas Party

CHICOPEE -- Lodge 711 Polish National Alliance of Chicopee will host its annual meeting, election of officers and children's Christmas party on Dec. 17 at 11:30 a.m. followed by the lodge Christmas party with dinner served at 1 p.m. sharp.

The events will be held at the Chicopee Falls Polish Home, 27 Grove St. The Christmas party will feature the singing of Polish and English Christmas carols. Dinner and refreshments will be served and gifts, for members ages 0-14, will be dis-

tributed by Santa.

Assisting the chairman, Mitchell Nowak, President of PNA Lodge 711 and chief cook, are Cindy Kirejczyk and Teresa Struziak Sherman, publicity and menu selection gifts, prizes, decorations and refreshments. Many PNA members plan to volunteer for this event. PNA Lodge 711 is a non-profit organization dedicated to assuring an active role in area social, cultural, civic and charitable events. For more information, call Sherman at 413-596-9578.

Chicopee spreads Christmas cheer at annual tree lighting



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS
Victoria Narvaez performs a Christmas song inside City Hall auditorium



Mayor John Vieau wraps up his countdown to lighting up the Christmas tree in downtown Chicopee as 2023 Grand Colleen Kailyn Poniatowski, Colleen Court member Hailey Prive and Santa Claus flip the switch.



Residents check out the lit-up Christmas tree during Chicopee's Christmas Tree Lighting festivities.



The Chicopee High School Marching Band performs ahead of Santa's arrival as Chicopee's Christmas Tree Lighting festivities get underway.



Students from DanceDynamics perform a festive dance during this year's Christmas Tree Lighting festivities in Chicopee.

TREE LIGHTING from page 1

"What I and my family enjoy is seeing people we know or, you know, just having a great time seeing the tree lighting, so things like that," Whitehead said.

Whitehead also enjoyed watching the dance performances and seeing family members and friends, adding how the event doesn't change even if parts of the city change over the years.

"Like this every year, this never changes, which is something that we can hold on to," Whitehead said. "It won't change."

Chloe Soto, the city's communications and special projects manager, was excited to bring the event together for the community, and the turnout was huge despite the weather.

"That is really Chicopee spirit, right? We come together when we need to, when we have to and when we want to, right? So, this I feel is a success, but the biggest success is having all these people come. So having everybody come together, that's the real success for me," Soto said.

Soto said public events like this also help bring people together again post-pandemic, encouraging everyone to still come out and use safety precautions if they need to.



Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus smile for a photo.

"I think that, you know, we're all really still recovering from COVID, right? So, the opportunity to come together, to come to public events, to celebrate together, I think that's what helps us build community, that's what helps us bring joy and ties us together. We are a family. We are Chicopee Strong and it's important to come together," Soto said.

Whitehead shared these reminders for the community to know this holiday season.

"Coming to events like this, just be respectful. Be respectful of people. In this holiday season, just spread some joy," Whitehead said.

Soto encouraged everyone to be safe this holiday season and to know City Hall is here for them; she and her team would love suggestions on events.

Soto also shared this message. "I want to thank each and every resident that decided to come out this evening even though the weather wasn't perfect," Soto said. "It means a lot to us that they come and have a good time and that they're able to share this space and that we're able to share it with them and that we're able to just bring a little bit of joy to families and



City Councilor-at-Large-elect Tim Wagner and City Council Vice President/Councilor-at-Large Robert Zygarowski smile as they hand out donuts from Bernardino's Bakery.



Vibe Dance Center students dressed in festive sweaters and reindeer antlers entertain residents with a dance.

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Boys & Girls Club thanks Chicopee Delegation during check presentation



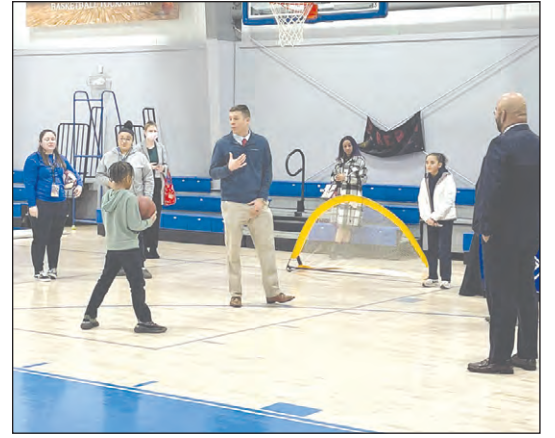
PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF CHICOPEE

Myriam Vega, CEO of Match US Collection Boutique, celebrates the grand opening of Match US Collection Boutique with her son, Janiel Santiago, as family members, Ward 1 City Councilor-elect Abigail Arriaga, State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee) and Mayor John Vieau celebrate during the ribbon-cutting ceremony on Dec. 2.

CHICOPEE -- The Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee hosted a check presentation to thank the Chicopee Delegation for their continued support of the Club and to receive a \$70,770 grant from the state legislature in addition to an earmark of \$50,000 for its new teen center, Haven. The check presentation occurred on the evening of Tuesday, Dec. 5 with the delegation at 580 Meadow St.

The grant represents Chicopee's share of the \$3 Million appropriated to the Massachusetts Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs in the fiscal year 2024 budget, an \$800,000 increase from FY23. The money will be used to fund the Club's youth development programs, which provide before and after school care, homework assistance, mentoring and computer access to children throughout the region.

