

# Chicopee Register

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ALAN DION  
Wreaths representing each branch of the military are displayed near the entrance of St. Stanislaus Cemetery.

## WREATHS Across AMERICA DAY honors veterans

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE - Parishioners from St. Stanislaus Parish gathered at St. Stanislaus Cemetery on Dec. 13 for Wreaths Across America Day.

Wreaths Across America Day is a nationwide observance taking place every December with volunteers and supporters placing Veterans' wreaths at local, national and military cemeteries, Veterans' Memorials and historic sites.

Wreaths Across America, itself, meanwhile, is a non-profit organization established in 2007 with the mission of distributing Veterans' wreaths to place on gravesites at military cemeteries to remember, honor and teach.

The ceremony was overseen by Alan Dion, a physics teacher at Chicopee Comprehensive High School and an

advisor for the Veterans' Appreciation & Support Club, with Fr. Brad Milunski leading attendees in an opening prayer.

The laying of wreaths was as follows: Staff Sgt. Al Kendall for the United States Air Force, Specialist E-4 Al Picard for the United States Army, Seaman Richard Police for the United States Coast Guard, Tony Lazio for his father, Charles Sidel, to honor the United States Merchant Marines, Cpl Mike "Pappy" Boyington for the United States Marine Corps, Doug Pas for his father, Ted Pas, to honor the United State Navy, Geoffrey Gleason for the Space Force and Mark Samoylich to honor the 81,996 United States servicemen from all branches who are prisoners of war or missing in action.

The ceremony was dedicated. Please see **WREATHS**, page 6



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS  
Mark Samoylich, vice president of the Veterans' Appreciation & Support Club at Chicopee Comprehensive High School, laid the wreath to honor the prisoners of war and missing in action.

## Author Stroll



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Jacqueline Lynch shows off her latest book, "Children's Wartime Adventure Novels." Lynch is a longtime resident of Chicopee.

### Local authors spotlighted

By Brendan Rooney  
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - A first-ever Author Stroll, sponsored by HB Real Estate, featuring 25 local and established authors and writers was held at The Hub at Market Square on Dec. 11.

More than 200 people gathered to meet the authors, purchase books and hear readings throughout the evening.

Ward 2 City Councilor Shane Brooks bestowed praise on the usage of the newly renovated space, saying, "It's been a long time coming."

"I think this is amazing," Brooks said. "This is exactly what the Hub

was intended to be: a place where the community can come together, and in this case, share the works of the literary community, and again, it's the focal point of the downtown, and it's being utilized and not underused, with recent events such as the Tree Lighting, and the Tartan reveal."

Brooks added how, "Chicopee is on the rise."

"The inclusion and main attention to the Hub being accessible cements the city's commitment to investing in the downtown, and the city as a whole, to really attract people downtown, in the hope of attracting new storefront businesses, generating additional areas for the general public to visit, and bringing more people to downtown,

Please see **STROLL**, page 5

## City Council approves Peregrine Software Technologies contract

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE - The City Council unanimously approved on Dec. 16 a five-year contract for the Peregrine Software Technologies data integration and analytics platform.

The contract, which begins January 1, 2026 and ends on January 4, 2031, is designed to enhance the police department's ability to manage information, identify trends and make informed, real-time decisions across a range of operational priorities.

Mayor John Vieau ex-

plained the software will be for the Real Time Information Center and the order is because "we want to enter into a five-year agreement instead of a three."

"So, we're really asking you to extend that opportunity for two more years. We're going actually to be the first community—and, correct

me if I'm wrong—in New England that's going to be using this software and you can see, this launch, is a data aggregation and coordination platform through the Real Time Information Center and it will be supported by the Hampden County Sheriff's Department, and, also, the Hampden County Addiction

Task Force," Vieau said.

Vieau said this would be funded through opioid funds from the opioid settlement agreements that the community has received.

"That account has quite a bit of money in it and we couldn't think of a better way than to work with the Real Time Information Center

with this system that's going to add entirely new, automated, intelligence-driven capabilities that analyze CAD and RMS data to identify overdoses, flag at-risk individuals and guide targeted outreach," Vieau said. "So, these tools

Please see **CONTRACT**, page 3

## The story behind CHS's SkillsUSA

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE - Students at Chicopee High School had the opportunity to recently attend a SkillsUSA Fall

Leadership Event.

SkillsUSA is a career and technical student organization serving high school, college, middle school students and professional members enrolled in training programs in trade, technical,

and skilled services occupations, empowering students as world-class workers, leaders and responsible citizens through developing personal, workplace and technical skills.

Lilah Nocrasz, Alexis Whelihan, Eavan Torruella and Anneliese Ramos are among this group.

Nocrasz's group won third place in presentation and poster design, focusing on technical skills through professional development, 3D effects and symbolism to follow the theme, "Champion Your Future."

"And then our second third place medal for presentation, everyone had to talk and had to explain something. My piece was symbolism of mannequins, because our poster design was based

Please see **SkillsUSA**, page 3



The SkillsUSA students at Chicopee High School: Eavan Torruella, Lilah Nocrasz, Alexis Whelihan and Anneliese Ramos. The schedule for SkillsUSA begins with Fall Leadership, followed by districts, then states and, finally, nationals, which is held in Atlanta, Georgia in June.

## PNA Lodge 711 hosts Christmas party

By Brendan Rooney  
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - The Polish National Alliance Lodge 711 of Chicopee hosted a Children's Holiday Party at the Chicopee Falls Polish Home, comprised of families of all ages, on Dec. 7.

