

# Chicopee Register

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

December 12, 2025 Vol 30 No. 22 | FREE

www.chicopeeregister.turley.com



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

From the left, Denise Noble, a member of the Chicopee St. Patrick's Day Committee and past president, Chicopee Colleen Court Members Hannah O'Neil and Wilmette Cumba, The Grinch and Santa Claus, Chicopee Grand Colleen Daiana Torres and Chicopee Colleen Court Members Emma Caproni and Meghan Oxley pose for a photo. The Colleen and her Court handed out Christmas bags to attendees as they met Santa.

## Cop on Top supports Special Olympics

By **Brendan Rooney**  
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – On Dec. 6, the police department, in partnership with the Hampden County Sheriff's Office, hosted its 13th Annual 'Cop on Top' fundraiser from the campus of the Walmart Supercenter in the city.

The purpose of the event was to raise awareness and funds to help benefit the Special Olympics chapter of Western Mass, and for those who donated, they had the chance to get a stuffed animal from one of the officers who were on top of the building, who then tossed down plushies all of different kinds into the drop zone.

Chicopee Police Patrolman John Mikkola, who is one of the liaisons to the Special Olympics, explained this is a full year effort.

"We also do other events throughout the year, such as Tip a Cop, where we help the

wait staff at Frontera Grill where any proceeds donated from there goes towards benefiting the Special Olympics chapter in Massachusetts which is truly just a great cause," Mikkola said.

Also, all proceeds gathered went towards alleviating costs and funding uniforms along with other expenses, such as year-round equipment, uniforms and providing transportation to all of the Olympians' travel costs, venues and events, something that Pat Dooney of the HCSO shared.

"For the past 15 years, my role with the Special Olympics has been to raise awareness and help cultivate inclusion and help create a platform and moment for these athletes and their families, which is very important across the board," Dooney said.

Echoing additional insight into the overall message

See **COP ON TOP** page 6

## Annual Tree Lighting kicks off holiday season

By **Kristin Rivers**  
Editor  
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CHICOPEE - The holidays were officially in full swing in the city thanks to the Annual Tree Lighting on Dec. 5.

The community ventured towards The Hub at Market Square to partake in the festivities from meeting Santa Claus—who arrived in style on a fire truck with Mayor John Vieau and an escort by the Chicopee High School and Chicopee Comprehensive High School Marching Bands—hot chocolate, donuts and popcorn to musical and dance performances from a variety of local groups from the Girl Scouts and Victory Chapel Choir to Ohana School of Dance and many more.

This year's sponsors were Holyoke Medical Center, Chicopee Electric Light, Republic Services, PeoplesBank,



Santa Claus hugs a little girl after arriving in Chicopee for the Annual Tree Lighting.

Florence Bank, Metro Jeep, Chicopee Moose Lodge 1849/Chapter 1489 and Dunkin on Front Street.

Also, support from the Chicopee Comp Cappuccino Culinary Program. Ray Hoess-Brooks served as em-

cee. Hoess-Brooks welcomed everyone ahead of Santa's arrival.

"We want to thank you for joining us tonight for fun-filled holiday spirit, hometown pride and talent. I think there's

five dance teams, there's a bunch of singers, this is going to be fantastic," Hoess-Brooks said. "Be festive!"

Vieau said he was excited to kick off the holidays, Chicopee-style.

"I'm happy to celebrate the holidays with all of you and I wish you all a very merry, a very safe, a very prosperous and healthy Christmas, holiday season and a New Year. Just know that many people out there are having a hard time. If you have that ability to give a little bit to someone, please take that time and do it. It's that time to take care of our neighbors and our community and I'll tell you, we have a really tight-knit one and it's something I'm really passionate about. So, thank you for joining us!" Vieau said.

Then, with help from

See **TREE LIGHTING** page 6



TURLEY PHOTOS BY BRENDAN ROONEY

The HCSO Officers begin the journey up to the roof.

## Chicopee St. Patrick's Parade Committee Tartan unveiled

By **Brendan Rooney**  
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - On Dec. 6, a historic moment unfolded as the Chicopee St. Patrick's Parade Committee unveiled its official tartan—an achievement long in the making.

The reveal transpired during a ceremony at The Hub at Market Square, which drew a massive crowd of local dignitaries such as Mayor John Vieau, various representatives from the City Council,

and members of the general public.

Reflecting on the Herculean effort that spanned more than a decade was Past Parade President and current Committee Member Meghan Balakier.

"We started this process 10 years ago, and the first obstacle that surfaced was the realization it takes a lot of money to put something like this on, and it's always been a pipe dream of ours to be able to have a Chicopee Tartan, which the Chicopee Parade

Committee owned," Balakier said. "However, things started to fall into line when we received ARPA funding from the COVID relief fund, and because of that, we were able to start the process which is very expensive in the terms of designing the colors and pattern of everything, and then filling out an application, built upon the meanings of the colors, and then it gets sent off to Scotland for approval."

Balakier added that all the fabrics included in each piece of merchandise, such as scarves and ties, were also made in Scotland.

She also noted the attention to detail and meticulous precision that the committee took into consideration when designing the tartan, such as honoring the foundation of the city as a former textile mill, while honoring the present-day legacy just as well.

"We were very respectful of the colors of Chicopee as we ensured to incorporate the colors of our high schools, Elms College, Westover Air Force Base, and the city seal, so we were very mindful in picking the colors," Balakier said. "So, we went with vibrant royal colors: the blue, gold, maroon, white and green, in an attempt to hon-

## Chicopee SROs are now wearing bodycams in school

By **Dalton Zbierski**  
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – School resource officers in Chicopee are now wearing bodycams during the school day.

The news was made official by Assistant Superintendent for Student Services Carol Kruser during the School Committee meeting held on Wednesday, Dec. 3.

Last year, the Chicopee Police Department received a \$250,000 state grant to fund a body camera program for all the city's law enforcement personnel. The rollout began early this year, and now all officers are equipped with the technology.

Kruser appeared before the School Committee last week to offer an update and confirm that SROs in the district are wearing the cameras.

"A little while ago, you did receive notice – everyone did, families and staff – that the police department received a grant in order for them to wear body cameras. Our SROs are part of the Chicopee Police Department, so they also are wearing body cameras," Kruser said.

Kruser explained the circumstances in which the bodycams will be op-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Chicopee Police Sgt. Brett Nichols displays a bodycam during the Dec. 3 meeting of the School Committee in City Hall. (Photo courtesy of ChicopeeTV)

eration. They will not be turned on at all hours of the day.

"As it's stated, they're only turned on during suspected criminal activity, emergencies requiring police assistance, violent incidents, intruder situations and use of force," Kruser said. "They're not used in classroom activities or for administrative meetings, and they're not used for administrative discipline issues."

Kruser added that the SROs will be extremely cautious about using them near guidance offices, locker rooms and bathrooms.

"We really appreciate the strong collaboration we have with the police department, and we've spent a lot of time with an MOU putting language in to make sure we're following the rules," Kruser said.

Chicopee Police Sgt. Brett Nichols, who supervises SROs in the city's schools, offered more clarification regarding how and when the devices will be used. The bodycams are only to be used in specific situations and for specific uses.

"If we do record something, and for some reason it's distributed to courts, it wouldn't be distributed to Freedom of Information [Act] because there's juveniles involved," Nichols said. "We have the ability to blur faces; there's documents in the camera that can be blurred out. There's safeguards in place so that certain stuff will not be released."

Ward 4 School Committee Representative Sandra Peret questioned how long the bodycams will run when activated. Nichols wasn't positive but did his best to provide a complete answer.

"Depending on if it's See **BODYCAMS** page 9



TURLEY PHOTO BY BRENDAN ROONEY

The official Chicopee Tartan draped over the Chicopee St. Patrick's Parade Committee Banner.

See **TARTAN** page 9

# IN THE CITY

## Rumbleseat Bar & Grille Golf Room officially opens

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
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CHICOPEE - The Rumbleseat Bar & Grille officially opened its new Golf Room on Dec. 3.

The hours are 8 a.m. to midnight seven days a week and the only way to book is online. Patrons can also find QR codes throughout the bar to sign up.

Sessions are booked by the hour and people can also book as little as 30 minutes. There's also early-bird specials before 4 p.m.

The prices are \$50 for a full hour, \$15 for a 30-minute early-bird special, \$25 for 30 minutes and \$30 for a full hour early-bird special.

Corporate and private events are also available and leagues are in the works.

Mayor John Vieau noted how Chicopee Country Club is closed for the season, but there's now a place "where you can work on your game, and it's the Rumbleseat Golf Room."

"First, I just want to thank the owner, Bill Stetson, of the Rumbleseat, because what he did, he's expanding and continuing to invest in Chicopee and he's taking a space that was probably underutilized at the time and turned it into a golf simulator room and,



From the left, Bridget Healy, district aide for State Sen. John Velis (D-Westfield), Lamari Jackson, legislative director for State Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield), Melissa Breor, executive director of the Greater Chicopee Chamber of Commerce, Ward 1 City Councilor Abigail Arriaga, State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), Bill Stetson, owner of the Rumbleseat Bar & Grille, Mayor John Vieau and Ward 6 City Councilor Samuel Shumsky in a group photo.

again, thinking outside the box and creative to give people some of these extracurricular things to do that go along with pizza, wings and football is, also, golf," Vieau said.

Bill Stetson, owner of the Rumbleseat Bar & Grille, shared it was "a huge investment for me."

"It was all in with the building and everything, this is over \$600,000," Stetson

said. "We've got a lot of really cool merch in here, the chairs came from Fenway Park. I always thought of golf and it reminds me of my grandfather. I thought of golf as baseball—these old, classic sports in the United States—what could tie in the whole general sports feel of the Rumbleseat with golf now."

Other features include the traditional brick layout, a

painted billboard, items related to the Masters and several televisions.

"For private groups, if you rent both simulators out, you've got a 25-person little room with a private bathroom. We put a huge custom-ordered window up facing our patio, so in the summer now—as part of our licensing when we added this—we added the stage on the patio out there, so now in the summertime, we have afternoon concerts, after-work concerts on the stage, people get a little bit of overflow in here, and now the people on the patio can use the bathroom in here without going back in the bar. We did the leather stools," Stetson said. "Just tried to make it still sports bar-ish, but just one tiny notch of golf."

Vieau said this space "is a wonderful opportunity," praising Stetson.

"What a great combination to add this to just all the wonderful things that you already do here at the Rumbleseat, but to add the Golf Room is something special and Chicopee's grateful for you to continue investing in this community," Vieau said.

State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee) was "happy to be here" for the opening.

"Billy, you are truly the example of what a good community leader is. You're always looking out for our community, getting people involved, getting people together and this little golf simulator is just exactly that. You can come here, hang with your friends, hang with your kids. Whether it's in the wintertime like today or in the summer when it's too hot, just hang out, support local and ensure



A photo of patented paintings showcasing golf clubs.



"State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee) presents Bill Stetson, owner of the Rumbleseat Bar & Grille, with a citation from the Massachusetts House of Representatives."

that our community's thriving," Arriaga said. "So, thank you for continuing to choose Chicopee to do business with, because you could do business anywhere, and you choose to do Chicopee, so we thank you for that, your leadership, your community service and we wish many many luck."