"The children and teens of Chicopee are very fortunate to be represented by the legislators in the Chicopee delegation, who have time and again demonstrated their commitment to the Boys & Girls Clubs' mission through not just their words, but their actions as well," said Jason Reed, Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee's executive director.



ee are very fortunate to be represented by the legislators in the Chicopee delegation, who have time and again demonstrated their commitment to the Boys & Girls Clubs' mission through not just their words, but their actions as well," said Jason Reed, Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee's executive director.

MAXWELL from page 1

crease, so much so that he is one of the faces of TJO. Max debuted in a TJO calendar prior to the 2024 edition, but Pandoli was excited to make this one the best one.

"For pretty much the past six months, I've been going through pictures. I'll see a picture and put it in the folder," Pandoli said, factoring likes on the original posts. "Sometimes, the pictures that I think will go over the best don't, and the ones I don't think much of all of a sudden become big hits."

Pandoli submitted to the foundation a flash drive with 40 photos, and it was their responsibility to choose 13; one for each month and a cover shot.

Max's calendar is one of five different 2024 calendars benefiting the foundation. Late last month, Pandoli was informed that Max's calendar has amounted for half the TJO sales.

Reflecting on how he met Max, Pandoli said it was a "no brainer" and he is thankful for TJO for providing the support necessary for him to offer Max a home.

"I just happened to look outside, and I see this cat walking across the street, shivering and limping, and I just had this sense to help him," Pandoli said. "I can't imagine anyone turning their back on an animal like that, and the fact that you have an organization that made it very easy to save him, get him off the street and keep him off the street (is appreciated)."

Today, Max has Facebook followers from multiple states and 10 different countries. Pandoli hopes Max's story inspires others to help save an animal in need, and he is thankful for everyone who has bought a calendar.

"One hundred percent of the profits are going to TJO, and calendars are great Christmas presents," he said.

To purchase a calendar, one can visit https://www.createphotocalendars.com/Store/Maxwell+Edison+2024+Wall+Calendar-3408598131?fbclid=IwAR1yUPk7XIDpBBXE6h99u-8IgcN4su0vDVF7UChkbibgtR-w97rD7CsT2w8_0 or search Maxwell Edison 2024 Wall Calendar on CreatePhotoCalendars.com.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BOB PANDOLI

Proceeds from the Max calendar sales go to the Foundation for TJO Animals.

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Boys tangle with Tigers



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Dommic Garcia dribbles looking to make a pass.

CHICOPEE – On Monday afternoon, Chicopee boys basketball faced South Hadley in its final scrimmage before the regular season. South Hadley was coming off a state tournament appearance, making a tough challenge for the Pacers. Chicopee will open the season with a tough draw, at Central on Monday, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m.



Jaycob Andujar stays low as he tries to get around an opponent.



Jovan Grollman shoots all alone.



Jeremy Rodriguez tries to get around a block and shoot.

Pacers get ready for opener

CHICOPEE – Earlier this week, Chicopee girls basketball faced off with South Hadley in a scrimmage as it prepares for its regular season opener, which takes place this Tuesday evening against Holyoke High School. The Pacers have a tough schedule to start with Holyoke and Central in consecutive games to open the season.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Sophia Guzman shoots during a scrimmage.



Lauren Cross heads for the hoop.



Aubrie Johnson eyes a basket.



Cassidy Pytel gets ready to shoot.

Pioneer Valley Soccer Officials Association presents year-end awards

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW — The (PVSOA), which was formed in 1946, held its annual banquet at the Polish American Citizens Club in Ludlow on Dec. 1.

One of the highlights of the evening was the buffet catered by Tony & Penny's Restaurant. There was also an awards ceremony.

Ludlow junior Thomas Wadas is the 2023 George E. Russell Award (Boys Large School MCP award) winner.

"Thomas falls in line with all our former Ludlow players

who have won the George Russell Award," said longtime Ludlow boys soccer coach Greg Kolodziej, who won his 200th career game this fall. "He's a very talented player who has worked extremely hard to get what he has achieved."

Wadas is the 24th Ludlow boys' soccer player to receive the Russell award, which is named in memory of the former Ludlow High School principal, since 1965. The first Ludlow boys' soccer player to win the prestigious award was Bob Duarte.

Wadas, who's a three-year varsity starter, didn't attend this year's PVSOA banquet be-

cause the Ludlow High School soccer banquet was held on the same night.

In his first three seasons as a member of the varsity soccer team, Wadas, who's a midfielder, scored 15 goals and 15 assists. He also helped the Lions (18-2-2) capture the Western Mass. Class A title for the third consecutive year. The Lions also competed in the Division 1 state tournament.

Pathfinder Tech senior Riley Sanderson received the Henry O. Holly/Dave Grieve (Boys Small School MVP award).

"I received an email from my soccer coach (David Wil-

son) telling me that I had been selected for the MVP award for small schools," said Sanderson, who led his team with 11 assists this past fall. "We weren't able to win any banners this year, but this is a nice way to cap off my high school soccer career."

Sanderson, who missed his junior season due to an injury, also scored 11 goals as a senior.

"Riley has an outstanding right foot, and he could've taken a lot more shots on goal for us, but he would always pass the ball to one of his teammates," Wilson said. "He always plays the game very hard and I'm very proud of him."

Junior Evan Costa led the Pioneers with 34 goals.

The Pioneers, who qualified for the vocational, Western Mass. Class C. and Division 5 state tournaments, finished the 2023 campaign with a 15-5 overall record.

The only other boys' soccer player from Pathfinder Tech to receive the MVP award was Josh Sikorski in 2010.

Minnechaug senior Kylie Ray received the John Kalloch Award (Girls Large School MVP award).