The party comprised attendees such as members of the PNA and their families—enjoying raffle prizes, arts and crafts, games, a hot cocoa station, making holiday cards for elders in nursing homes in Chicopee, along with a classic Polish dinner consisting

Please see **PNA**, page 6



TURLEY PHOTO BY BRENDAN ROONEY

From the left, Isabella Strand, Alexa Sherman, Alyssa Nogueira, Aezlin Rost, Teresa Sherman (Red, sitting) and PNA Lodge 711 President Joanne Cebula (white sweater) in a group photo.

## IN THE CITY

### RiverMills Center Events

#### Powerback Rehab To-You

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will host Powerback Rehab for Physical Therapy appointment every Monday starting Jan. 5 at 10 a.m. at RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street.

Powerback Rehab To-You is a mobile therapy program that brings care directly to you! Powerback Rehab will be at RiverMills Center for appointments to help your recovery whether dealing with a recent injury chronic pain or seeking performance enhancement. These appointments are free. This program is open to members 55 and older. There are limited appointments, so you must register in advance at RiverMills or by calling 534-3698.

#### New Year Celebration Dinner

CHICOPEE - The COA will host a New Year Celebration Dinner on Thursday, Jan. 8 at 5 p.m. at RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street.

Join your friends at RiverMills to celebrate the new year. Enjoy a delicious Pot Roast dinner while listening to a performance by Michelle Brooks-Thompson, Grammy nominated performer and finalist on NBC's "The Voice." Beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase. Registration for this event is now open. You must purchase tickets in advance and RiverMills Center.

### CFD receives holiday cheer visit



PHOTO AND CAPTION COURTESY OF CHICOPEE FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHICOPEE - We were grateful to have some community members stop by to express appreciation for our members' hard work and dedication while sharing some holiday cheer.

### Delaney's Market launches holiday food drive

#### Discount on meal purchases to donors

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 through Dec. 22.

"This holiday season, the team at Delaney's Market wants to make a difference," said Peter Rosskothan - Owner. "While we regular-

ly 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 entrees 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
- 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 Rosskothan. "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."

### 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.

**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 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!

**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)

### 'Brain Health and Dementia Prevention' at RiverMills Center

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will offer the program "Brain Health and Dementia Prevention" on Monday, Jan. 5 at 10 a.m. at RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street.

Join the Arbors for the presentation on brain health and dementia prevention. During this workshop, you will get an overview on De-

mentia, what it is and the different types of dementia. You will also learn if memory loss is a normal part of aging and what the difference is between normal forgetfulness and potential Alzheimer's forgetfulness. You will also learn about brain health and how to keep your mind sharp. You must register in advance at RiverMills or by calling 534-3698.

**TUESDAY  
DECEMBER 30TH  
9:30A - 11A**

**COZY UP TO ASSISTED LIVING!**

**OPEN HOUSE EVENT**

**RSVP TO RESERVE YOUR MUG!  
(413) 530-5916**

Cozy up to the idea of assisted living at The Arbors! Learn more about assisted living options and get a taste of The Arbors lifestyle with a hot chocolate bar and treats!

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At Chicopee

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# CPL announces January programs for kids, 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 January 2026.

**Sensory Play Saturday** will be held on Saturday, Jan. 3 at 9:30 a.m. Come let your babies socialize and explore sensory play! We will have our play area set up with some sensory activities and other play opportunities. For babies 0-24 months and their caregivers.

**Saturday Playgroup** will be held on Saturdays at 1 p.m. in January. 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,

Jan. 14 and 28 at 10:30 a.m. Moving and grooving for kids and their caregivers. Geared toward ages 0-5, but all are welcome!

Forty-five minutes to one hour of energetic activity including singing and dancing, action rhymes, and playing with props like scarves and shakers.

**Build with LEGO** on Thursday, Jan. 8 at 4 p.m. Unstructured building time for kids ages 6 and up.

**The Kids Room Sewing Club** will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 14, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Learn basic stitches and practice skills by making fun projects. Recommended for ages six and up. Kids who are not familiar with using a needle and thread should attend with an adult. Teens are welcome.

**Stop by for a Kids Room Craft** on Friday, Jan. 16, from 2:30 to 4 p.m. It's an early release day for Chicopee Public

Schools PreK-5. Beads and paper craft supplies will be available for crafty exploration.

**Storytime** will be held on Thursdays, Jan. 8 and 22 at 10:30 a.m. Storytime is for children ages 3-5. This program features about 30 minutes of structured circle time, followed by 15-30 minutes of a craft or activity. Circle time will include 2-3 read aloud books, rhymes, songs, and felt boards. Children will be encouraged to ask and answer simple questions and recognize things like shapes, colors, letters, and numbers.

**The library Homeschool Meetup** will be on Friday, Jan. 23 at Noon. 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. This month we are reading and

discussing fairy tales.

**Terrific Twos** will be held on Tuesdays, Jan. 6 and 20 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.

**Unleash the ooze!** Make Slime in the kids room on Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 4 p.m. Kids and teens can stop by the Activity Room to make their own small container of slime using three simple ingredients.

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 library 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.

Anime Club will be on Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 3 p.m. Stop by for some fun crafts and activities themed after the hit series Demon Slayer!

Teens are invited to join us at LEGO, Sewing Club, and Slime Making.

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

# Polish food sales are back

INDIAN ORCHARD - Immaculate Conception Church, 25 Parker St., Indian Orchard, Ma will be holding five Polish Food Sales on these Saturdays:

Dec. 20 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Golabki (3) \$12; Kapusta (Large) \$10; Pierogi (12) Cabbage-Potato & Cheese \$14; Sweet Cheese, Blueberry \$15

Sales take place in the church cafeteria (lower section of the church)

Credit cards not accepted.