After the red ribbon was cut, Stetson reflected on how the project has been in the works for almost three years and the space was a former pizza place for many years.

"It was a huge endeavor that we're really excited for," Stetson said.

On the idea, Stetson was partnered with the golf course for many years through running the concessions with Doug Girouard.

"The one thing that I took away from it is the type of people that patronize the 19th hole after you've done the round of golf are exactly the type of people that fit in the Rumbleseat sports bar, but they're not always here, so how can I draw them here? How can I draw them here from all over Western Mass?" Stetson said. "These golf simulators, the technology's so good on them and now you see all the pros, they all got them in their houses, it's how they fine-tune their swings. It's so advanced and kind of follows trends."

Down south and the West

Coast, he added, they're popular because it's too hot outside, while in the Midwest and around here, they're popular because it's too cold outside.

"And so following the trend, the property became available, so went in two feet first not holding my nose, went all in and I'm really happy with it," Stetson said.

Stetson was thankful for the community support.

"If I didn't think the community was with me—and that starts with the leadership—then I wouldn't be spending \$600,000 here. I like the direction of our community—not just Chicopee—but all of Western Mass. Chicopee, in this particular, exact location, is really the dead center of Western Massachusetts. It's the easiest place for every community around here. You can get to this place in 15 minutes from East Longmeadow or from Agawam or from Westfield," Stetson said.

Stetson hopes all stop by—including non-technology folks—and added the Tigers AC league is now playing every Wednesday morning.

"Come on down, take a swing! Good or bad, you only have to walk five feet to pick up your ball," Stetson said.

To learn more, visit [www.rumbleseat.com](http://www.rumbleseat.com) to book your tee time.



An interior shot inside the Golf Room.

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## First Central Bible Church announces programs for Children and Youth

CHICOPEE - First Central Bible Church, located at 50 Broadway Street in Chicopee, is now offering five age-suitable programs from infants through grade 12 that are designed to help children and youth come to know the Bible, grow closer to God, and build a Christian community.

### Sunday Morning

Before Sunday service, from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m., the church's Sunday School partners with parents

and caregivers in nurturing children's faith through engaging lessons and activities. Classes are held for ages two through grade 9. Nursery care is provided for children through age two. For adults, a variety of studies are available during this time.

During the service, from 10:15 to 11:30 a.m., First Central offers Junior Church for age five through fifth grade. While adults attend the service, children experience Bible teaching at their level through lessons, songs, games, and projects. The nursery is available for children through age four.

### Wednesday Evening

Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8 p.m. children ages two through fifth grade are invited to participate in Awana, which combines Scripture memorization, Bible teaching, fun activities, and mentorship to help children know, love, and serve

Jesus Christ. Please register on the church website at [www.firstcentral.church](http://www.firstcentral.church).

Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m., young people in grades six through twelve can join the church's Youth Group, which combines large- and small-group discussions. Sample topics include how the world's values differ from God's and the nature of sin. Participants explore their viewpoints while learning to apply Christian principles to their lives. No registration is required.

First Central Bible Church, located at 50 Broadway Street, Chicopee, exists to glorify God by making and maturing disciples of Jesus. Sunday service is held at 10:30 a.m. All are invited to join us in worship, prayer, learning from the Word, glorifying God, and feeling the warmth of fellowship. For more information, please visit [www.firstcentral.church](http://www.firstcentral.church).

## NOTICE

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## IN THE CITY

# Updates, announcements made at School Committee meeting

By Dalton Zbierski  
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – When the School Committee met for the first time following the Thanksgiving holiday last Wednesday, a range of noteworthy announcements were made.

From human resources to human safety, the officials who spoke on Dec. 3 touched on numerous items.

First, Ward 3 School Committee Representative Jason Dout spoke about the small snowstorm that hit the city the day prior to the meeting. While it wasn't the largest weather event, it was the

first significant storm of the season, and there will surely be more to come.

For that reason, Dout issued an important reminder.

"Please just make sure we're clearing our sidewalks so our students can get to school and come home safe," Dout said.

He explained further why it's important for public safety that each community member contributes to clearing the walkways.

"The day after a snowstorm I think is always a good time to remind all our lovely citizens of our city just how important it is to make sure our sidewalks are show-

eled and cleared," Dout said. "This time of year, roads start getting a little bit more narrow; side streets are getting more narrow, so it's in the best interests of our entire city and the future of the city."

Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware also weighed in. He agreed with what Dout had to say and promised the district will do everything in its power to ensure student safety this winter.

"I echo Mr. Dout's sentiments. I know winter has arrived, and it causes a lot of emotion. However, we are in New England, and so we will always keep safety first as we

communicate any changes in the school day. I appreciate the families' support and patience with that," Ware said.

Later in the meeting, Director of Human Resources Deborah Green made a presentation. She offered several personnel updates during her time at the podium.

"During the period from Nov. 13 to Nov. 26, we had a total of 11 new hires, five resignations," Green said. "One of those new hires was in our Unit E. Four were added to the substitute pool, and four were added to the cafeteria."

Green made it clear that the district is still working to

hire new people.

"As of this afternoon, we have 39 active postings on PowerSchool," Green said, noting that the openings exist for multiple units.

Green pointed out another area that people can help.

"As always, we have postings up for bus monitors, noon attendants, crossing guards and all substitutes," Green said.

One School Committee member, Ward 2 Representative David Barsalou, asked if the people resigning are long-term district employees or people who were new to their positions.

Green said it varies. Of

the five people who resigned over the course of the two weeks she reported on, only one was a long-term member of the district, an individual who worked for the school system for 17 years.

"They left for another type of position in another district. The others had been here months,"

Green said. "There is an exit survey that goes out every time we get a resignation that they're asked to complete and return." Green promised to provide Barsalou with a more substantial report on the matter at the School Committee's next meeting.

## Chicopee Public Library hosts programs for kids and families

CHICOPEE - Each month the Chicopee Public Library hosts a variety of free programs for children, teens, and families. The Youth Services Department seeks to provide opportunities for entertainment and enrichment that promote literacy and explore creativity. Here is the slate of events for December 2025.

**Math Everywhere!** Dec. 15, 17 at 4 p.m. Join Shane from CFCE for an early math playgroup for ages 2-5. Meet new friends and practice important early math skills for young children with a curriculum brought to you by the Boston Children's Museum.

Email [wrights@head-start.org](mailto:wrights@head-start.org) to sign up.

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

**Little Kid Dance Party** will be on Wednesdays, Dec. 17 at 10:30 a.m. Moving and grooving for kids and their caregivers. Geared toward ages 0-5, but all are welcome!

45 minutes to one hour of energetic activity including singing and dancing, action rhymes, and playing

with props like scarves and shakers.

**Little Movers** will be held in the children's program room on Fridays, Dec. 19 at 11 a.m. Babies crawling to 24 months and their caregivers are invited to join us for free play followed by circle time exploring songs, fingerplays and movement!

**Create Art with Crayons** on Saturday, Dec. 13 at 1:30 p.m. Join Marie Manley Tucker for a monthly drawing lesson this fall. Each month will have a different theme. December's theme is Stuffy portraits. Bring a stuffed animal friend to draw! Recommended for ages 5-12.

**The Kids Room Sewing Club** will have its first meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 10 3:30 to 5 p.m. Learn basic stitches and practice skills by making fun projects. This month we will make sequin ornaments. Recommended for ages 6 and up. Kids who are not familiar with using a needle and thread should attend with an adult. Teens are welcome.

The library Homeschool Meetup will be on Thursday, Dec. 18 at 11 a.m. This group meets once a month September - June for homeschooling families with kids of all ages to hang out, do activities

and learn together. Different activities each month are planned by the group.

**Terrific Twos** will be held on Tuesday Dec. 23 at 10:30 a.m. Terrific Twos is for two-year-olds and their caregivers. This program features about 25 minutes of structured circle time, followed by about half an hour of semi-structured playtime. During circle time, we will sing songs, do rhymes, do some big movements, and read 1 book. The book choice rotates between either a read aloud picture book or a group read of a board book. Playtime involves a choice of craft, activity, or play.

**The Children's Room** is a great place to hang out. Coloring pages and board games are always available. There are also some new things you can play with while you visit. Ask us about food toys for the play kitchen, building blocks, or the art cart.

### Teens

Visit the library after school and enjoy the Teen Space with friends! We've got board games, puzzles, the library's Switch, and coloring to enjoy.

Visit the library website for more info about all of the library's events! [www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org](http://www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org)

## City of Chicopee releases final draft of its Hazard Mitigation Plan for public comment

CHICOPEE - The City of Chicopee has completed an update to its Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) and is now seeking public comment to finalize and advance adoption of the document.

The HMP identifies natural and environmental risks – such as floods, storms, wildfires, and impacts from climate change – then outlines ways to reduce their effects. By planning ahead, the City can better protect people, property, and resources from both sudden disasters and long-term environmental challenges.

Approval and adoption of the HMP ensures that Chicopee remains eligible for mitigation and emergency response funding available through state

and federal grant programs through MEMA and FEMA.

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant funding is available for projects designed to reduce the impacts of future disasters. Mitigation planning and actions break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage.

Chicopee's plan update was completed in partnership by SLR International and a local hazard mitigation planning team – consisting of representatives from City Departments and community stakeholders including comprehensive feedback from residents.

All residents, business owners, and other Chicopee stakeholders are strongly encouraged to review and

offer feedback on the HMP final draft. The draft HMP is available for review at <https://chicopee-planning-department-chicopeema.hub.arcgis.com/pages/sustainability> or at the Chicopee Planning Department, City Hall, 274 Front Street, 4th Floor, Chicopee, MA. The draft HMP is available in English and Spanish.

Comments, concerns, and questions regarding the draft plan should be submitted via email to [pcollins@chicopeema.gov](mailto:pcollins@chicopeema.gov) or by phone at (413) 594-1482. All responses will be utilized solely for the purpose of finalizing the HMP for approval and adoption.

The public comment period will conclude on Monday, Dec. 22 at 5 p.m.

## Beauty Battles Lounge 5th Annual "Sponsor a Teen for the Holidays"

*Bringing Joy to Teens in DCF This Holiday Season*

CHICOPEE - Beauty Battles Lounge is proud to announce the return of our heartfelt holiday initiative, "Sponsor a Teen Drive," a community-driven cause dedicated to bringing gifts and joy to teens in the Department of Children and Families, this holiday season. Last year, thanks to the incredible generosity of our community, we were able to sponsor over 300 teens.

The advanced beauty and wellness spa is dedicated to enhancing confidence and community through advanced self-care services and compassionate outreach. Striving to make a positive impact in the lives of our clients and neighbors. This

drive invites local residents, businesses, and organizations to help make the holidays brighter for teens who may otherwise go without gifts. By sponsoring a teen, we can provide meaningful presents and essentials that remind these young individuals they are valued and remembered during the holidays.

### Event Highlights

**Sponsor a Teen:** Stop by Beauty Battles Lounge to select a teen and receive their wishlist, or make a donation, and the shopping will be done for you.

-Donation Link: <https://square.link/u/QcreeaIP>

-Gift Drop Off: All presents must be dropped off by Dec. 23 at 6 p.m. at Beauty Battles Lounge, 46 Cabot St, Chicopee, MA.