"This is a very special award, especially from the

See AWARDS page 14

SPORTS

Chicopee 2023-2024 winter varsity schedule

BOYS BASKETBALL

Monday, Dec. 11	Away	Central	7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 14	Away	Sci-Tech	7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 16	Away	Chicopee Comp	9 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 18	Home	Northampton	7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 22	Home	Agawam	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 27	Home	Holyoke	7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 29	Away	Putnam	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 4	Away	SICS	6:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 8	Home	Amherst	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 11	Away	Longmeadow	7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 15	Home	Fitchburg	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 19	Home	Pope Francis	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 23	Home	SICS	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 26	Away	Amherst	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 30	Home	Longmeadow	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 6	Away	Pope Francis	7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 9	Home	Mahar	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 13	Away	Chicopee Comp	7 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Tuesday, Dec. 12	Home	Holyoke	7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 15	Home	Central	7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 16	Away	Chicopee Comp	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 19	Away	Northampton	7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 27	Away	King Philip	5 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 5	Away	Longmeadow	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 9	Away	Pittsfield	7 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 12	Away	Chicopee Comp	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 16	Home	East Longmeadow	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 18	Home	Westfield	7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 22	Home	Minnechaug	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 25	Home	Pittsfield	7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 1	Away	East Longmeadow	7 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 5	Away	Westfield	7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 8	Away	Minnechaug	6:30 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 12	Home	Pope Francis	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 14	Away	Wahconah	7 p.m.

ICE HOCKEY (CO-OP)

Saturday, Dec. 9	Away	Southwick	5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 16	Home	Easthampton	5 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 18	Away	Amherst	5 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 20	Away	Apponequet	4 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 23	Away	Agawam	3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 27	Home	Chicopee Holiday Tournament	7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 28	Home	Chicopee Holiday Tournament	TBD
Saturday, Dec. 30	Away	Taonic	7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 3	Home	Ludlow	4 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 6	Away	Saint Paul	3:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 13	Away	Fitchburg	1 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 15	Home	Taonic	3 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 17	Away	McCann Tech	7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 20	Home	Amherst	5 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 24	Home	Agawam	4 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 28	Home	Peabody	1 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 3	Home	Oakmont	5 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 8	Away	Ludlow	8:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 10	Away	Gardner	1 p.m.

SWIMMING

Friday, Dec. 8	Away	Renaissance	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 12	Home	Turners Falls	4 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 15	Home	Monson	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 19	Away	Northampton	5:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 21	Home	Chicopee Comp	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 2	Away	West Springfield	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 9	Home	Hampden Charter	4 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 12	Away	Holyoke	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 16	Home	Turners Falls	4 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 19	Home	Renaissance	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 23	Away	Monson	4 p.m.

WRESTLING (Co-op with Chicopee Comprehensive)

Saturday, Dec. 9	Away	Granby	9 a.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 13	Away	Putnam	7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 16	Away	Longmeadow	10 a.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 20	Away	West Springfield	6 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 3	Home	Central	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 10	Home	Minnechaug	7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 20	Away	Granby	9 a.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 24	Home	Agawam	7 p.m.

Chicopee Comprehensive 2023-2024 winter varsity schedule

BOYS BASKETBALL

Monday, Dec. 11	Home	Pittsfield	7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 14	Home	West Springfield	7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 16	Home	Chicopee	9 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 18	Away	Wahconah	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 27	Away	Agawam	4:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 29	Home	Taonic	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 3	Away	Putnam	7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 8	Home	East Longmeadow	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 11	Away	Westfield	7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 13	Home	Shepherd Hill	12:45 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 16	Home	Minnechaug	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 19	Away	Commerce	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 26	Away	East Longmeadow	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 30	Home	Westfield	7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 1	Away	Minnechaug	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 6	Home	Commerce	7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 9	Home	Northampton	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 13	Home	Chicopee	7 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Thursday, Dec. 7	Away	South Hadley	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 12	Home	Longmeadow	7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 15	Home	West Springfield	7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 16	Home	Chicopee	7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 22	Away	Tantassqua	5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 3	Away	Pope Francis	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 9	Away	Westfield	7 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 12	Home	Chicopee	7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 15	Home	Pittsfield	12:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 18	Away	Minnechaug	6:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 22	Away	East Longmeadow	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 25	Home	Westfield	7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 1	Away	Pittsfield	7 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 5	Home	Minnechaug	7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 8	Home	East Longmeadow	7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 9	Away	SICS	6:30 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 12	Away	Belchertown	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 15	Home	Monson	7 p.m.

ICE HOCKEY (CO-OP)

Saturday, Dec. 9	Away	Southwick	5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 16	Home	Easthampton	5 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 18	Away	Amherst	5 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 20	Away	Apponequet	4 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 23	Away	Agawam	3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 27	Home	Chicopee Holiday Tournament	7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 28	Home	Chicopee Holiday Tournament	TBD
Saturday, Dec. 30	Away	Taonic	7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 3	Home	Ludlow	4 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 6	Away	Saint Paul	3:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 13	Away	Fitchburg	1 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 15	Home	Taonic	3 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 17	Away	McCann Tech	7 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 20	Home	Amherst	5 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 24	Home	Agawam	4 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 28	Home	Peabody	1 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 3	Home	Oakmont	5 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 8	Away	Ludlow	8:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 10	Away	Gardner	1 p.m.

SWIMMING

Friday, Dec. 8	Away	Ludlow	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 12	Home	Palmer	4 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 15	Home	Easthampton	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 19	Home	Central	4 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 21	Away	Chicopee	4 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 5	Home	Longmeadow	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 9	Away	Minnechaug	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 16	Away	Westfield	4 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 19	Home	Agawam	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 23	Away	East Longmeadow	4 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 26	Home	Belchertown	4 p.m.