## SkillsUSA from page 1

off an art with a gold hand, which was part of the SkillsUSA logo, symbolizing the individual self painting their future, taking bold strokes and the mannequin was representing how they want to build a future, how they want to help others," Nocrasz said.

Last year, Whelihan won second place for presentation skills through memorization in a short amount of time, public speaking and more.

Also, a medal was won for technical skills. She also placed second in districts, went to Fall Leadership twice and went to states.

"This year, I won the Rising Star Medal, which I think 10 to 15 students out of 600 students that are there got it and it showed the improvement over the last year of being there," Whelihan said.

Torruella credited advisor Tom Rivet for his involvement.

"I've had fun, made new friends, learned new things, had a good experience. I won first place—two medals—for the poster board design and for the poster presentation in the personal skills framework," Torruella said.

Ramos checked out Skill-



From the left, Ezra Bleau, Eavan Torruella, Lilah Nocrasz, Alexis Whelihan, Annieliese Ramos and Tom Rivet pose for a group photo.

sUSA thanks to her teachers, getting to meet new people and interact with them.

"I got second and third. The third was for the presentation of the poster and then the second was for the poster design of it," Ramos said.

Ezra Bleau, a former advisor at Chicopee Comp, brought SkillsUSA to CHS and teamed up with Rivet to recruit students, expressing

pride in their success.

"For the first year, for students to place at districts is amazing progress and it just showcased our students and their abilities and then you got to go to states, which was a great opportunity too," Bleau said.

Rivet shared 12 students did Fall Leadership.

"SkillsUSA is only available for students who are in a

Pathway Program, so we have eight Pathway Programs here at Chicopee High School now and, as Mr. Bleau said, this is our second year. We're trying to build this up. This is going to be a school-wide, pathway-wide club and we want this to be a very special club to be a part of, very elite, very exclusive," Rivet said.

"And it's going to help all the students become rising

stars in their own community as well," Bleau said.

Students are encouraged to sign up.

"Definitely join a pathway and definitely try attending a Fall Leadership. Fall Leadership, that's a great example for what's going to happen during districts, where you have to work with others, where you're going to work as your individual self, where you have to talk to people," Nocrasz said. "You talk to a lot of people and during Fall Leadership, they make sure you end up talking to, at least, a few new people, whether it's from a different school or if they're in a different grade or if you're a different grade, even a completely different pathway. It's really fun and it's a really good experience overall because even if you don't like the Fall Leadership, you still walk away with some sort of new knowledge."

"Honestly, I would say just push yourself out of the comfort zone. I used to be the most shy kid ever; I didn't talk and it just makes yourself a better person. I've seen myself grow so much academically and socially. I have so much more friends now, I'm so much more talkative.

I can go to Fall Leaderships and just talk to anyone now. I have so much more confidence in myself and it helps you really grow as a person," Whelihan said.

"Go ahead and do it. Try new things," Torruella said. "Getting out of your comfort zone is very important and you need to learn and experience new things in life..."

"They should do it. They'll help them with schools and colleges and stuff like that and help them get jobs," Ramos said.

Bleau and Rivet thanked the community for their support.

"This is something that will help so many students become that next level that we're looking for, that the world is looking for and being able to achieve dreams that they never had. So, this is one of those great opportunities for students," Bleau said.

"Young people sometimes get a very bad rap because we often hear about the negative aspects, but as you can see here, there are some awesome students at Chicopee High School and I think an opportunity like SkillsUSA is really going to help to bring those good stories to the forefront," Rivet said.

## CONTRACT from page 1

will supplement, strengthen, rather than supplant existing programs, providing functionality previously unavailable to local agencies. We're excited to launch it and I'll just share the agreement that, currently, we're going to go into is three, but we get a better deal by going five. So, we're asking for your approval for the five-year agreement."

After President/Councilor-at-Large Frank Laflamme noted and clarified it would be adding the two more years, he said this.

"If we wait for two more after the first of the year, it's going to be much more money to do it. So, that's why I

spoke to you earlier tonight. I'm in favor of this to see where our issues are in the city, what spots of the city are having the issues and concentrate with the C3 programs in those areas. I think it's very important that we do this. It's nice to say, we've given money to the School Department with their programs to try to prevent it, but we don't know what the outcome is. We don't know where it is throughout the city like the police department does and working with all the other agencies, Sheriff's Department, district attorney," Laflamme said. "I think it's a good program and, as you mentioned, it's something where the money can be spent. I know you try to look at spending the money, it's tough when you have an allo-

cation of money and you can only use it in a certain pool. So, I'm willing to vote for this tonight because I think this is very important. If we can save a few lives, that's what it's all about. Even one."

Vieau added that West-Comm Regional Dispatch has now vacated the Public Safety Complex, so the Real Time Information Center has moved into the space, with a public open house coming in the new year.

"To let everyone see exactly what's going on with technology-driven information through the Real Time Information Center, how we're using cutting-edge technology to protect this community. It's pretty incredible stuff and I just want to commend Bill Schwartz. He's the director

of the Real Time Information Center. I was there today and the team that he has is just absolutely exceptional," Vieau said. "Pretty excited about what we're heading when it comes to technology."

He noted this, first and foremost, is also to protect the first responders "and then from there, to prevent crime, to deter crime and to catch bad guys."

"So, it's pretty exciting how it works and I want to make sure that all of you are invited to see this technology when it's up and operational," Vieau said.

Ward 4 Councilor George Balakier expressed approval that the funding would be coming from the opioid settlement funds and the open house would be helpful.

"So, this way here, the taxpayers are not going to be having to worry about the burden," Balakier said.