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) will

be joining us at this special event to receive gifts on behalf of the teens. They ensure that the presents are delivered to all teens on Christmas morning, making it a special day for them.

"The holidays can be especially tough for teens in foster care," says Ashley Battle, owner of Beauty Battles Lounge. "Our mission is to build confidence and spread kindness, and this campaign is a way for our community to come together and show these teens they are on our mind this holiday season."

Every gift and donation will go directly to a local teen in DCF care in time for the holidays. With the community's support, Beauty Battles Lounge hopes to ensure that no teen goes without the warmth, joy, and recognition they deserve.

## HCSS of Science holds Winter Raffle Dec. 14

CHICOPEE – The Hampden Charter School of Science Winter Raffle takes place on Sunday, Dec. 14 from 1 to 4 p.m. at 20 Johnson Rd. in Chicopee.

There will be over 50 prizes, a \$150 lottery tree, a signed Red Sox baseball and a 40 inch TV. General tickets are 3 for \$5, 8 for \$10 and 25 for \$20.

Other prizes include a Furnari Jewelers necklace - \$1,000 of sparkle! Tickets at 1 for \$10 or 3 for \$20 and a \$500 Woodloch Pines Resort Gift Card at 1 ticket for \$5 or 3 tickets for \$10.

Your \$5 entry ticket will lead to a 50/50 raffle ticket (12 and under free).

Doors open at 1 p.m., raffle starts at 2 p.m. Also, meet Boomer from 1 to 2 p.m., a winter craft for the first 50 children under 10, \$10 mystery grab bags (prizes range from \$10 to \$50), \$2 cupcakes (every cupcake sold also enters you in our Sweet Treats Raffle and a Reserved Front Row Graduation Seating – Live Auction.

The raffle donors are Ashley Furniture, Basketball Hall of Fame, BJ's, Boston Crawling, Boston Red Sox, Bowlero Bowling, Buffalo Wild Wings, Burger King, Charles River Cruises, Chick-Fil-A, Chili's Bar and Grill, Cinemark, Coca Cola, Crumbl, Furnari Jew-

elers, Hartford Yard Goats, Home Depot, Hy-Line Cruises, Jersey Mike's, Just B Prom, Kate Spade, Longhorn Steakhouse, Margaritaville Water Park, Men's Wearhouse, 99 Restaurant, Northampton Dojo, Outback Steak House, Olive Garden, Springfield Museums, Springfield Thunderbirds, Starbucks, Tees 413, Texas Roadhouse, The Adventure Park, The Skin Nutritionist, Tree House Brewery, UMass Theater Department, Wendy's, Woodloch Pines, Wood-n-Tap and Worcester Red Sox.

Bundle up with big prizes! Every ticket helps HCSS athletes shine,

## HCC announces fall 2025 Chicopee graduates

HOLYOKE - Holyoke Community College is proud to recognize the following students who will complete their requirements for graduation at the end of the fall 2025 semester. These members of the Class of 2026 were recognized at HCC's third Fall Graduate Reception on Monday, Dec. 1, in the college's Leslie Phillips Theater and will

also be invited to participate in HCC's 79th Commencement exercises at the Mass-Mutual Center in Springfield, Mass., on May 30, 2026. From Chicopee: Sara Alexander, Tony Andrus, Alyssa Bent, Maritza Bravo, Jenna Bronson, Nichole Bullock, Kimberly Burke, Agnes, Centeno, Leah Cheney, Alexzander Delgado, Dylan English, Yamilee

Garcia, Jaymen Gill-Suaava, Daudy Guerrero, Albania Hernandez, Betzaida Hernandez, Kylie Hochrein, Theresa Kincaid, Alexandra Lombard, Carmen Marro, Gia Mateo, Liam Reed, Hannah Rivera, Jameliz Rodriguez, Michelle Rose, Corrine Salkovitz, Cameisha Taylor-Smith, Orlianna Velasquez Ayala, Andrew Williams.

## Delaney's Market holds first Holiday Food Drive

SOUTH HADLEY- Delaney's Market today announced the launch of its first holiday canned food drive, designed to rally community support for local hunger relief efforts during the crucial holiday season. In a special initiative to encourage donations, the Market will offer a 10% discount on all food purchases to any customer who contributes a canned food item.

The drive will officially run from Dec. 1 through Dec. 22.

"This holiday season, the team at Delaney's Market wants to make a difference," said Peter Rosskothén - Owner. "While we regularly donate food to our local partners, we

know the need is even greater during the winter months. By offering a 10% discount, we hope to make it easy and rewarding for our customers to pitch in and ensure that all families in our area have access to nourishing meals."

### How to Participate

Customers are invited to bring cans of non-perishable food items to any Delaney's Market location. Upon donation, they will receive a 10% discount applicable to their total food purchase (meals only), helping them stock up on delicious treats while supporting a critical cause.

All collected food will be distributed equally among Delaney's Market's long-standing

charitable partners: St. Vincent De Paul, Bethany Assembly of God, Lorraine's Soup Kitchen, and Rachel's Table.

These organizations provide essential food assistance and meals to individuals and families facing food insecurity in the local community.

"This is about more than just a discount; it's about using our business as a platform for positive change," added Rosskothén. "We look forward to working with our community to come together to support the incredible work done by St. Vincent De Paul, Bethany Assembly of God, Lorraine's Soup Kitchen, and Rachel's Table."

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# OPINION



## Wreaths and swags for one and all

For the last two weeks we've been busy decorating Old Sturbridge Village for their Christmas by Candlelight program.

The garland, wreaths, bows and swags are all up, and the planters have been filled with greens. It was fast-paced fun, and oh so rewarding. The museum looks absolutely magical.

I filled planters side by side with a coworker who, in her 30 plus years, has never done this part of the job with me. As we stuck greens and stood back to assess our work, it occurred to me that I've grown up making all of these decorations, like my parents before me!

I had assumed everyone else had too, but here we had Nina, who in her 60s, was at it for the first time. If you find yourself ready to make your own decorations, here are a few pointers from the archives.

My Dad was the wreath-maker in the family, and usually a post Thanksgiving walk in the woods would yield his raw materials. The wreaths he made would be taken back to decorate a college dorm or whatever apartment my older siblings would return to after Thanksgiving break some 40 plus years ago.

One wreath would also make its way to the front door of our little red house, too. Decorated with a red ribbon and a few pine cones, it really was something so simple and so beautiful in the same right.

His approach is the same one I'll recommend today.

Start with a wire coat hanger bent into a circle and attach some pliable wire to it. Then, wrap little bunches of greens to the base one after another.

Be careful to lay them alongside, not on top of each other. It's important, however, to have the wire catch a little bit of the stem of the prior bunch – that way the wreath will be good and tight.

You can make a wreath of just extra boughs from your Christmas tree, but mixing in other types of greens will make it more interesting. I like to use prunings from my home landscape: mountain laurel, boxwood, juniper, and white pine among others will look great together

because they vary in color and texture.

You can dress up a green wreath with pinecones, winterberries and artificial fruit, not to mention a big bow. Most types of Christmas tree boughs are conducive to wreath making, but wear thick gloves if you are using Colorado blue spruce as your base – it sure is picky!

When my Dad gave up making his famous wreaths, Mom took a simpler yet more elaborate approach to decorating our house. She would make a swag for each window!

First determine how many you want to make, then set up an assembly-line of sorts. Choose a sturdy green for the base of the swag- extra Christmas tree boughs would be perfect for this as well.

I cut however many I need to the same size, and I lay them out pretty side up. Next, I choose another type of green a bit smaller and put it on top. I repeat the process six or seven times until I have a nice upside-down "fan."

Here too, varying texture is nice, although Mom's feathery white pine and pine cone swags are pretty by themselves.

To complete your swag, wrap wire around the stems four or five inches down from the top, leaving a loop on the back for a hanger. You can cover the wire with a bow. I have often wired two swags together horizontally.

Place a bow in the middle, where the two intersect and hang your creation over a window or door, or even underneath a window for a different take on decorating.

Whether this is your first attempt at wreath and swag making or you've been at it for years, enjoy this holiday ritual, just as my mom and dad did.

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



## Not all mountains we climb are the same



*When life and mountains meet*

By Julie Midura

With wind chills in the negative single digits, it was a blustery and viewless day on Mt. Pierce in the White Mountains of New Hampshire last Saturday. But our hike wasn't about the views.

It was about rising to meet the mountain. Feeling our legs burn and our hearts race. Experiencing a rush of adrenaline as we fought the intense wind above tree line. Finding our way to the very top in a cloud so dense that the snowy ground and white sky seemed as one.

Last weekend was about allowing ourselves a distraction in the face of unimaginable pain. Accepting the peace and strength that the mountains impart. Granting ourselves permission to feel joy... and not feel guilty for doing so.

It was a weekend of letting go. Allowing the mountain peaks to captivate us. Inspire us. Humble us.

After Saturday's adrenaline-racing adventure on Mt. Pierce, I was excited to see snow in the forecast for our hike on Sunday. For someone



who will never stop believing that snow is magical, I felt like an excited 6-year old.

Which is why I was disappointed when we awoke on Sunday morning, looked out the window of the motel room, and saw rain rather than snow. "Maybe it will stop raining by the time we get to the trailhead," I said hopefully.

There was a heavy overcast when we arrived at the trailhead, but at least it had stopped raining. With no illusions that we'd get a view from the summit of Mt. Cube, upward we went. And as expected, the summit was encased in a cloud. No matter. At least it wasn't raining.

We had just started making our way down from the summit when Tom said, "Well it looks like you're getting your wish!"

I was so focused on foot placement as I carefully navigated the steep, ice-covered ledges, that I didn't notice it had started snowing! I stopped, looked up to the heavens, and felt the soft cold kisses of dozens of snowflakes landing on my upturned face. Intent on lingering, Tom and I found a relatively flat ledge and laid out our sit pad.

For half an hour, we sat

with our legs stretched out on the wet granite, sipping steaming hot cider from our old green Stanley thermos. Staring at the snow and ice-covered trees against the backdrop of a ghostly sky. Watching the snow swirl and dance with each gust of wind. Feeling cold flakes lick our eyelashes. Hearing the faint whisper of flakes landing on snow-laden branches.

This moment was in stark contrast to the adrenaline rush we had experienced on Mt. Pierce the previous day... when the wind raged angrily in ragged gusts and the cold was so harsh it stung.

This was softer. Calmer. It was a reminder that, in life, we are handed both. The smooth and the rough. The quiet and the loud. The raging and the calm. And each one can hold sadness and joy at exactly the same time.

If I'm being honest, it feels wrong to find joy in these mountains when our 2-year-old granddaughter is in the fight of her life against the single deadliest form of pediatric brain cancer. But sometimes we need time to exhale. To physically distance ourselves from the pain... while still holding it in our hearts.

We're living in a season of extremes. Of conflicting emotions that are confusing to process. From the highest of highs to the lowest of lows. And it's hard to validate one, at what seems like the expense of the other.

But if this cancer journey is teaching me anything, it's that a heart can hold deep despair and equally-deep joy at precisely the same moment.

I can be crippled by sadness one minute and smiling with joy the next. I can be consumed with fear one minute and filled with hope the next. And I'm learning that that's okay.

I'm learning to accept that peace CAN exist in the middle of chaos. We just need to open our eyes wide enough to find it.