WRESTLING (Co-op with Chicopee)

Saturday, Dec. 9	Away	Granby	9 a.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 13	Away	Putnam	7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 16	Away	Longmeadow	10 a.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 20	Away	West Springfield	6 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 3	Home	Central	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 10	Home	Minnechaug	7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 20	Away	Granby	9 a.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 24	Home	Agawam	7 p.m.



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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.

GARDEN from page 4

Bird club

A Brimfield resident emailed, "On Nov. 30 I took part in a project for the bird club and afterwards we went to Forest Park in Springfield and saw a black duck, a chilly looking great blue heron, a hermit thrush and several golden-crowned kinglets.

He said he started to leave one feeder out overnight testing to see if there are still bears about. Here's hoping they have all gone into hibernation.

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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T-Birds grab OT win over Penguins

WILKES-BARRE, PA – The Springfield Thunderbirds (11-8-2-0) got the last laugh in a wild, back-and-forth game, 4-3, over the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins (10-8-3-0) in overtime on Saturday night inside Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza.

As was the case in each of the first two games in the season series, the first period came and went with goaltenders remaining perfect. On this night, Vadim Zherenko and Joel Blomqvist turned in all the stops, with Zherenko the busier of the two with nine first-period stops, while Blomqvist stopped six. Zherenko had the two best saves of the frame in two minutes, denying both Sam Houde and Jagger Joshua with the leg pad on in-tight scoring chances.

Each team also had two power plays in the first period, but the man-advantage units could not generate much offense, and the 0-0 deadlock remained into the intermission.

After quiet opening periods, the power plays came to life in the second, and it took the Penguins just 1:14 to get on the board first. Sam Houde got his stick on a loose puck in the slot and bounced a flut-

tering shot toward Zherenko's cage, getting a helpful tip from Peter Abbandonato for the game's opening goal, which doubled as Abbandonato's first as a Penguin.

Despite the deficit, the T-Birds rallied on a chance of their own after two penalties in a 1:16 span were called against Wilkes-Barre/Scranton. With the 5-on-3 advantage, rookie Zach Bolduc took advantage, rifling home a one-time slapper through Blomqvist, tying the game at 7:49. Calle Rosen and Hugh McGing earned the helpers on Bolduc's fourth goal of the season.

After the equalizer, both teams had more power play chances to take leads, but the penalty killing strengthened, along with continued good work from Zherenko and Blomqvist.

The game took on a truly chaotic feel in the third period. After the T-Birds failed to convert on two separate power play chances, it was the fourth line that got Springfield its first lead. Mathias Laferriere deked around a fallen defender and took a shot from the left circle that plopped down behind Blomqvist. Drew Callin was in the right place to tap it across the line for his third of the season,

giving the T-Birds the 2-1 lead at 4:31.

Unfortunately for the T-Birds, it was just the beginning of a see-saw 20-minute period, as the Penguins equalized during a delayed penalty just 1:05 later, as Valtteri Puustinen rammed home a loose puck after Zherenko and the defense made two sprawling saves earlier in the sequence.

With the game back even, 2-2, the T-Birds faced their toughest challenge of the night when Hunter Skinner was ejected and given a match penalty for a hit to the head of Penguins' forward Sam Houde. Wilkes-Barre/Scranton had three minutes of uninterrupted power play time, but could not solve the PK nor Zherenko.

After surviving the major, the T-Birds then got their power play chances as the Penguins took a too-many-men minor, as well as a tripping call to Jack St. Ivany. With time waning on the club's 8th power play of the evening, the T-Birds finally broke through as Matthew Peca snapped a wrist shot through Blomqvist at 16:38 to make it a 3-2 game.

Once again, though, the Penguins had a rebuttal, as Abbandonato scooted into the slot, took a pass from Will Butcher, and slipped it through Zherenko's legs

to tie the game, 3-3, with just 1:39 to go in regulation, setting the stage for the second overtime in as many nights between the division foes.

Overtime was a riveting, back-and-forth affair with both goaltenders answering the bell on multiple occasions. Adam Gaudette had a breakaway with the game on his stick, only to see Blomqvist turn him away, while Ty Smith had perhaps the Penguins' best chance with the T-Birds' defense out of sorts, but Zherenko had the denial.

At last, with less than a half minute left separating the teams from a shootout, Laferriere circled the offensive zone to the right side before slipping a puck near the crease. Matt Kessel had moved up on the play and put himself in the perfect position to get a piece of it and beat Blomqvist, giving Springfield the 4-3 overtime triumph. It was just Kessel's second goal of the season, and it gave the T-Birds their first home win since Oct. 29.

The T-Birds get some time to rest before a rare single-game weekend next Saturday as they welcome the Bridgeport Islanders to the MassMutual Center for the annual Teddy Bear Toss.

Railers fall in physical battle

WORCESTER – The Railers played a spirited game here Friday night but it had a dispiriting result, another loss on home ice.

Worcester was beaten by the Norfolk Admirals, 5-2, with the last opposing goal coming into an empty net. The Railers had a 40-29 edge in shots on goal and had leads of 1-0 and 2-1 they could not protect as the Admirals scored four goals in the third period.

The difference was special teams. Norfolk converted three of nine power plays while Worcester was 0 for 6.

Referee Austin O'Rourke was unusually busy, calling 21 minor penalties. Some of them were double minors for roughing that, a few years ago, would have been fighting majors.

Nowadays, if a player has a pulse after engaging in a bout, the penalty is roughing, not fighting.