Ward 7 Councilor William Courchesne said this software "is going to actually complement the work the Situation Table does in a great way."

"So, they'll probably end up helping each other out with data. I had the opportunity to visit the RTIC and it's pretty amazing use of that space," Courchesne said. "The capabilities and they'll be some more stuff coming forward, I hope, really soon that I had a chance to look at and it's just going to go beyond what people's imaginations are."

Vieau agreed, adding that this would "get us to the actual root of the problem" and

also help people get to the Situation Table for the help and resources that they need.

"This is going to help those who are addicted and those that are really struggling out there in our community," Vieau said.

Laflamme hopes whoever becomes the new City Council president in January will meet with Vieau about this and the new council gets an opportunity to see everything at the Real Time Information Center right away.

"So, whoever does become president of the board, I hope they set up a meeting with your office to get this done," Laflamme said.

## EARLY DEADLINES FOR ADS & LEGAL NOTICES

New Year's will bring early deadlines for all ads & legal notices to run in TURLEY PUBLICATIONS the week of Dec. 29, 2025 - Jan. 2, 2026:

**Friday, December 26 at 2 PM for January 1 issue**

- Country Journal • The Register • Wilbraham-Hampden Times • Agawam Advertiser News

**Monday, December 29 at 2 PM for January 1 issue**

- Sentinel • The Journal Register • Ware River News • Barre Gazette

**Tuesday, December 30 at 2 PM for January 2 issue**

- Quaboag Current • Town Reminder • The Holyoke Sun • Chicopee Register

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## IN THE CITY



## Question about remarrying and benefits from an ex-spouse

Dear Rusty:

I am almost 57, divorced after a 14-year marriage. My former spouse is 15 years older than I and made significantly more money than me. I am required to retire from my job at age 60 but expect to keep working in some capacity.

I have a girlfriend of a similar age to me. She did not earn as much as her former husband as she mainly raised their children. She is also divorced from an older spouse who made more money than she did. I am trying to figure out if we will be penalized if we marry or if it matters if we wait until after we reach 60 years of age. Can I claim my own benefits when I become eligible at 62, then claim survivor benefits later, whenever my former spouse passes? Is that affected if, or when, I remarry? I do not want to give up my potential survivor benefits from my ex-spouse. Are those affected if I remarry?

If I understand correctly, if I remarry even after 60, we would both forfeit divorced spousal benefits, is that right? Given that my girlfriend's former spouse probably made more money than I, would she be forfeiting her former spousal benefits if we were to marry, even after age 60?

Lastly, I am considering retiring abroad as an expat. Any suggestions about how that would affect our Social Security benefits?

**Signed: Starting Over**

Dear Starting Over:

With certain exceptions, benefits from a living ex-spouse cannot be collected if you remarry (regardless of your age when you remarry). So, from what you've shared, whenever you remarry both you and your new wife will forfeit eligibility for benefits from your respective ex-spouses while they are living (FYI, there are exceptions for those who are disabled).

However, the rules are different for a surviving ex-spouse: if you remarry before age 60, you will forfeit your surviving ex-spouse benefit. But if you remarry after age 60, you retain eligibility to collect survivor benefits from a deceased former spouse. So, if you and your girlfriend remarry after you are both age 60, you will both still be able to claim survivor benefits based on your former spouses' records.

And, yes, it is possible for you to initially claim your own SS retirement benefit at 62 and claim your surviving ex-spouse benefit later after your former spouse dies. Provided you remarry after age 60 you do not lose that option, but if you were to claim a surviving ex-spouse benefit before reaching your Full Retirement Age, the monthly payment amount would be reduced, all SS benefits taken before FRA are reduced.

Note too, that if you plan to continue working after you are first eligible for SS benefits, Social Security has an "earnings test" which limits how much you can earn from working while collecting early benefits. The limit changes yearly for 2025 it is \$23,400 and if exceeded, SS will take back \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. And, as you likely know, claiming at age 62 will also mean a benefit payment of about 30% less than available at your FRA of 67. So, if you plan to work after age 62 and plan to claim early SS, you should take the "earnings test" into consideration. FYI, the earning test no longer applies after you reach your Full Retirement Age.

Now, regarding retiring overseas, be aware that Social Security has limits on where you can collect U.S. Social Security benefits. I suggest you use Social Security's Payments Abroad Screening Tool to find out if benefits are payable wherever you plan to retire abroad. That SSA tool can be found here: [https://www.ssa.gov/international/payments\\_outsideUS.html](https://www.ssa.gov/international/payments_outsideUS.html).