For those who have asked about Charlotte, thank you. The monthly immunotherapy treatments are keeping her tumor stable. She is fighting like a warrior, and we are grateful for every precious moment that we get to be with her. Onward.

## Chicopee Register TEAM



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

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The deadline for  
submissions is Tuesday at noon.

## WE CARE ABOUT YOUR NEWS!

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

## Election letters to the editor

The Chicopee Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to Chicopee Register care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to journalregister@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election. For more information, call the editor at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news  
As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers. Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in Chicopee Register.

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IN THE CITY

# CPL celebrates holiday season in Cocoa Carnival

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE - The library celebrated the holiday season with its Annual Cocoa Carnival in the Bazan Community Room on Dec. 5.

The annual event included hot cocoa and cookies and a variety of carnival games and activities from ice fishing and candy cane ring toss to making postcards with ChicopeeFRESH.

Director Laura Bovee explained the event has become an annual tradition.

"We hold it each year before the city's Tree Lighting ceremony. We have hot cocoa for anyone who wants it and some themed games for the kids. This year, we added a Pin the Nose game, where kids could toss a carrot-shaped nose toward a snowman to try to get it in the right spot on his face," Bovee said. "We enjoy offering the hot cocoa and a snack from ChicopeeFRESH, and we love seeing families and kids having fun."

On what she looks forward to this Christmas, Bovee said this.

"I always look forward to spending time with family and friends at the holidays. On my wish list this year is some fancy yarn so I can knit a beautiful scarf," Bovee said.

Ana Ascencio, the garden



Arianna Tarantino and her daughter, Charlotte, came to the event in their Christmas-themed best.

and nutrition program facilitator at ChicopeeFRESH, shared the library invited the organization to share information about their programs while highlighting this month's Harvest of the Month: carrots.

There will be other events coming up during the winter as well.

"I have some carrots here from one of our local farms. I have carrot stamps as a craft, and then Donna, our kitchen manager at Chicopee High School, made cookies, and there's cocoa to hand out as well. So, it's a combination of things from ChicopeeFRESH

today," Ascencio said. Ascencio said the event is also an opportunity to highlight crops "that aren't growing outside but do last for a long time."

There were also books on display on farm, food and garden-related books for families to check out.

"It's nice to see families going home with fresh produce and things like that," Ascencio said.

On the carrot craft, Ascencio shared that during this time of year, she and her family are writing notes to people.

"Postcards are a really easy way to create something meaningful to give to someone at the holiday times and people use root vegetables like potatoes to stamp all the time. So, I figured, why not with carrots?" Ascencio said.

Ascencio looks forward



A postcard on display attendees got to make with the folks at ChicopeeFRESH.



Teen Librarian Brent Tenerowicz oversaw the snowball toss game with the Bumble.

to eating more squash this holiday season and hopes to get "good, wool socks" for Christmas.

Library Associate Ashley Lahey—a long-time resident of Chicopee—was overseeing the candy cane ring toss, sharing the secret to getting the ring in is in the arm.

Lahey looks forward to spending time with her family and friends this Christmas and wants everybody to be happy and healthy.

"I just love helping, helping out with the kids and seeing how happy they get about the programs and they have so much fun. It's nice to see," Lahey said.

A newer member of the staff, she came to the library after getting her degree in Library Science at Simmons University.

"I'm just happy to be here.



Crystal Lanucha, a cataloguer at the Chicopee Public Library, gave out hot chocolate to the attendees to keep warm on a very chilly Friday afternoon.

My local library!" Lahey said. "It's just nice to see familiar faces all the time. Again, I've lived here my whole life, so I instantly see some people that I've known for a long time."

On upcoming events heading into the New Year, Bovee shared there's a lot to look forward to.

"We're already working on lots of fun programs for adults and kids in the coming year—For adults, we'll have a Speed Puzzling event on Jan. 27, a Hands Only CPR class on Feb. 26, and Sourdough Brandon will be back on March 16. For kids, we'll have the Talking Hands Theater perform Whale Tales, a fun puppet show during February school vacation. The Mini-Circus Ae-

rial Silk and Hula Hoop show will be on Saturday, April 25 at the end of April break week," Bovee said. "And 2026's Summer Reading Theme is Farm to Table and their slogan is "Plant a Seed, Read." Some of the performers we'll have for kids this summer are Mr. Vinny, a Forest Park Zoo program, and Li Liu the Chinese Acrobat."

Lahey thanked the community for supporting the library.

"We appreciate any and all support," Lahey said.

Bovee also encouraged anyone who missed the event to check out the website for other upcoming events.

"All library events are free and open to the public," Bovee said.



Ice fishing was once again a popular event.

## 13th Annual Western Mass. Toy Drive Comedy Show

CHICOPEE - The 13th Annual Western Mass. Toy Drive Comedy Show for foster kids and children in need takes place on Wednesday, Dec. 10 at the Portuguese American Club.

Join us for a night of comedy, dinner, and community where every laugh helps bring holiday magic to kids who need it most.

Hosted by Jess Miller and featuring performances by

Dave Sheehan, Doreen Watson and Max Dolchelli.

Doors open at 6 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m. and show at 7:30 p.m.

Your \$40 ticket includes dinner, show and pictures with Mr. and Mrs. Claus.

There's also a golden ticket to win \$1,000 cash! For each new, unwrapped toy valued at \$25, receive one entry to win a Golden Ticket worth \$1,000. The toys go directly to

foster children at Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (MSPCC) and low-income behavioral health youth clients at Clinical & Support Options.

Reserve your seat now at funnyraising.com.

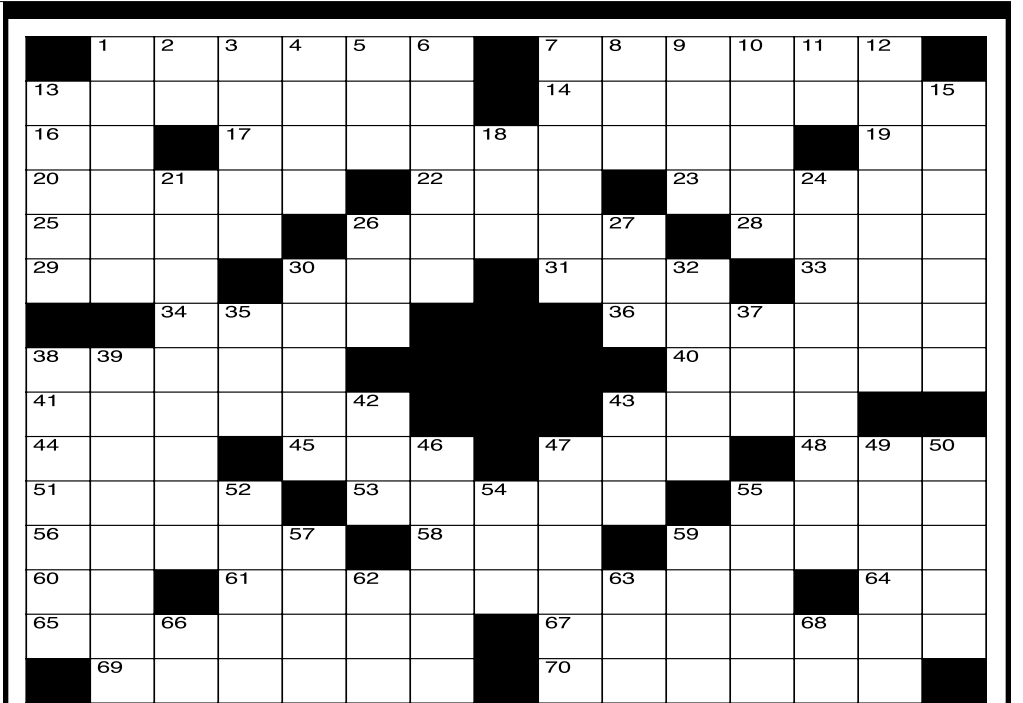
The event is proudly sponsored by Symetra, Pioneer Valley Allergy, Ohana School of Performing Arts, Amedeo's and Kind Squad Inc.

## CFD Capt. Katie Collins-Kalbaugh is Firefighter of the Year



PHOTO AND CAPTION COURTESY OF CHICOPEE FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHICOPEE - Nov. 25 marked the 36th Annual Firefighter of the Year Awards Ceremony at Mechanics Hall in Worcester. Congratulations to Captain Katie Collins-Kalbaugh, who was honored with the Norman Knight Award for Excellence in Community Service. We extend our congratulations to all of today's recipients from across the Commonwealth. Thank you to all First Responders who answer the call every single day—your dedication, courage, and service make our communities safer and stronger.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Spiritual leaders
- 7. A type of solution
- 13. Fortified wine
- 14. Edible mollusk
- 16. They precede C
- 17. A way to compare
- 19. Government lawyer
- 20. "Game of Thrones" actor Ciaran
- 22. The eighth month (abbr.)
- 23. Very willing
- 25. \_\_\_ ex Machina
- 26. Makes happy
- 28. Type of berry
- 29. A doctrine
- 30. Popular Dodge truck model
- 31. Dekagram
- 33. Naturally occurring solid
- 34. Company officer
- 36. Villains
- 38. Cricket frogs
- 40. Influential German
- 41. Endured
- 43. A female domestic
- 44. You can get stuck in one
- 45. Cigarette (slang)
- 47. Fiber optics network
- 48. Group of blood disorders (abbr.)
- 51. Employee stock ownership plan
- 53. Belonging to the bottom layer
- 55. Sound
- 56. MLB legend Hank
- 58. Very attractive person
- 59. Late beloved sportscaster Craig
- 60. South Dakota
- 61. Mocking
- 64. Symbol for gold
- 65. Longtime Braves pitcher Julio
- 67. Humor
- 69. Shawl

- 70. Preliminary patient assessment

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Animal disease
- 2. Commercial
- 3. Necklace material
- 4. Containers
- 5. A way to save for your future
- 6. Colorado Heisman winner Rashaan
- 7. Dipped down
- 8. Head injury (abbr.)
- 9. Lay about
- 10. Intestinal
- 11. Opposite of yes
- 12. Caused to be loved
- 13. Spiritual leader of Islam
- 15. Businesslike
- 18. Not in
- 21. Number above the line in a fraction
- 24. An animal with its own day
- 26. Pouch
- 27. Swedish krona
- 30. Start over
- 32. Field flowers
- 35. Fourteen
- 37. A visual way to interact with a computer
- 38. Up-to-date
- 39. Campaigns
- 42. Touch lightly
- 43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
- 46. Violent seizure of property
- 47. Supporter of the Pope
- 49. Anxiety
- 50. Body fluid
- 52. One who's faking it
- 54. Title of respect
- 55. Chilean city
- 57. City in central Japan
- 59. Silk garment
- 62. A form of dance
- 63. Automobile
- 66. The man
- 68. Justice Dept. head honcho

# IN THE CITY

## TREE LIGHTING from page 1

Vieau and Santa, a little girl named Mila had the honor of flipping the switch to light up the tree in downtown Chicopee to thunderous cheers.

Santa was excited to greet all the children as they arrived with their families, sharing there's many things on their wish lists.

"Kids wants a lot of Legos, they want a lot of hoverboards. Some puzzles, we had quite a few ask for puzzles. Lot of arts and crafts," he said. "They like to keep their mind busy, so that's a good thing."