There was plenty of roughing. Seven of those penalties were called and Railers' rookies Artyom Kulakov and Riley Piercey were both involved in some serious jousting.

To no avail, as it turned out.

Worcester got goals from Ashton Calder and Keegan Howdeshell. Nor-

folk was paced by Carson Golder's two goals. Simon Kubicek, Danny Katic and Mathieu Roy had the other Admirals goals.

Calder's goal was his 10th of the season. It came in Worcester's 19th game. The last Railer to score 10 goals in the first 20 games of the season was Jordan Smotherman, who did it at the beginning of the 2021-22 campaign.

The Railers were constantly thwarted by Norfolk goaltender Thomas Milic, who had 38 saves. A lot of them were good ones. Worcester had reams of good chances that wound up with shots on net, but only two shots in net.

Calder put Worcester ahead at 11:44 of the first period by beating Milic with a quick wrist shot from between the circles. The Railers were still ahead, 1-0, with the game more than half over but the Admirals changed that with their first power play goal.

Kubicek got it at 15:06 of the second period. He drilled a low slap shot through traffic and past goalie Tristan Lennox for his third of the season.



Worcester responded well, though, and retook the lead before the period was over. Howdeshell got his second of the year at 17:38 via a snap shot from about 20 feet out. He was set up by a fine pass from the right wing by Joey Cipollone.

Norfolk regained the momentum early in the third period, however, with two goals just 52 seconds apart, both by Golder, both on the power play. The first one was a rebound at 3:54, the second a tap in from just outside the crease at 4:42.

The first power play came with Jake Pivonka in the penalty box for high sticking. The second happened when Worcester was called for two roughings, Norfolk one, on the same altercation.

Piercey was involved at the beginning then Connor Welsh wound up getting a minor as well.

The Railers had power play chances after that and eventually pulled Lennox but could not beat Milic. In those final 20 minutes, Worcester had 14 shots on net and no goals. Norfolk had eight shots and four goals.

UMass hosting Pioneer Valley Tip-Off

AMHERST – The Pioneer Valley Tip-Off is a student-run high school basketball showcase featuring some of the best talent in Central and Western Massachusetts. The PVTO was started in 2011 by Scott Moses and Pat Salle, both students at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and it continues to be entirely student-run by the McCormack Student Leaders Club today.

The PVTO is held each December on the University of Massachusetts Amherst campus, where we strive to create a professional environment for fans and players alike.

This year's event will be held on Dec. 9 and 10 and will feature teams from throughout the region. A schedule is online at www.pioneer-valleytip-off.com. All games will be held at the Mullins Center on the UMass-Amherst campus.

Chicopee Pacers 7/8 grade team wins West Side Tip-Off Tournament



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIC LAPOINTE

WEST SPRINGFIELD -- The Chicopee Pacers seventh and eighth grade boys' basketball team recently won the 2023-24 West Side Tip-Off tournament held Nov. 30 – Dec. 3 in West Springfield. The team secured victories over East Longmeadow, Amherst and Westfield on their way to the tournament championship. With the victory, the team becomes an automatic qualifier for the New England Regional Middle

School Championship tournament being held in Rhode Island in March.

Team members include Alex Bias, Jalen Stone, Jojo Soto, Janiel Soto, Gabe Pluta, Brayden Klett, Anthony Thornton, Jozel Felix, Jonah Mateo, Alex Chebotarev, Austin Lapointe, Cayden Jimenez, and Keith Robinson. The team is coached by Nate Tadeo, Eric Lapointe, Evan Pycho and Kwynn Reid.

Early Deadlines

for all LEGAL NOTICES...

All Papers
Will Deadline
Thursday, Dec. 21
at Noon for
Publication
Dec. 25-29

Happy Holidays!

Happy New Year!

All Papers
Will Deadline
Thursday, Dec. 28
at Noon for
Publication
Jan. 1-5

Send your stories and photos to dzbiarski@turley.com

Chicopee High School hosts Massachusetts College Application Celebration

CHICOPEE -- The Chicopee High School Guidance Department, along with the Career Center, hosted the annual Massachusetts College Application Celebration event on Dec. 4-5.

A total of seven local colleges – American International College, Assumption University, Elms College, Holyoke Community College, Springfield Technical Community College, Western New England University, and Westfield State University – were on hand for seniors to meet with, and in some cases, receive an “on the spot” decision as well as Merit Scholarships (based on transcript grades).

This event makes such a difference to the students. The smiles on their faces



and the excitement felt in the room helped make this scary process a bit easier for them!

Head Counselor Dianne Vecchiarelli thanks everyone for their team effort in putting this event together for the students.



Photos courtesy of Tanner Demers, media & communications liaison for CPS



TAX CLASSIFICATION from page 1

offset those costs and the need to increase the residential rates will eventually come in the near future,” McAuliffe said. “So, I hope that this council in the years ahead takes a more sound and level-headed approach when it comes to looking at development and rejects the ‘not in my backyard’ mentality but looks at it as a holistic approach in terms of what will benefit the city as a whole. Knowing that we have a lot of needs that need to be paid for and it is our duty and this council’s duty as the elective legislative body in the city to make decisions that benefit the whole city and help set us up for the future.”

Ward 3 Councilor Delmarina López asked about the figures for the residential exemption, noting how none were presented last year.

When the assessors replied they did not have the figures this year, López expressed her disappointment, explaining how at last year’s meeting, she was told the council would have those figures presented to them.