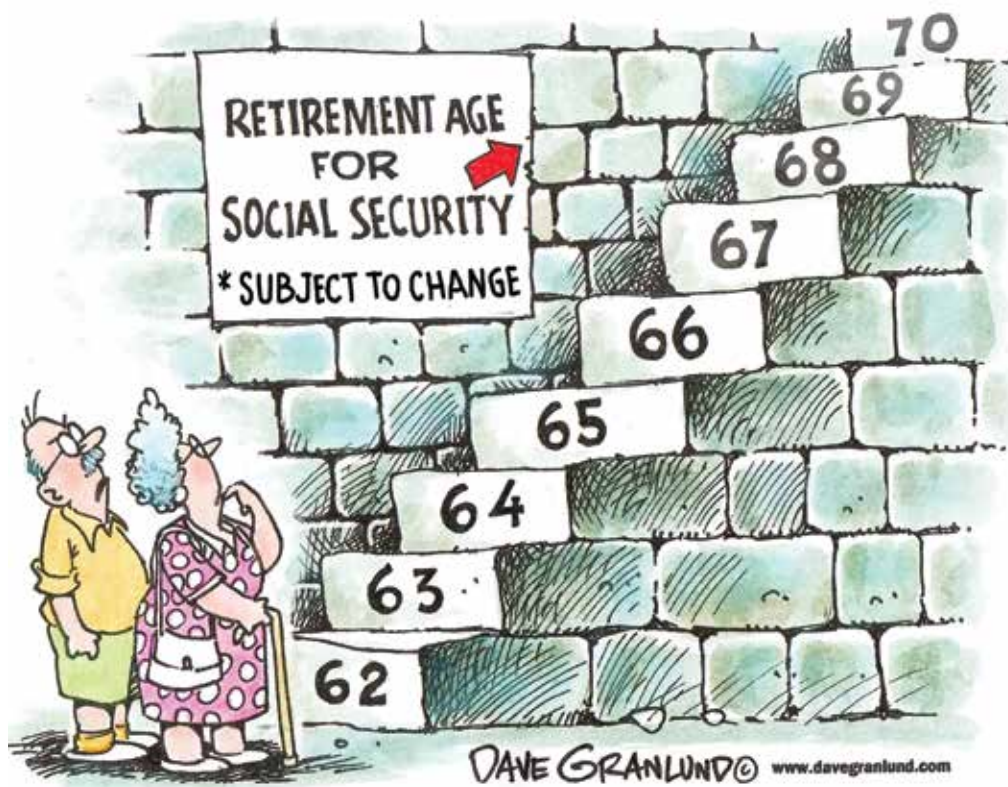
*The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit [amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadviser@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadviser@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*

## Westcomm Emergency Health Profile Set-up at RiverMills Center

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will host Emergency Health Profile Set-ups on Friday, Jan. 9 at 10:00 a.m. at RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street.

Representatives from Westcomm Regional Dispatch in Chicopee will be at RiverMills to assist with setting up your Emergency Health Profile with RapidSOS. RapidSOS is a secure online profile where you can store information that may help first responders during an emergency. When you call 911 from

the phone numbers linked to your profile, information such as medical conditions, allergies, medications and emergency contacts will automatically and securely appear to the dispatcher, helping them and first responders understand your needs quickly and provide the right care. To sign up for a health profile, you will need access to an email and cell phone. You must register in advance for an appointment by stopping by RiverMills or by calling 534-3698.



## EDITORIAL

### Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus

By Francis P. Church in 1897

Dear Editor,

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say that there is no Santa Claus. Papa says "If you see it in the Sun, it is so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia

Your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds.

All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as cer-

tainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to our life its highest beauty and joy.

Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus? You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your Papa to hire men to watch all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove?

Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men

can see.

Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders that are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, or even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernatural beauty and glory beyond.

Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else as real and abiding.

No Santa Claus? Thank God he lives and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, maybe 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the hearts of children.

## Two holiday plants suited for gift giving

Are you in need of a plant for a hostess gift this holiday season but poinsettias aren't your cup of tea? Look no further! I will give you my top two non-poinsettia picks, and share my experiences growing these plants.

Hopefully you will find the perfect gift for someone on your list.

Florist Cyclamen (Cyclamen persicum) is a delightful indoor plant that flowers during the winter months and is available at local nurseries and box stores. Its quarter-sized blooms in red, pink and white are unique in that the petals are bent back and held above pretty, heart-shaped, silver-margined leaves.

There are varying types available with fancy flowers and intricately patterned foliage.

The cyclamen plant is tuberous and unfortunately is best propagated by seed or by division of its fibrous roots. Usually this task is left to the experts who are best able to deal with erratic germination and roots that are susceptible to rot.

A few years back I became the owner of my very first cyclamen (thanks, Mom!). I had a little trouble after awhile.

During the spring its leaves yellowed and fell off so I threw it out. Little did I know that leaf loss was supposed to happen! It was going dormant.

With the cyclamen's bloom time during the win-

ter, it has a period of dormancy mid spring through the end of summer when it's

outdoor narcissus do.

In just about four weeks after planting you'll be delighted with flowers galore!

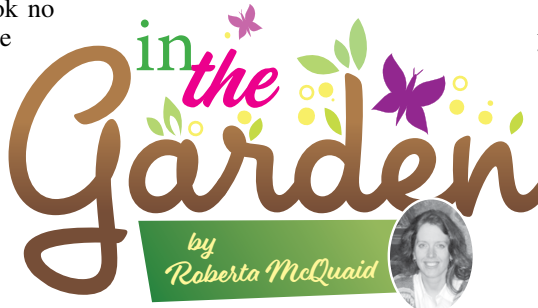
Decide for yourself if you like the fragrance or you find it a little overpowering. Prevent leaves and stems from stretching by placing your container in a cool spot in your home during the night and enjoy the flowers in your living spaces during the day.

After flowering is done, throw the bulbs out free of guilt; they won't bloom again consistently. One year you may remember that I did try to regrow the bulbs by allowing them to dry out within the container I had first grown them in. Of the four bulbs, two had life left in them a year later.

I watered and waited and leaves did grow, but no flowers ever came. I ended up chalking it up to an experience and starting over with new bulbs the following winter.

Have fun experimenting with these plants or any number of beauties worthy of a good home for the holidays.

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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



## Chicopee Register TEAM



**EDITOR**  
Kristin Rivers  
[krivers@turley.com](mailto:krivers@turley.com)



**ADVERTISING SALES**  
Wendy Delcamp  
[wdelcamp@turley.com](mailto:wdelcamp@turley.com)



**SPORTS EDITOR**  
Greg Scibelli  
[sports@turley.com](mailto:sports@turley.com)

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CEO

**KEITH TURLEY**  
President

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Send letters to:  
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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](mailto: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 [journalsregister@turley.com](mailto:journalsregister@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.