For Santa, it's all about the kids.

"I enjoy all the kids coming and talking to me and they make feel a lot younger than I really am," he said.

He was also proud to see so much Christmas spirit in Chicopee, noting the large turnout for the community event.

"It means there is some, still, spirit in the city. People want to come out for a good thing and that's a great thing," he said. "And I'm really glad the Grinch is here tonight. Me and the Grinch, we've been good friends for a long time and we're still good friends. He's a real good guy!"

Victoria Narvaez was excited to be back at the tree lighting to serenade the crowd once again, singing "O Holy Night" and "This Christmas."

On her wish list this year is a phone, along with looking forward to spending time with family and friends and giving them gifts.

"I think it was a really fun time and I enjoyed sing-



It was a festive night thanks to many dancers, including the littlest ones, busting moves to the Christmas music.



Victoria Narvaez sings inside The Hub at Market Square.



The tree is officially lit



The Victory Chapel Choir performs.

ing and connecting with the people," Narvaez said. "I think it shows that we have a lot of Christmas spirit in Chicopee."

Narvaez also has had an exciting year after releasing a single, "I'm A Star" just last month.

"It's on different platforms like Spotiy, Appl Music, YouTube and stuff

and I've been working on it for a long time now and I hope that people like it," Narvaez said.

The most exciting part of the event, though, was getting to reunite with Santa Claus.

"He's a really nice guy and I enjoy talking to him because he's really nice and he's interested in my career,"

Narvaez said.

Also, the many families coming together.

"I think it shows that we have a lot of passion and that families like to come here to meet new people and enjoy the experience," Narvaez said. "It was really fun and great and they should come next year!"

Santa's message was



From the left, Ward 8 School Committee Representative/Ward 8 City Councilor-Elect Douglas Girouard, State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), Councilor-at-Large Jerry Roy and Ward 4 City Councilor George Balakier pose for a group photo. The local elected officials handed out hot chocolate and donuts to attendees while Arriaga stopped by with her family for the event.

this.

"Merry Christmas, Feliz Navidad, and remember, when we say we're all in this

together, we mean it. Sp. have each other's backs and respect and love one another," he said.



HCSO Unit Manager and Special Olympics Liaison Pat Dooney and Special Olympian Steven Tobey smile for a photo.

## COP ON TOP from page 1

of the iron-clad unity between the HCSO and the Chicopee

PD, along with how pivotal and meaningful the Special Olympics organization truly is, was HCSO Sheriff Nick Cocchi.

"I can tell you the Chicop-

ee Police Department has been an unbelievable partner, whether it's allowing us to be part of today's 'Cop on Top', or FTO training, our men and women are learning a lot from them,

they always remain steadfast in ensuring the highest of priority is directed towards service of the community," Cocchi said. "And when you're talking about events like this, you're talking

about the Special Olympics, which is an organization that is near dear to my heart, and it's near and dear to a lot of my staff and this is one of the many, many events we do over the course of the year for Special Olympics and for those who I have such admiration for."

And speaking of those Olympians, as Cocchi highlighted, it just happened that five-sport Special Olympian Steven Tobey was in attendance.

Tobey explained that he enjoys having this platform of the Special Olympics brand backing him, every step of the way since he first joined when he was a teen and is now in his 21st year at 35 years old, which has allowed him to participate and be part of his favorite sports such as Basketball, Flag Football, Bowling, Volleyball and Cornhole.

"The Special Olympics means a lot to me because it allows me to compete all year round," Tobey said.

As the fundraiser carried on, Mayor John Vieau stopped by, and even participated as he caught two stuffed animals that were then donated back, with all the remainders as well, being sent over to the Springfield Thunderbirds, as part of their annual 'Teddy Bear Toss,' where a new record of over 8,048 stuffed animals were collected after the team scored its first official goal this past Saturday against the Providence Bruins, which are going to be distributed to charities,

and children of all ages across Western Mass.

Vieau reflected on the overall success of the event while discussing the element of the 'giving season' in full effect.

"Well, talk about the Chicopee PD, the Sheriff's Department coming together for the Special Olympics with a partnership in Walmart here. And for those who have stopped by were being very generous, as you get a stuffed animal for a donation, and it's going to a great cause - Special Olympics, to some great athletes from Western Mass who get to participate in events due to the generosity and community support that is born from fundraisers like today," Vieau said. "The message that drives me as Mayor is understanding that if there is a need, a cause, or a reason, Chicopee comes through every time, and it continues to get bigger and better every year. Last night at the Tree Lighting, I felt it. You could see that people were happy, out having a great time, and I saw a lot of people nodding their heads, and I said, 'If you consider, during this time of giving to helping out a friend, neighbor, or family member, please do it' and people were shaking their heads at me and making me feel good."

The fundraiser ran from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and turned out to be a massive success; all proceeds from the event will now go towards the Special Olympics.



The Chicopee PD and HCSO officers awaiting to toss some stuffed animals down.

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# SPORTS

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## Turley's Henry, Peterson recognized for work by PVSOA

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

LUDLOW – For nearly 20 years, two people have anchored the sports department at Turley Publications.

When you think of sports in the Journal Register, Sentinel News, Agawam Advertiser, or Ware River News, you think of David Henry and Tim Peterson.

Both have been members of the Turley Sports staff for almost two decades, covering every sport offered by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association, and connecting with thousands of athletes over the course of their careers.

Their job has been to see that the deserving student-athletes who work hard and achieve milestones, league titles, Western Mass. titles, and college success get recognized by their communities.

Last Friday night, it was their turn to be recognized for their dedicated work.

The Pioneer Valley Soccer Officials Association awarded Henry and Peterson

with Letters of Commendation.

The PVSOA, which held its awards banquet at the Ludlow Polish-American Club on Dec. 5, recognized the pair for their dedicated service of reporting and photographing boys and girls soccer, impacting multiple communities throughout the region.

The PVSOA Awards Committee believed their longtime service at Turley Publications was deserving of the letters.

Peterson had a more conventional background in sports journalism. He participated in his high school newspaper at Oxford High School and went on to work at the Southbridge Evening News.

In 2007, he transitioned to being a freelance writer for Turley Publications. At first, Peterson had an established rapport in the Palmer-Monson and Ludlow-Belchertown areas. But in recent years, readers can find Peterson in almost any one of the towns in Turley's 11-newspaper, 17-high school coverage zone.

"I really enjoy it," Peterson said. "I just love cover-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Turley Publications Sports writer Tim Peterson and photographer David Henry were recognized last Friday night at the Pioneer Valley Soccer Officials Association. They are pictured with PVSOA member Joe Santos

ing sports and I really enjoy watching high school soccer."

Peterson also named baseball as one of his favorite sports to cover. Peterson, especially over the past several years, has had no shortage of

exciting competition to cover. He's been at most major championship games in Turley's coverage area, and even enjoys traveling around the state to schools he has never been to thanks to the state's

new tournament format.

Peterson was not even taking much of a break at the PVSOA banquet, forgoing receiving too much recognition, and focusing his attention on the award winners at the event

(see related stories).

Henry did not have a typical path to becoming Turley's longstanding sports photographer since 2006.

He had a more than 30-years career in the military in the United States Air Force. He spent many of his years working as a mechanic at Westover Air Reserve Base right in his hometown of Chicopee.

But he also spent some of his time overseas during his early days in the military.

"I bought my first SLR while I was in Thailand," Henry said. He was looking to capture moments from his tours in foreign places and began taking pictures.

He eventually built his own dark room at his home. But he did not do too much more with photography until digital became more prevalent and he was encouraged to apply to the Chicopee Register following his retirement from the military in 2006.

He was put in contact with then-sports Editor Lou

See **TURLEY AWARDS** page 8

## Outstanding season nets MVP for Chicopee High's Wrisley

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Junior Griffen Wrisley has been a member of the boys' varsity soccer team at Chicopee High School since he was a freshman. He has scored 30 or more goals in each of the past three seasons.

Wrisley finished this season with a team-leading 33 goals and five assists which helped the Pacers post a 17-2-3 overall record.

For his outstanding offensive performance, Wrisley was named as the 2025 Henry O.Holly/Dave Grieve MVP Award (Boys Small Schools) winner by the Pioneer Valley Soccer Officials Association (PVSOA).

"This is a very special award," Wrisley said. "It's a reflection of all my hard work during the past three years. I wouldn't be able to score very many goals without the help of my teammates."

Wrisley received his award at the 79th PVSOA banquet, which took place at the Polish American Citizen Club in Ludlow, on December 5.

Wrisley is the sixth boys' soccer player from Chicopee High to be selected as the MVP by the referees.

"Griffen is an outstand-



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Griffen Wrisley receives an MVP award from the PVSOA.

ing athlete and is a great kid. I just love watching him play soccer," said Tom Rivet, who presented Wrisley with his award. "I wish that I had the opportunity to coach him."

While Rivet retired as the Pacers varsity soccer coach before Wrisley arrived at Chicopee High School, he's still a teacher.

"Mr. Rivet is a Graphic Art teacher at Chicopee High School," Wrisley said. "I have a tremendous amount of respect for him and he's one of the mentors. I've learned a lot

of different things from him. Mr. Rivet also told me the history of this M.V.P. award."

Rivet, who has stayed involved with the game of soccer as a referee, received the Larry E. Briggs Award in 2011.

Wrisley, who didn't receive any yellow cards this fall, has a lot of respect for the Western Mass. officials.

"The Western Mass. officials always try to do their best in every game," Wrisley

See **WRISLEY** page 8

## Pioneer Valley Soccer Officials Association hold awards banquet

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

LUDLOW – There are multiple soccer officials associations throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, all which are responsible for the recruiting, training, assigning, and evaluating of soccer referees that do high school games, as well as some youth leagues.

The Pioneers Valley Soccer Officials Association is the only organization that is still doing awards banquets, recognizing athletes, its members for longtime service, and contributors to the soccer community.

Last Friday night at the Ludlow Polish American Club, the 79th iteration of the awards banquet was held and the same positive vibe could be felt in the room as the PVSOA gave out their sportsmanship awards, most



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

David DelBuono, the outgoing PVSOA President, was inducted into the Massachusetts Interscholastic Soccer Officials Association. He was recognized at the PVSOA banquet for that accomplishment by James Duggan.

valuable players, and other miscellaneous awards for service, contributions and dedication to the soccer com-

munity at large.

James Duggan, who was the master of ceremonies at last Friday's banquet, said he thinks its amazing that the PVSOA is still going strong with its banquet.

"You are all a part of history," Duggan told the award winners. "Our program gets bigger every year as we have the entire history of our awards in that program."

Chief among the recognized people at the banquet are the sportsmanship awards. Coaches like Eric Degnan of Monson girls soccer and Tom Rivet of Chicopee boys soccer, both of whom were present at this year's awards ceremony for other recognition, often said the sportsmanship awards for their teams were huge honors.

Degnan, who recently retired from coaching, said making sure his teams showed exemplary sportsmanship was even more important than winning league titles, and multiple sectional and state championships. Degnan has received nine sportsmanship awards from the PVSOA, all with Monson.

Rivet has three from the group. Two came with Chicopee boys soccer and one with East Longmeadow.

Outgoing President David DelBuono, who received

See **AWARDS** page 8



Griffen Wrisley with his family at the PVSOA banquet last Friday night.