“We should have had them last year as well (because) if we’re voting on an exemption, we should have the figures of what we’re voting on. And so, during the last meeting, we talked at length about how the residential exemption would potentially impact the tax rate, and I was told this year I would have the information,” López said.

Anop responded, “There’s a misunderstanding. We do not have the rates.” López then responded with this.

“Thank you for the work that you do, but I am very disappointed in the fact that we, again, do not have these figures because we went through this at length during last year’s meeting, at length, for a very long time and I was specifically told during the meeting, the public record, that we would have those figures this year,” López said. “And so, the fact that we yet

again are voting on exemptions when we don’t even have the figures of how it would impact residents is mind-boggling to me because that’s an exemption that last year, I did express I would have an interest and potentially using it.”

López added McAuliffe had also proposed using the exemption during last year’s discussion, again expressing disappointment.

“Yet again, we’re voting on something without having the full information. That’s very disappointing,” López said.

When President/Councilor-at-Large Frank Laflamme asked the assessors about having the information for next year and Anop said yes, López then said this.

“With all due respect, this is the assessor’s jobs to have these figures ready, and here we are again without these figures ready. So here we are again as a body, as a council, voting on something without all of the information,” López said. “And that is neglectful on our end, essentially.”

Anop replied with this.

“Without a specific request for information, with all the other things that we have to do to get ready for classification, that would be an extra burden upon the assessors to do that,” Anop said. “Besides, it doesn’t appear that the residential or the commercial exemption have relevance to the City of Chicopee and that’s why, historically, they’ve been voted down.”

Anop explained with the packet the council received, the assessors reviewed the communities that have gotten residential or small commercial exemptions, and the relevance “seems to be that in a community that has a high rate of non-resident landlords, that the first one would apply for residences.”

“And as far as the commercial ones, if you’re trying to develop a commercial base, the biggest companies don’t want to come to a community that’s going to reallocate and make them pay more than 175% in taxes in order to come to Chicop-

ee. It’s a negative factor, and that’s why the City of Chicopee has never even considered it,” Anop said.

López clarified the council was interested in the residential exemption, not the commercial, as Chicopee “has a significant amount of landlord-owned units in our city.”

“We talked about how shifting that percentage could impact much more our residents (because) it would take money off of their bills and any bit that we could take off of their bill and shift it over to the landlords, the landlords would not be nearly affected as much by that shift because they are making income off of this property,” López said.

López again reiterated how interest in the residential exemption was discussed at length last year and her disappointment.

“I’m sorry again, with all due respect that saying that additional burden is kind of disrespectful to the council because that’s part of our job, right? Like we have to make full decisions based on facts and it’s your job to give us those facts,” López said. “We talked about this last year about how, maybe, you guys needed to look at those figures earlier and I was specifically told that that those figures would be presented at this meeting. It’s not my job, you know, to do your job. You all had told me that we would have these figures. If we look back at the meeting last year, this was an at-length conversation. And so again, it just feels like lack of preparation for those exemptions.”

López went on to say that no one on the council expressed interest in the commercial exemption, but the residential exemption was of interest.

“So, if the council, even if just one councilor, even though there was more than one of us, but even if it had just been me, if it had one councilor express interest in it, those figures should have been presented to us, especially when I was told

they would be,” López said.

Anop responded the council had the packet “for over the week” and “if you did have a specific question you asked us a week ago, we could have done something.”

“Even though I don’t think that it’s relevant either, these exemptions,” Anop said.

López responded how this was also said last year, adding at that meeting she had said “because the public has the right to have this information at a public meeting.”

“Technically, I told ya’ll a year ago about this because we had this conversation. So, this is not the first time you’re hearing this. We talked about this at the last classification hearing,” López said. “And again, I’m not here to do your job, like you are supposed to come with those figures.”

Councilor-at-Large Gerry Roy said to the assessors, “I know your expertise in this field for sure.”

“I personally do trust your hard work and your knowledge of your assessments, and I just want to thank the assessor’s office for all their hard work,” Roy said.

Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello said she appreciated the hard work the assessors put in also but agreed with López that the conversation about requesting the figures last year had taken place.

“I remember that conversation and it went on for a very long time. So, I can’t say that I doubt Councilor López’s statements because I can remember that conversation and she is correct. It was lengthy,” Costello said.

The motion to adopt the highest residential offset tax rate at 175%, or 0.8126, for residential properties in Chicopee passed 11-0.

The motion to deny the residential exemption passed 9-2.

The motion to deny the small commercial exemption passed 11-0.

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:

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.

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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.

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:

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>

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

(SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT CITATION

Case No. 18 REG 43509
Plaintiff: Julian M. Bazalar
To: the Honorable Mayor for the City of Chicopee;
Town Clerk for the City

of Chicopee, a municipal corporation, located in the County of Hampden; Dorothy B. Swidrak, and Patrick A. Chamberlain, both of Chicopee; Joanne D. Musiak of Ludlow; Brian P. Pedersen of Westfield, all in the County of Hampden, all in said Commonwealth of Massachusetts; John P. Swidrak, Jr. of Millsboro, in the State of Delaware; Westfield Bank, a duly existing savings bank, having a usual place of business in Westfield, in the County of Hampden, and said Commonwealth of Massachusetts; John P. Swidrak, deceased, formerly of Chicopee, or his heirs, devisees and legal representatives; Joseph Steck, also known as Joseph L. Stec, deceased, formerly of Chicopee, or his heirs, devisees and legal representatives, and to all whom it may concern:

Whereas, a complaint has been presented to said Court by Julian M. Bazalar, of Chicopee, County of Hampden, and said Commonwealth, to register and confirm title in the following described land:

A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon, situate in said Chicopee, bounded and described as follows:

SOUTHEASTERLY
by Marion Street, a total distance of Seventy-Nine and 55/100 (79.55) feet as shown on said plan;

SOUTHWESTERLY
by Highland Avenue, One Hundred Thirty-Seven and 07/100 (137.07) feet as shown on said plan;

NORTHWESTERLY
by Land as shown as land of The Maher Family Trust, a total distance of Ninety-Six and 99/100 (96.99) feet as shown on said plan;

NORTHEASTERLY
by Land as shown as land of Karen Langome, Susan Hambley and Alan Janulevicz, now owned by Patrick C. Chamberlain, a total distance of One Hundred Thirty-Three and 50/100 (133.50) feet as shown on said plan.