The team at HB Real Estate poses for a group photo.



Quell T. Fox shows off her collection of books.

**STROLL** from page 1

because it is safe, clean, and it's something we have been working on for a long time, and we are really excited about it," Brooks said.

The event was spearheaded by Ray Hoess-Brooks, who shared how this stroll came into fruition.

"I touted the idea that maybe we could host this at the brokerage, which could house eight authors, but the response from the authors was so amazing that, being tied with the Planning Office, an idea then came from City Planning Director Lee Pouliot (who) recommended 'Why don't you have it at the Hub', and I responded 'Is it going to be ready?' and Lee told me 'It will be ready,' Hoess-Brooks said.

Hoess-Brooks said the goal was a maximum of 25 authors, but that quickly filled up to where he had to turn some away.

"I said, 'I'm so sorry, I'm beyond capacity, and I'll add you to the top of the waiting list ready for next year,' and in that moment, I felt let it be known we will be doing another Author Stroll next year," Hoess-Brooks said. "This is going to be a yearly event, as it's part of the vision I currently have."

He also stressed the importance of helping raise awareness and funds for 99 Church Street, which is the Edward Bellamy House, the city's only property listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Current president of the Edward Bellamy Memorial Association, Jason Amos, hosted a table loaded with information about Bellamy, along with dozens of copies of "Looking Backward."

Amos explained the novel was the third best-selling novel of the 19th century in the nation and is still in print 137 years after it was first published, where, for a small donation, attendees could pick up the timeless classic.

"We are just glad to be involved here, and Ray, who organized the event, is on our

board, and it's just really great to be here, be part of the community, and raise awareness of who Edward Bellamy was, and what our goal is with the building in terms of restoration and the use as a historic museum," Amos said. "The community has been great, from the Mayor's Office, Planning Department, and Community Development Office, who have just been terrific in supporting us in trying to help us get everything up and off the ground, and the people who have been supporting us have been great."

The Chicopee Historical Society was also in attendance, represented by President Chester J Kobierski.

"I think this is a very good idea because it exposes people to various authors of various categories, and it's great for us here for the community to recognize and see our history documented and honored from where we once were," Kobierski said.

Kobierski shared the society is in the process of getting a museum-quality case to put the Inshaw rifle on permanent public display at the library, and additional information on the 1830s legacy weapon can be found in the latest book from the Historical Society, which is now on sale.

He added that next year, the society is working on securing a grant to transfer cassette tape recordings bearing interviews of German POWs that were held in captivity at Westover Air Force Base during WWII to digital and electronic formats.

"We have roughly about 100 of them, and they worked out in the farms, and the individual who did this research in the 1990s donated all four volumes of his research, did a PowerPoint presentation, and actually interviewed 13 of the POWs on tape; so we are trying to get this done professionally because the tapes are starting to deteriorate due to the erosion of time from the past 30 years, which then would be made available to all," Kobierski said.

Jackie Vermette, whose ta-



Jason Amos, president of the Edward Bellamy Memorial Association, holds up Bellamy's famous book, "Looking Backward." The Author Stroll also helped raise awareness and funds for the Edward Bellamy Museum.

ble was adorned in pink, spotlighted her brand that featured hats, bookmarks, tumblers, and at the center, her book "Sweet Caroline and Hotflashes."

Vermette said it was a humorous yet truthful memoir, and one worth telling that many gravitated towards.

"It's a memoir about mid-life, menopause, and all the things that come with this age," Vermette said. "People love the book, they all relate, and we have to keep talking and know that everything is okay, and mid-life is not the end, it's a new chapter."

Kathy Picard is a survivor of childhood abuse, and an advocate for child advocacy, along with a proud animal humanitarian, as her latest novel is a kids' book titled "I Love You Sso Much That..." in honor of her longtime companion, Abby, who passed away last month on Nov. 18, living 15 years.

Every copy is paw-signed, ensuring Abby's legacy is forever enshrined.

Picard also shared that both Teddy and Barbara Hebert, the owners of Teddy Bear Pools, donated to purchase additional copies, which were then handed out to attendees at the stroll.



Thomas John Skarzynski reads from his poetry book, "Echoes of Reflections."

"Abby's book has been read in many schools, such as Szetela, hospitals, and a lot of presentations that I do, so it's about keeping her legacy alive, along with keeping our children healthier and safer, by the words that are in the book," Picard said.

She also discussed the impact of telling her story of be-



Jackie Vermette with her book, "Sweet Caroline and Hotflashes."



A shot of historical pieces from the Chicopee Historical Society.

ing a survivor holds meaning, as also at her table was a copy of her memoir, "Life with My Idiot Family: A True Story of Survival, Courage and Justice Over Childhood Sexual Abuse."

"My husband (Gary) and I wrote my memoir, which helped change the laws in Massachusetts, and I was

the first one to go forward in 2015, and I won my case, so it's letting survivors know to use their voice," Picard said. "I know even if it's an audience of one, that I can help that one person in sharing my story, to let them know it's ok to talk about and don't be ashamed. You're not alone."

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

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/QrceaIP>

• 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.

## Final draft of Hazard Mitigation Plan released

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.

## WREATHS Across AMERICA DAY



Fr. Brad Milunski of St. Stanislaus Basilica leads attendees in prayer.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

### WREATHS from page 1

icated to West Virginia Army National Guard Specialist Sarah Beckstrom, who received a gunshot wound on Nov. 26 while on duty in Washington, D.C. She died the next day, on Nov. 27, Thanksgiving Day.

A moment was also dedicated to Gold Star Families.