Joe Santos was the Downie Award winner this year. He stands with James Duggan.



Reid Savoie receives a service award from David DelBuono.

## SPORTS

## T-birds get big win over Providence Bruins

PROVIDENCE, R.I. - The Springfield Thunderbirds (6-11-3-2) rode an otherworldly performance from their goalie to a 3-1 win over the Providence Bruins (17-5-0-0) on Sunday inside Amica Mutual Pavilion.

Vadim Zherenko had the busiest first period of anybody in the building, as the T-Birds goaltender was subjected to 15 attempts in a furious first-period push by the Bruins. Zherenko stood his ground, relenting only a power-play one-timer to Georgii Merkulov.

However, before Merkulov broke through, the T-Birds used their first shot on net of the day to get a fortuitous bounce and a 1-0 lead as Matthew Peca threw a puck off the legs of

Hunter Skinner and through Michael DiPietro at 6:20 of the first period.

Providence wound up outshooting Springfield by a 15-2 margin in the opening frame, but the T-Birds responded with a great start to the second, as Chris Wagner found open space in the low slot and wired a perfect wrist shot over DiPietro's glove at 2:04, off a great find from Nikita Susuev.

The T-Birds played a much more balanced second period, limiting Providence's high-danger chances and allowing Zherenko clear sight lines to deny all 11 Bruins shots that did reach the net.

The pressure only intensified in the final 20 minutes for Zherenko, as the Prov-

idence attack emptied the tank on the Springfield goal mouth with 20 shots on net in the final period, but "Big Z" had responses every single time, including a high-light-reel denial of Christian Wolanin on a one-timer from the right-wing circle in the closing minutes.

Sam Stange eventually gave the T-Birds a breath with an empty-netter with less than 30 seconds to play to usher the visitors to a victory. Zherenko completed his masterpiece with 45 stops.

The T-Birds are back on the ice next Saturday, Dec. 13, as they pay a visit to Utica to take on the Comets; puck drop is set for 7:00 p.m. at Adirondack Bank Center.

## Worcester Railers comeback falls short

READING, PA — The Worcester Railers HC (9-9-1-1, 20 pts) fell to the Reading Royals (10-9-2-0, 22 pts) on Saturday, December 6th, with a final score of 4-5 in front of a crowd of 3,494 at the Santander Arena. The Railers are back in action on Wednesday night against the Adirondack Thunder at will take on the Royals again on home ice on January 14th at 7:05 p.m. EST.

Reading struck first with an early goal, scored by Massimo Rizzo (1-2-3), assisted by Nolan Burke (1-1-2) and Carter Berger (0-2-2) at 4:09 in the first. The Royals extended their scoring streak to two goals, the second added by Jeremy Michel (1-0-1), assisted by Rizzo and Ben Meehan (0-1-1) at 15:45 in the first (0-2). Worcester answered with a power play tally of their own at 17:46, scored by Gleb Veremyev (1-0-1), assisted by Anthony Callin (0-1-1) and Drew Callin (0-1-1) (1-2). Reading bookended the first period with their third goal of the night from Burke, assisted by Rizzo and Berger at 19:24. Reading grabbed the only goal in the second period, a tipped shot from Robbie Stucker (0-1-1), redirected by Nick Capone (1-0-1), also assisted by Artem Kulakov (0-1-1) at 7:46. A final Reading goal was scored by Kyle Haskins (1-0-1) at 2:54 in the third. Worcester answered the Royals' fifth

goal with three goals in the second half of the period. The first by Matt DeMelis (1-1-2) (2-5), the second by Anthony Repaci (1-1-2) (3-5), and the third by Lincoln Hatten (1-1-2) (4-5). The clock ran out just as Worcester pushed for their goal to tie the game and force overtime, but the game ended in a 5-4 Royals' victory.

Reading opened the game with an early lead at 4:09. Royal's forward Massimo Rizzo (4th) tucked the puck in between the pipe and left skate of Parker Gahagan (0-1). Reading stretched their lead to two goals with a score from Jeremy Michel (1st) at 15:45 (0-2). A chance for the Railers to narrow the gap came late in the period as they went on their third power play of the night, which opened the ice for Anthony Callin to feed a pass from behind the net to Gleb Veremyev (2nd) for Worcester's first goal at 17:46 (1-2). T.J. Walsh headed to the box shortly after the tally for holding, which put Reading on their first power play of the night. Nolan Burke (3rd) nabbed a goal for the Royals 28 seconds into Walsh's penalty to re-establish their two-goal lead. Shots on goal were 12-16 in favor of Reading.

The Royals' fourth goal of the night came just over a third of the way through the second period from forward Nick Capone (2nd). Worcester played the period on the defensive and found

themselves down a man on two separate occasions. Neither penalty resulted in a Royals goal, but Capone's scored soon after the clock ran out on Riley Ginnell's time served for high-sticking. Worcester was kept off of the board in the second which left the score at 4-1 Reading to close the second. Worcester trailed in shots on goal with nine to Reading's 12. Reading was assessed one penalty served by Ben Meehan.

As play resumed in the third, Worcester worked to cut into the Royals three-goal lead, turned four as Kyle Haskins (5th) added another to Reading's tally for the evening at 2:54. Worcester opened the floodgates on Reading's net and scored three times in the second half of the period. Matt DeMelis scored an even strength goal at the 12:41 mark to make it a three-goal game. Worcester then called its timeout and pulled goaltender Thomas Gale to give the team an extra attacker. Repaci (6th) (3-5), and Hatten (8th) (4-5) each added their own goals with the extra-attacker on to get back to within one. Despite their offensive push across the final 2:30 of the third, Worcester fell short by one as the final horn sounded. The final score was 5-4 Reading. Final shots were 41-35 Worcester, and final penalties were six for the Royals and three for the Railers.

## Cougars earn victory against Northern Essex

HOLYOKE — Women's basketball got back to their winning ways on Thursday night, earning a 65-59 home victory over regional opponent Northern Essex CC. The Lady Cougars dominated early on, scoring 38 points in the first half to take a 17-point lead into halftime. Holyoke was able to hold off a strong

second-half push from their opposition on their way to the win

Johans Andrades (Springfield, MA / Putnam Vocational Technical HS) played brilliantly for the Cougars, leading the team in points, rebounds and assists. Andrades scored a season-high 21 points while grabbing nine rebounds and

dishing eight assists. Emily McGrail (Ware, MA / Ware HS) had a team-high four blocks for Holyoke and was second in points with nine.

Women's basketball is in second place in the New England standings with a 3-1 regional record. They are 4-3 overall and 4-1 versus NJCAA opponents.

## IN THE CITY

## C3 celebrates All-Stars



CHICOPEE - Congratulations to the November Students of the Month/C3 brag tag recipients from Stefanik School. Keep up the great work.

## CFD receives artwork donation



CHICOPEE - Thank you to the anonymous donor who handmade and delivered the beautiful beaded artwork to our fire department.

## BODYCAMS from page 1

evidence, non-evidence, I don't know exactly what time they were set for. If it's not evidence, it's a shorter period of time. If it's accidentally turned on, it will be deleted quickly," Nichols said.

Ward 3 School Committee Representative Jason Dout asked what would happen if a SRO accidentally recorded something.

"The officer would categorize it as accidental, and it will delete automatically," Nichols said, confirming that there is no potential for an SRO to delete the footage

themselves.

Before Nichols left the podium in City Hall, he held up one of the bodycams he brought to the meeting and displayed it for the board to see.

"That's what the bodycam looks like," Nichols said. "It will be worn somewhere either on their chest or their belt."

## TURLEY AWARDS from page 7

Zoldy, and has been a fixture with Turley Sports ever since. Additionally, over the years, his non-sports photo spreads have also been a huge support for Turley's mission of capturing the big events in the communities. Among other things, he has covered the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Holyoke for many years, and has done many photo spreads in Agawam, Holyoke, and Chi-

copee in recent years.

In accepting their letters of commendation, both thanked the PVSOA for recognizing their work. Henry recognized the student-athletes and their accomplishments as what has found him the most enjoyment in the work he has done for the past 20 years.

Turley Sports is dedicated to the coverage of high school sports with a boots-on-the-ground type of approach, attending as many events as

possible with photo or story coverage. Both Henry and Peterson's loyalty to Turley and to the student-athletes in the region personify the approach and the pursuit of that mission.

Peterson was just the third writer to be recognized by the PVSOA while Henry became the first photographer to receive a letter of commendation from the organization. The PVSOA has been awarding letters of commendation since 1979.

## WRISLEY from page 7

said. "They're very respectful. I'm honored to be recognized by them."

Tony Claudino was the last Chicopee High soccer player to receive the M.V.P. award in 1988. The other four Pacers M.V.P.'s are Tom Nadeau (1969), Mike Vincent (1970), Bob Galarnear (1973), and Brian Candon (1983).

There are eleven seniors listed on the 2025 Pacers varsity roster. Anyone of those players could've easily been selected for the M.V.P. Award. The members of the Pacers senior class are Tyler Hoar, Jason Gregoire, Dominic Garcia, Lucas Marcelino, Tiago Destapado, Bryce Roberson Travis Podolski, Yousif Hamid, Evan Tyrrell, Chris

Guerra Ramirez, and Brandon Langevin.

"My teammates were all very happy for me," Wisley said. "Those guys are like family."

The Pacers' varsity soccer coach is Hugo Destapado. He's aided by assistant coaches Rob Libera and Corey Rafaty.

"I've been playing soccer for coach Destapado and coach Libera for many years," Wisley said. "They have a lot of knowledge about the game."

The Pacers only loss during the regular season was against Frontier Regional, 2-1, which was a non-league match at Szot Park on October 1.

At the end of October, Chicopee High captured the Western Mass. Class B championship title with a 2-0 win against Pope Francis.

They advanced into the Elite 8 of the Division 3 state tournament following home victories over Martha's Vineyard Reg. High School, 3-2 in overtime, and Hanover, 4-1. Their outstanding season came to an end following 3-1 loss at Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School.

"All of my friends are seniors and winning the Western Mass. title was a very good way of sending them off," Wisley said. "Next year is going to be a rebuilding season for us. We have some younger players who are ready to step up."

Wisley broke the school's goal record in the Western Mass. finals.

Wisley, who doesn't play another varsity sport, will enter his senior season with 97 career goals.

## AWARDS from page 7

an award, emphasized the importance of holding the annual event.

He said he appreciated the hard work of all the officials who continue to work hard for the student-athletes

on the playing field.

The event was attended by family and friends of the awardees along with several recognizable faces who have served as officials for many years.

Duggan said he is looking forward to having everyone back next years for the

80th years of the awards. The banquet was established in 1946.

The PVSOA recognizes individuals with the Jimmie Downie and Larry E. Briggs Awards as well as plaques given to referees who had achieved milestone years of service..

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# IN THE CITY



By Barb Turcotte

It was such a joy being introduced, then chatting with Marline Claremont. At first her sleeves were down but soon it got warmer and she pushed them up revealing several tattoos. She admitted she has over 30, each one having very significant meaning, they aren't just haphazard.

She has a rather diverse background. She worked as a truck driver for over 20 years, explaining in the trucking trade most had tattoos which is when she started getting hers. She explained what some of them meant to her, one in particular that I'll clarify later.