The above-described land is shown on a plan filed with said complaint and all boundary lines are claimed to be located on the ground as shown on said plan.

If you desire to make any objection or defense to said complaint you or your attorney must file a written appearance and an answer under oath, setting forth clearly and specifically your objections or defense to each part of said complaint, in the office of the Recorder of said Court in Boston (at 3 Pemberton Square, Room 507, Boston, MA 02108), or in the office of the Assistant Recorder of said Court at the Registry of Deeds at **Springfield**, in the County of **Hampden**, where a copy of the plan filed with said complaint is deposited, on or before the **Twenty Ninth** day of **January** next.

Unless an appearance is so filed by or for you, your default will be recorded, the said complaint will be taken as confessed and you will be forever barred from contesting said complaint or any judgment entered thereon.

WITNESS, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court, this **Seventeenth** day of **November**, in the year two

thousand twenty-three.

A True Copy Attest:
DEBORAH J. PATTERSON
RECORDER
From the office of:
Nyles L. Courchesne, Esq., 12
School Street,
Agawam, MA 01001.
18 REG 43509
12/08, 1215, 12/22/2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless is proposing to collocate antennas on an existing 50.8-ft tall building located at 291 Springfield St (Elm College Alumnae Memorial Library), Chicopee, Hampden Co, MA 01013 (42° 8' 32.73" N / 72° 36' 7.74" W). Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30-days from the date of this publication to: K. Eisele, Terracon, 844 N. Lenola Rd, Ste 1, Moorestown, NJ 08057, 856-813-3267, or Kathy.eisele@terracon.com. 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:

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>)

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 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.

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
Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD23P2445PM
In the matter of:
Ira Clemons
Of: Chicopee, MA
RESPONDENT
(Person to be Protected/
Minor)
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF PETITION
FOR APPOINTMENT
OF CONSERVATOR OR
OTHER PROTECTIVE
ORDER PURSUANT TO
G.L. c. 190B,
§5-304 & §5-405**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Chicopee Rehab & Nursing Center of Chicopee, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Ira Clemons** is in need

of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that Alison M Bartlett-O'Donald of Holyoke, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve **With Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

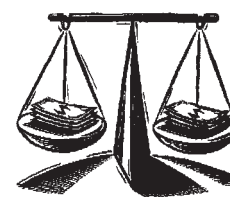
The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **12/29/2023**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 01, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/08/2023

See more legals
on page 14



PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

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Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

PUBLIC NOTICES

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Probate and Family Court
Docket No. HD23P1315GD
In the interests of
Jeremiah J Ferrer
of Chicopee, MA
Minor**

**NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Resignation
or Petition for Removal of
Guardianship of a Minor
NOTICE TO ALL
INTERESTED PARTIES**

1. Hearing Date/Time:
A hearing on a Petition to Resign as Guardian of a Minor or Petition for Removal of Guardian of a Minor filed by Alexis Walker on November 3, 2023 will be held 01/09/2024 03:20 PM Motion. Located Zoom.us or call 646-828-7666 ID# 1610035002

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

File the original with the Court; and

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

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

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

Date: December 1, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/08/2023

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

**Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD23P2444GD
In the matter of:
Ira Clemons
Of: Chicopee, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated
Person**

**CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF PETITION
FOR APPOINTMENT OF
GUARDIAN FOR
INCAPACITATED
PERSON PURSUANT TO
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Chicopee Rehab & Nursing Center of Chicopee, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Ira Clemons is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Alison M Bartlett-O'Donald of Holyoke, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 12/29/2023. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date..

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 01, 2023

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/08/2023

**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, 12/15/2023

**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: 1FMZU73E3Z2A23990
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

AWARDS from page 9

referee's association," said Ray, who'll be playing college soccer at Seton Hall University next year. "I was teammates with Reighan Demers, who received this award last year. It's nice to join her and the other previous MVP award winners from Minnechaug."

Ray is the seventh Minnechaug girls' soccer player coached by Nundi Goncalves to be selected for the MVP award since 2005.

"I've been fortunate to coach many talented soccer players at Minnechaug," Goncalves said. "Kylie is one of them."

The Lady Falcons, who qualified for the Western Mass. and state tournaments, finished their season with a 13-5-2 overall record.

Pope Francis senior Isabella Meadows, who didn't attend the banquet, received the Robert C. Smith/ Stan Bernatowicz Award (Girls Small School MVP award).

Minnechaug Regional also received the Bob McIntyre Sportsmanship Award (Girls Large School).

The Lady Falcons have only received two yellow cards during the past two seasons.

"It always feels good when your

teams gets recognized for doing something well," said Minnechaug sophomore Ava Kearney. "Coach Goncalves never wants us to get a yellow card during the game."

Palmer High School received the John Kurty/Benny Santos Sportsmanship Award (Girls Small School)

"It feels very nice to receive the sportsmanship award from the referees," said Palmer senior Grace Burke. "We're always very respectful to the referees and to our opponents."