In his remarks, Dion reflected on how millions of Americans are gathering across the country "as one nation to remember, honor and teach."

"Lying here before us and in cemeteries throughout this nation are men and women who gave their lives so that we can live in freedom and without fear. We can worship as we see fit. We can raise our children to believe as we do. We are free to vote for the leaders of our choosing. And, we have the right to succeed and we have the right to fail at whatever endeavor we wish to pursue," Dion said. "The United States of America was founded on the ideals of freedom, justice and equality. Our Nation stands as a shining beacon of liberty and freedom to the world. We thank those who gave their lives to keep us free and we shall not forget you. We shall remember."

Dion said, "Now, more than ever, we reflect on our nation's veterans and active duty service members who have had and continue to fight



Specialist E-4 Al Picard is joined by his wife, Terry, as he lays the wreath for the United States Army.

to protect the innocent and oppressed."

"This nation has always been the first to stand up for the freedom of people from around the world. Many of you here today have answered that call and served your country well. For this, we say, 'Thank you' and we are honored to know you," Dion said.

As parishioners placed wreaths on Veterans' graves, Samoylich, the vice president of the Veterans' Appreciation & Support Club, explained he was honored to place the wreath for those who are prisoners of war and missing in action.

"I just always feel, particularly, a soft spot for those who don't get the physical recognition of coming back home or getting to have a proper memorial for them," Samoylich said.

For the Space Force, Gleason said not a lot of people are veterans of that branch. This military branch was established in 2019.

"I step up every year. It's my fourth year doing Space Force, placing the wreath for it," Gleason said.

Samoylich said he joined the club to do more and looked at extracurriculars, being part of it for two years now.

"I felt the Veterans Club really spoke to me in helping our community out and showing support," Samoylich said.

For Gleason, he's been part of the club throughout all four years.

"I found it during orientation freshman year and it felt right to do. Just help out the community, help out the veterans who need help," Gleason said.

The boys were thrilled to see many people come out for the event and give their time to lay the wreaths.

"I just really enjoy the process, seeing everyone together and do something very meaningful, very supportive," Samoylich said.



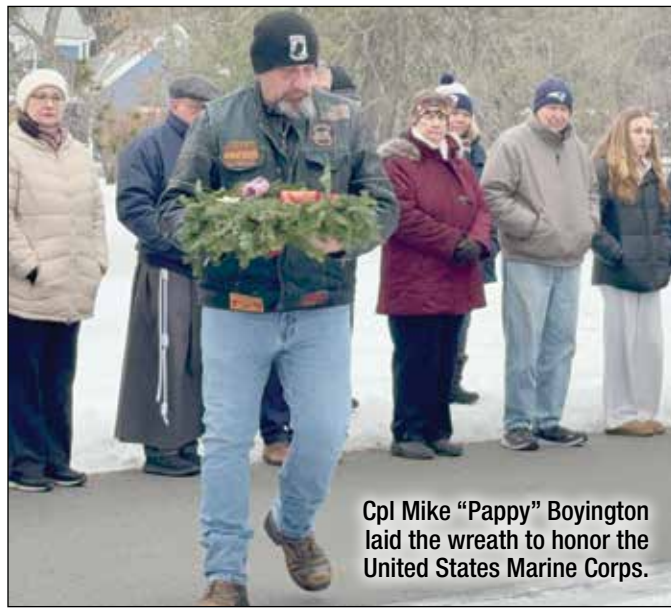
Geoffrey Gleason, a member of the Veterans' Appreciation & Support Club, carries the wreath to honor the Space Force.

"It's very supportive. It's very nice to see everyone show up. Each year, the crowd gets bigger and bigger. It's always nice to see how many people show up and to help out just like we want to help out," Gleason said.

Their message was this.

"Thank you for anyone who came to participate and if this interview's your first time hearing about this, then I'd say there's more events than you think about. There's more things that you can go to and participate, whether it's fundraisers or just showing support," Samoylich said. "The least you can do is, next year, if you can remember it, that around this time we're trying to raise money for wreaths for this event. So, even just buying one or two can be a great way to show your support for the Veterans community."

"It's very helpful and it shows. It's a great appreciation. There's a lot more to do than just place a wreath and buy a wreath. We pick them up, we do many more events than just the Wreaths Across America. So, if you want to help out, there's more we can do than just today," Gleason said.



Cpl Mike "Pappy" Boyington laid the wreath to honor the United States Marine Corps.

### PNA from page 1

of fresh kielbasa donated by Blue Seal Kielbasa, homemade kapusta courtesy of PNA Lodge 711 President Joanne Cebula, and pierogies from an anonymous resident in the city, which garnered unanimous praise from everyone in attendance.

Also among the volunteers were members from the National Honor Society at Minnechaug Regional High School in Wilbraham, along with members of the Wilbraham PNA Lodge 3276, taking part in the festivities.

In addition to families from Chicopee and Wilbraham and Hampden, families from Ludlow and Belcher town and other surrounding communities also were in attendance at the event.

Reflecting on the overall success of the gathering was Teresa Sherman, financial secretary, treasurer, and sales representative for the PNA Lodge 711.

"This event is a great way of getting people together, and we look forward to having the party because I have been coming since I was three years old, and it's



The kids got to do a group photo with Santa.

TURLEY PHOTO BY BRENDAN ROONEY

always been a great memory," Sherman said. "It's also heartwarming to see familiar faces such as my granddaughter, who continues to keep the Polish tradition alive, and it truly means a lot, and she just enjoys volunteering, and we're very happy to have the volunteers from all parts of the community."