After leaving trucking, she did a stint as a real estate broker then moved on to owning her own mortgage brokerage. Soon after that she was offered a job by the President of a bank because he saw what an incredibly hard worker she was. Marline then began her next career; banking. She worked for various banks in the area and wound up obtaining the position of the first Vice President of Retail Lend-

ing. With a laugh she explained that she always wore long sleeves for that professional look needed in the banking industry.

When I asked about Random Acts of Kindness she'd done, she said she worked so much supporting herself and her family she never had time to volunteer. Then she explained how she would do things monetarily instead and always put charity in her budget. Rather than giving to a big named charity, she prefers making a difference by giving to someone personally. Perhaps seeing someone buying groceries who's struggling so helps them with their bill. She explained how someone she'd heard about was having a financial difficulty, anonymously, she sent a money order to them for two-hundred dollars. She said she likes to do things quietly knowing she is helping an individual in their time of need.

We agreed, people somehow just cross another's paths whether it's you noticing they need help or sometimes it's like this, our meeting so I'm able to tell her story. She also was a foster mom to a young boy who is now thirty-two and is still very much in her life.

Now that Marline is retired, she has time to volunteer and is dedicated to making a difference in honoring our local fallen veterans. She became involved with the 'Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Agawam' when she lost her son in July of 2022. He is one of her tattoos. He was a veteran of the Coast Guard and she is now the guardian of his child.

This young person made the comment to Marline, "I lost my dad and that's hard but you lost your son". Quite a comment of maturity and understanding from such a young

sign in the future.

One of the big things as President Marline is responsible for is fundraising for 'Wreaths Across America'. On December 13th they will be placing wreaths on each gravesite in the cemetery and I was truly surprised by the number of wreaths it would take to accomplish this mission. In order to do this, they need 10,800 wreaths, and that's just at the Agawam Veterans Cemetery. Each wreath costs \$17.00 which means they need a lot of help to accomplish this. Luckily, they do get money from business sponsors and citizen's donations but they still need help to reach their goal of 5,000 wreaths to be able to achieve this feat. To sponsor a wreath you can make a donation at: [www.wreathscrossamerica.org/MA0110P](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/MA0110P) and for more information on how to get involved with 'Friends of MA Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Agawam', the address is PO Box 03, Feeding Hills, MA 01030 or [www.agawam-friends.org](http://www.agawam-friends.org)

Another way you can help is getting involved with 'One Call Away', also located in Agawam. Their mission is to support veteran's who suffer from PTSD & also help to prevent suicide. Their website is: [www.onecallawayfoundation.org](http://www.onecallawayfoundation.org) or call 413-301-6026, Local crisis 413-367-8738, National crisis is 988.

Thankfully we have people like Marline who have this type of devotion and dedication willing to give of themselves. As you can see, it's not always monetary but instead a contribution of time & commitment. Thank you Marline!

If you'd like to share a Random Act of Kindness story or if this one has touched you, please contact me at [bdt514@aol.com](mailto:bdt514@aol.com) or 413-575-9385. Who knows, you might see your story, 'Just 'Cause' you witnessed, you did or maybe received something nice being done for you.

See you soon with another Random Act of Kindness!  
~ Barb

## TARTAN from page 1

or and solidify the good in our community and promote the exclusivity that Chicopee possesses."

Before the big reveal, Vieau was called to the podium to deliver opening remarks, sharing a point of historical context about past Irish Immigrant Mayor Denis Murphy, who helped craft and build the foundation of the Hub which used to be the old Chicopee Library constructed in 1912, to now being the location that the official tartan was unveiled as a true full circle moment.

"It's truly an exciting moment having all of you here for this special occasion, and this isn't just for the Parade Committee, not for Irish heritage, even though we are excited about keeping that Irish-American heritage active right here in Chicopee," Vieau said. "And I want to commend and congratulate the Parade Committee for taking the extra mile of getting us our tartan, and hopefully we can wear that with pride on St. Patrick's Day and all the events leading up to it."

The celebration didn't stop there as several speakers followed after Vieau, providing insight into various topics such as the origin of a tartan to how the Chicopee tartan was registered with the Scottish Register of Tartans earlier this year, on May



TURLEY PHOTOS BY BRENDAN ROONEY

From the left, Chicopee Colleen Court Members Emma Caproni, Hannah O'Neil, Meghan Oxley, and 2025 Chicopee Grand Colleen Daiana Torres. Not pictured, but also part of the court, Court Member Wilmette

20. The biggest takeaway of the evening was that Vieau and current Chicopee Parade President Aly Sliwa received an official citation from State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) and the State Senate to commemorate and document this historic day, along with two official certificates from the Scottish Register of Tartans.

Next, 2025 Chicopee Colleen Daiana Torres and her court members, which included Emma Caproni, Hannah O'Neil and Meghan Oxley, walked upstairs, where they awaited the signal, and once it came, the tartan was draped over the Chicopee St. Patrick's Committee banner,

to which it received a standing ovation.

2024 Chicopee Parade Marshal Fr. Bill Tourigny then blessed the tartan and The Hub to complete the official ceremony.

It was also revealed throughout the ceremony as well that it's been 73 years since the Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade first kicked off; Chicopee now joins Springfield and West Springfield, along with the Paper City, as communities in Western Mass sporting an official 'Tartan', and it was clear the community couldn't be happier, something that 2026 Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade Chicopee Grand Marshal

Bernie St. George touched upon.

"It's a tremendous advancement. I really think it unifies the city, it brings all the major aspects of the city, all in one tartan, and I think Chicopee is very well represented not only by the tartan, but the parade committee as well," St. George said.

Echoing similar thoughts while acknowledging the achievement put forth was 2026 Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade President Jim Wildman, who explained this is a celebration for not only Chicopee but the Parade as a whole.

"It's an extremely proud day for Chicopee, as this tartan will allow them to express and showcase their identity and pride represented through the inclusion of all the different colors, and as the Holyoke committee, we are always happy to support our regionals, and were excited and proud to support Chicopee every step of the way," Wildman said.

To help celebrate and recognize the honor as all eyes point toward the Parade, the committee announced they are going to, also be selling tartan-themed mer-



Ward 6 City Councillor Samuel Shumsky was the first to don the Tartan Tie.



From the left, 2026 Chicopee St. Patrick's Parade President Aly Sliwa, Current Committee Member Meghan Balakier and Mayor John Vieau being presented a Certificate from the Scottish Register of Tartans.

chandise, including scarves, T-shirts, Ties, and Christmas tree ornaments, which will be available at a later date.

In the meantime, residents are encouraged to follow the committee's Facebook page to stay updated on their latest activities.

Also to note, the Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade Weekend steps off in full ef-

fect with the 49th Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race on Saturday, March 21, 2026, and the 73rd Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade closing the weekend on Sunday, March 22, 2026, which to many will be a prime opportunity and moment for Chicopee to display and showcase it's colors on the grandest stage possible.



Members of the Chicopee St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee pose for a group photo.

JOIN US FOR A  
**LAST MINUTE HOLIDAY Market**  
20 DECEMBER  
FROM 11AM TO 3PM  
6 VENDORS  
NUMEROLOGY  
TAROT REIKI  
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THE CENTER ALTERNATIVE COOPERATIVE 264 EXCHANGE ST CHICOPEE  
THE DRINK SHOPPE BOTANICA

**EARLY DEADLINES FOR ADS & LEGAL NOTICES**

Christmas will bring early deadlines for all ads & legal notices to run in TURLEY PUBLICATIONS the week of December 22-26, 2025:

**Wednesday, December 17 at 2 PM for December 25 issue**  
• Country Journal • The Register • Wilbraham-Hampden Times

**Thursday, December 18 at 2 PM for December 25 Issue**  
• Agawam Advertiser News  
• Sentinel • Quaboag Current • The Journal Register

**Friday, December 19 at 2 PM for December 25 Issue**  
• Ware River News • Barre Gazette

**Monday, December 22 at 2 PM for December 26 Issue**  
• Town Reminder • The Holyoke Sun • Chicopee Register

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**DRYFIREWOOD** Oak/maple, cu/split/ delivered, \$300 a cord, \$285 for 2 or more. Edwin Wroblewski Logging, 413-824-0731. *Buying standing timber, paying good money.*

**FIREWOOD** Fresh cut & split \$225.00 Seasoned cut & split \$325.00 All hardwood. Tree length available. \*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!** New England Forest Products (413)477-0083

**MORE HEAT LESS WOOD.** Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. \$2K Tax Credit. Call (508)882-0178

**WANTED**

**WANTED TO BUY**

**ALL ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.**

**BUYING** Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more.

Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

**ALWAYS BUYING ALL ANTIQUES:**

Musical instruments, guitars, horns, keyboards, vintage electronics, jewelry, coins, watches, military cameras, sports memorabilia, art, sterling, signs, automotive, hunting, advertising, radios, ham radio equipment, audio equipment, toys, one item or entire estate.

Call Paul 413-206-8688.

**SWIFT RIVER SUPPLY**

We buy guns. Federal and state license. 413-658-5690.

**Classified Advertising DEADLINE FRIDAY AT NOON**

**JUNK REMOVAL**

**A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL** Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts. We load it & take it. 413-531-1936 CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

**SERVICES**

**A B Hauling and Removal Service**

**2\*\*\*\*\*A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE\*\*\*\*\***

Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. (413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868.

**DRYWALL, PAINTING AND CEILINGS,** plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. (413)563-0487

**ELECTRICIAN**

**PJ's Electrical MASTER ELECTRICIAN** • Licensed & Insured • Providing safe, reliable electrical services for residential and commercial projects. **NOW OFFERING FREE CONSULTATIONS.** Call today to schedule your appointment. (413) 366-1703 (Lic. #24046-A)

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**SERVICES**

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Decks, porches, repair service, roofing and siding contractor. Tim 413-563-2229. Licensed/insured. 35 year construction supervisor.

**HOME IMPROVEMENTS. REMODELING** Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. (413)246-2783 Ron.

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**\*\*ALL SEASON\*\*** Specializing in shrub trimming, pruning, design, deliveries, loader, backhoe, insured. Professional. Please call Bob (413)537-5789 (413)538-7954.

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**SERVICES**

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**STOP WET BASEMENTS** ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call (413)569-1611, (413)374-5377

**PAINTING**

**PRO PAINTING** Low, low prices. All phases interior, exterior painting and wallpapering. Also minor carpentry. 413-310-5099.

**PLUMBING**

**GREG LAFOUNTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING** Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg (413)592-1505

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**SERVICES**

**TREE WORK**

**AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE.** Residential removal of trees, Free estimates, Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call 413-283-6374.

**AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING** Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack 413-436-9821, Cell 413-537-7994

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**DL & G STUMP GRINDING** Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave 413-478-4212.

**AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING** Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack 413-436-9821, Cell 413-537-7994

**AUTO**

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**HELP WANTED**

**NEIGHBORLY CLEANING & CARE** is looking for mature, responsible adults with own transportation, experience and references for a housekeeping position. Hours 7:30- 2:30. Call Nancy today (413)267-4297 or (413) 544-0864.

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**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

**QUAINT WEST BROOKFIELD BROOKHAVEN LAKE** by babbling brook, I-shaped 2brdm. ranch, 2/1 full baths, finished basement, walkout slider, enclosed front porch. Enjoy nature trails, very quiet private area. \$2850/monthly rental fee. Bernice Stone 774-262-6667.