Burke attended the banquet with teammates Nyela Dupre, Vaness Baer, and Jordan Bigda, who are also members of the senior class.

It was the first time that the Palmer girls' soccer team has received the sportsmanship award.

"I was very surprised when I was informed that my soccer team has been selected for the sportsmanship award," said Palmer head coach Celso Sandoval. "We only had a couple of yellow cards this season and I'm very happy that the soccer officials recognized us. We had a great season and I'm looking forward to doing it all over again next year."

The Lady Panthers (12-8-1) defeated

Granby, 3-1, in the Western Mass. Class D finals.

The Pathfinder boys' squad, which co-ops with Palmer, received the Carl Erickson Sportsmanship Award (Boys Small School).

The Bruno Rumpal Sportsmanship Award (Boys Large School) was given to Westfield High School.

The MISOA PVSQA inductee is Alex Goncalves, who's from Ludlow.

The Paul Bogan Service Award was given to Peter Manolakis, who's from Wilbraham.

The Jimmie Downie Award recipient is Tomasz Ludkiewicz, who lives in Granby.

The Larry E. Briggs Award winner is John Voight, who currently lives in East Longmeadow, but grew up in Hampden. He graduated from Minnechaug Regional.

Former Ludlow girls' varsity soccer coach Jose Anselmo, along with Chris and Diane Kolodziej, who do an outstanding job of running the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League, received Letters of Commendations.

The association is always looking for new referees.

	R	A	B	B	I	S		S	A	L	I	N	E	
M	A	D	E	I	R	A		A	B	A	L	O	N	E
A	B		A	N	A	L	O	G	I	Z	E		D	A
H	I	N	D	S		A	U	G		E	A	G	E	R
D	E	U	S		S	A	T	E	S		C	R	A	N
I	S	M		R	A	M		D	K	G		O	R	E
		E	X	E	C				R	O	G	U	E	S
A	C	R	I	S						W	U	N	D	T
B	R	A	V	E	D					M	A	I	D	
R	U	T		T	A	R		P	O	N		H	U	S
E	S	O	P		B	A	S	A	L		T	O	N	E
A	A	R	O	N		P	I	P		S	A	G	E	R
S	D		S	A	T	I	R	I	C	A	L		A	U
T	E	H	E	R	A	N			S	A	R	C	A	S
S	E	R	A	P	E				T	R	I	A	G	E

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

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Beauty Battles Lounge holding 4th Annual Toy and Coat Drive

The holiday drive runs through Dec. 23

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE -- Beauty Battles Lounge on Cabot Street is giving back this holiday season with their 4th Annual Toy and Coat Drive.

The fundraising drive runs through Dec. 23.

Throughout the event, residents can drop off new, unwrapped toys to support children in the Department of Children and Families and the Sponsor a Teen effort of providing Christmas gifts for teenagers by choosing a name from a list.

For the coat drive, new, unused children and adult coats will go to Alianza, a local women's domestic violence shelter in Holyoke. Used coats, however, are also accepted and will go to Tapestry to help support the homeless

population.

Additionally, donated canned goods will support Lorraine's Soup Kitchen.

Ashley Battle, owner of Beauty Battles Lounge, explained how she started the Hero Project in 2020 during the pandemic to raise funds for complimentary services to frontline workers once businesses reopened.

When the holiday season came, Battle decided to do a toy drive and teamed up with a client who was in charge of a toy drive for DCF to start it up. For Alianza, Battle worked with them before through Waxing Wednesdays, where 10% of proceeds supported the organization during Domestic Violence Month.

"So, in just continuing in that spirit of the Hero Project, we decided to start doing the toy drive and the coat drive, which has expanded," Battle said. "Now, I'm teaming up with other organizations that are helping us get these donations. I'm working with other businesses to just increase it."

Battle said she believes "there's a

lot of giving back that we can do in so many different ways" and it's key "to cover as much ground as possible."

"It's just important to be able to cover all bases and be able to take care of everybody as best as you can, right? We can't do everything, and we can't take care of everybody, but the little bit that we can do to give back and to support and to help grow is what I think is the most important thing," Battle said.

Battle stressed how important it is for local small businesses to utilize the platforms they have to give back to the communities they serve, especially during the holiday season.

"As a small business, you build a certain platform and relationships that if you're able to utilize it and put it towards giving back and doing something good for the community that supports you, I think that that's the best thing you can possibly do," Battle said. "To use that platform and be able to utilize the connections that you have with your clients and with other business owners and just the community itself to just continue to give back and take care of everybody."

Battle wants the community to know this drive supports many different areas and people, adding for her, the Sponsor a Teen list "gives you a little bit of more of that personalized connection with a child you don't even know."

"Knowing that we're creating some of that experience for a child that might not be receiving anything is special and I would love for the Chicopee community to get together and help support that and help us be able to give gifts to more than 100 kids this year," Battle said.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Ashley Battle, owner of Beauty Battles Lounge in Chicopee, smiles next to a festive Christmas tree set up inside her business for the holiday season.



Canned goods collected so far during the Toy and Coat Drive organized by Beauty Battles Lounge in Chicopee. Canned good donations will support Lorraine's Soup Kitchen & Pantry.

Battle added she understands times are hard and encourages everyone to donate and support however they can.

"That would be amazing and that would help another person enjoy their holiday season as well as you and your family," Battle said.

To learn more, visit Beauty Battles Lounge, reach out on their Facebook or Instagram pages or call 413-331-2737.



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