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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

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

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Hampden Probate and Family Court**  
**50 State Street**  
**Springfield, MA 01103**  
**(413)748-7758**  
**Docket No.**  
**HD25P2533EA**  
**Estate of:**  
**Betty Janet Breault**  
**Date of Death: 09/15/2025**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

**To all interested persons:**  
 A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Mont Marie Operator LLC of Holyoke, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Kathleen Brunelle of Wilbraham MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Personal Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised** administration.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/02/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE**

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
 Date: December 05, 2025  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**, Register of Probate  
 12/12/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Hampden Division**  
**Docket No.**  
**HD25P2508EA**  
**Estate of:**  
**Scott Alexander Clark**  
**Date of Death:**  
**October 31, 2025**  
**INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Lisa A Clark of Chicopee, MA**.

**Lisa A Clark of Chicopee, MA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
 12/12/2025

**SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES UNDER G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A**  
 Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on December 19th, 2025 at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2004 Nissan Sentra  
 VIN: 3N1CB51A04L481424  
 Jonathan Almanzar  
 71 Midian Ave.  
 Windsor, CT 06095

2017 Hyundai Tucson  
 VIN: KM8J33A45HU448068  
 Brenden Silbaugh  
 182 Old Farm Rd  
 Springfield, MA 01119

2006 Cadillac SRX  
 VIN: IGYEE637460172196  
 Lucia Entwistle  
 1250 E Mountain Rd  
 Westfield, MA 01085

2010 Ford Escape  
 VIN: 1FMCU0DG5AKA62648  
 Julio Duran Rivera  
 69 Court St., Apt. 3  
 Westfield, MA 01085

2004 Scion XB  
 VIN: JTLKT324140155989  
 Sean Lavigne  
 110 Valley View Ave.  
 Woronoco, MA 01097

2006 Jeep Liberty  
 VIN: 1J4GL38K36W290182  
 Andy Butterfield  
 227 Rockingham St.  
 Bellow Falls, VT 05101

2008 Hyundai Tiburon  
 vin: Kmhhm66d98u285091  
 Andrew Burns  
 1697 Westover Rd.  
 Chicopee, MA 01020  
 12/05, 12/12, 12/19/2025

**SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES UNDER G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A**  
 Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on December 12, 2025 at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2003 Chevrolet Silverado 1500  
 VIN: 2GCEK19T531162203  
 Maria Filippone  
 45 Burnside Ter Rm House  
 Springfield, MA 01118

2013 Chevrolet Equinox  
 VIN: 2GNALPEK7D6122633  
 Marloy Davies  
 273 Alameda Ave.  
 Youngstown, OH, 44504

2016 Nissan Altima  
 vIN: 1N4AL3AP6GC135197  
 Alexis Vega  
 99 Phillips Ave. #99  
 Springfield, MA 01119

2007 Kia Spectra  
 VIN: KNAFE122475408723  
 Michelle Chor  
 43 Maple St.  
 Easthampton, MA 01027

2011 Honda Pilot  
 VIN: 5FN9F4H22BB058405  
 Belinda Pavlak  
 659 State St., Apt. 2D  
 Springfield, MA 01109  
 11/28, 12/05, 12/12/2025

**SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES UNDER G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A**  
 Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on December 26th 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.

2008 BMW X3  
 WBXPC93448WJ08979  
 HENRY GRIMES  
 171 PROSPECT ST  
 EAST LONGMEADOW, MA 01028

2012 HONDA ACCORD  
 1HGCP2F34CA242750  
 STANLEY EDMONDS  
 67 QUEBEC ST. APT 2L  
 INDIAN ORCHARD, MA 01151

2012 CHEVROLET MALIBU  
 1G1ZB5E05CF215293  
 TAMARRI LOPEZ CARDONA  
 12 BAYONNE ST APT 2L  
 SPRINGFIELD, MA 01105

2011 HYUNDAI SONATA  
 5NPEC4AC0BH299492  
 DESEANA RENEE DAVIS  
 906 OAKWOOD AVE  
 TOLEDO, OH, 43607

2014 AUDI A6  
 WAUFGAFC5EN017249  
 SHANE CONLIN  
 16A WENDOVER RD  
 WORCESTER, MA 01606

2006 BUICK RENDEZVOUS  
 3G5DB03L86S542456  
 MARIA RAMOS  
 18 BRISTOL ST  
 SPRINGFIELD, MA 01109

2025 TAIZHOU ZHILONG  
 HZ2TCDM4351006043  
 EDWARD OTERO  
 51 KINGS LANE  
 SPRINGFIELD, MA 01109

2009 NISSAN SENTRA  
 3N1AB61EX9L649271  
 Diedra Elizabeth Sevcik  
 160 STAFFORD ST  
 SSTAFFORD SPRINGS, CT 06076

2003 FORD ESCAPE  
 1FMCU94183KC85298  
 CHARLES T RIBARDO  
 953 CARLETON ROAD,  
 WESTFIELD, MA 07090  
 12/12, 12/19, 12/26/25

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Hampden Division**  
**Docket No.**  
**HD25P2549EA**  
**Estate of:**  
**Richard C. King**  
**Also known as: Rick C King**  
**Date of Death: 09/28/2025**  
**INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Patricia M King of Chicopee, MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

**Patricia M King of Chicopee, MA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
 12/12/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Hampden Division**  
**Docket No.**  
**HD25P2510EA**  
**Estate of:**  
**James George O'Neil**  
**Also Known As:**  
**James G. O'Neil**  
**Date of Death:**  
**November 2, 2025**  
**INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Michael Hastings of Chicopee, MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

**Michael Hastings of Chicopee, MA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
 12/12/2025

**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.**  
**HD25P2515EA**  
**Estate of:**  
**Curtis Patrick Quinn**  
**Also known as:**  
**Curt Quinn**  
**Date of Death: 09/17/2025**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

**To all interested persons:**  
 A Petition for Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Kevin Scott Quinn of Wilbraham, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as

requested in the Petition.  
 The Petitioner requests that **Kevin Scott Quinn of Wilbraham, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised** administration.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/31/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE**

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
 Date: December 03, 2025  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**, Register of Probate  
 12/12/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Hampden Division**  
**Docket No.**  
**HD25P2537EA**  
**Estate of:**  
**Helen L. Yelle**  
**Also Known As:**  
**Hellen Yelle**  
**Date of Death: October 16, 2025**  
**INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**  
 To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Roseann M. Sprayson of Longmeadow, MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.  
**Roseann M. Sprayson of Longmeadow, MA** has been informally appointed

as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
 12/12/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Hampden Division**  
**Docket No.**  
**HD25P2531EA**  
**Estate of:**  
**Andrew Stephen Orsini**  
**Date of Death: August 25, 2025**  
**INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

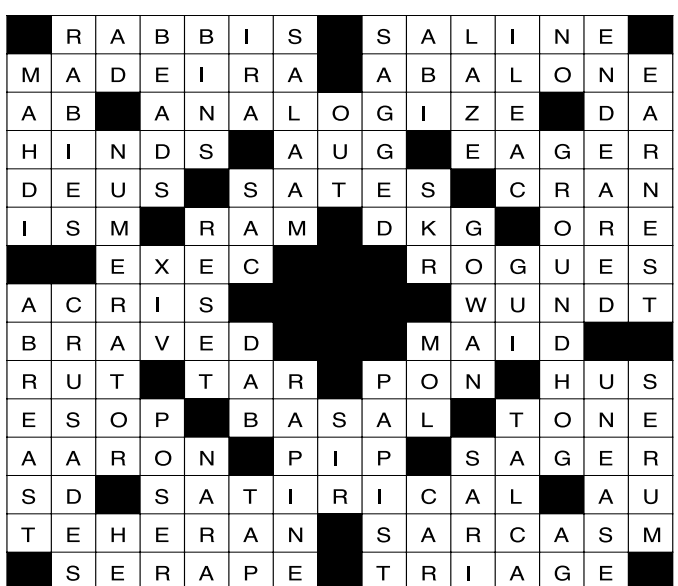
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Suzanne L. Orsini of Chicopee, MA**

**Suzanne L. Orsini of Chicopee, MA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
 12/12/25



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

**Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.**

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

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Storm Damage



Stump Grinding



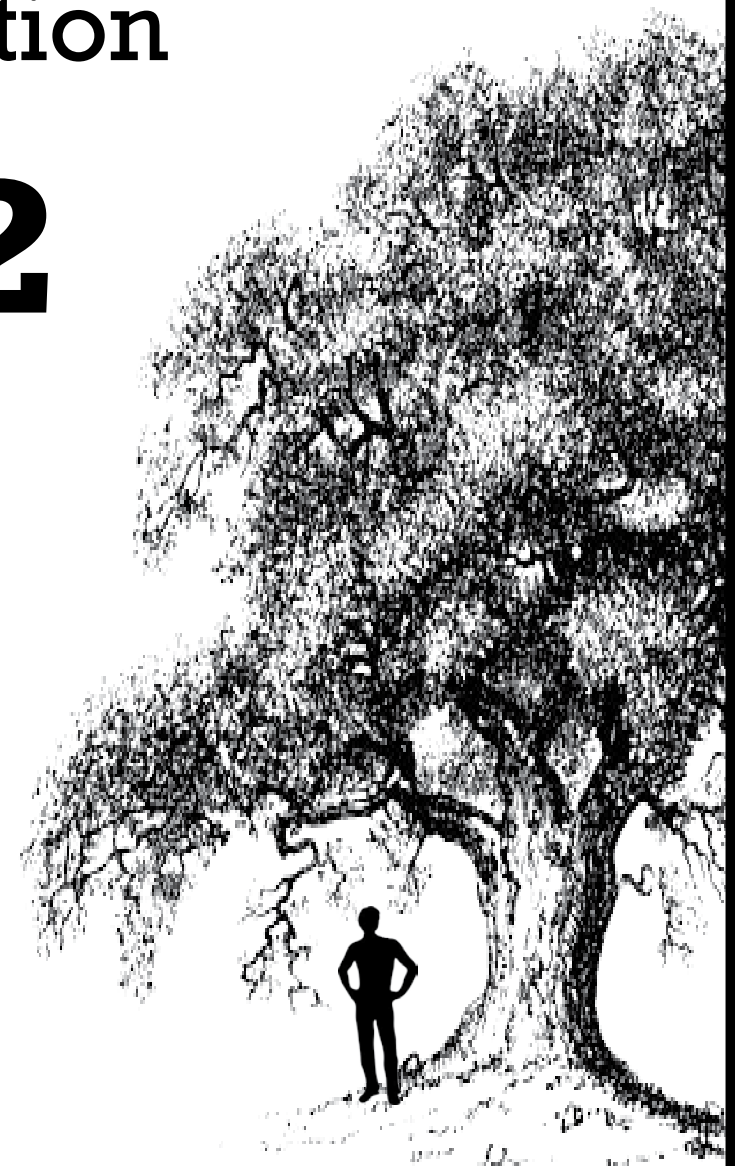
Lot Clearing



Give us a call for your free estimate and tree evaluation

**413-478-4212**

# DL&G TREE



**INSURED AND CERTIFIED**