Her granddaughter, Alexa, felt it was a full circle moment, as she explained the times of her childhood, going to the party and helping her grandmother any way she could. Also, what this opportunity means to the Minnechaug kids.

"Being here and helping coordinate all elements show-

cases what the values of our school truly embody, which are challenge, honor, adapt, understanding and grow, and it's a great platform to help those in need, while keeping the Christmas Spirit alive," she said.

The biggest takeaway of the afternoon was when good ole St. Nick, Santa Claus, en-

tered the room, to everyone in attendance singing "Jingle Bells," before all the children in attendance lined up for a group photo, and waited patiently for their name to be called.

Mr. Claus then handed out presents, which warmed the hearts of all, before he made it clear he had to get

back to the North Pole, as Christmas was only a few weeks away; however, before he left, he discussed the importance of these events along with shedding some light on what some kids are asking for this holiday season.

"They don't really request a whole lot, and the committee puts packages together for them, along with my elves' supervision, and I want to add that I have never met more polite and engaging young people, and it's just an honor for me to come down from the North Pole every year to do this," he said. "I also want to add that this partnership all started with the Chicopee Rotary Club, and we were honored to give back, and I just want to note that being here gives me a feeling of self-worth."

Also, credit to late Rotarian Gene Krizek who helped the Rotary Club bring along Santa."

The event was a resounding success, exemplifying what the true meaning of the holidays entails: a sense of community, giving back, and keeping societal and family traditions alive and well in an ever-changing reality.

# SPORTS

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Griffin Stefanik sends a puck away from the corner.



Chicopee High's Anthony Bonafilia advances up the ice.



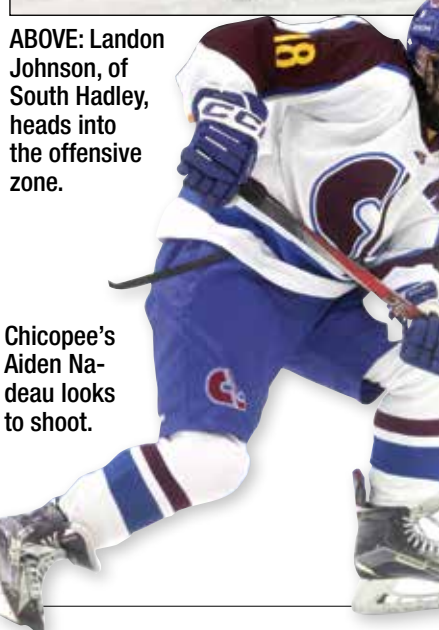
TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI  
Comp's Landyn Klein looks to get a stick on the puck.



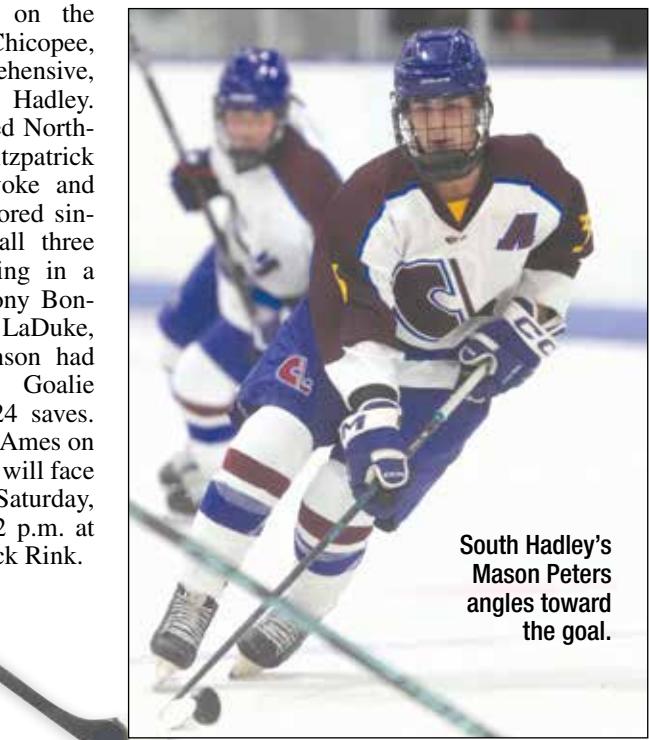
ABOVE: Landon Johnson, of South Hadley, heads into the offensive zone.

## Pacers co-op draws with Northbridge

HOLYOKE – Last Saturday, it was the season opener for the third season of Chicopee's co-op hockey team. This year, players on the team come from Chicopee, Chicopee Comprehensive, Granby, and South Hadley. The Pacers hosted Northbridge at Fitzpatrick Rink in Holyoke and both teams scored single goals in all three periods, resulting in a 3-3 draw. Anthony Bonafilia, Braydon LaDuke, and Landon Johnson had Chicopee's goals. Goalie Carter Gouin had 24 saves. After facing Oliver Ames on the road, Chicopee will face Amherst on Saturday, Dec. 27 at 2 p.m. at Fitzpatrick Rink.



Chicopee's Aiden Nadeau looks to shoot.



South Hadley's Mason Peters angles toward the goal.

## Colts grab win at UMass over Pacers

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

AMHERST—Brody Fay is one of the five seniors listed on the Chicopee Comp boys' varsity basketball roster.

Playing in his fourth game at the annual Pioneer Valley Tip-Off, Fay scored a game-high 23 points leading the Colts to an 86-49 season opening victory over cross-town rival Chicopee High at the UMass Mullins Center, last Friday night.

"We lost in this game last year and we really wanted to beat them this year," Fay said. "It's always a great experience playing a game here. We came out strong and set the tone at the start of tonight's game."

As a freshman, Fay scored 16 points which helped his team defeat the Pacers, 62-57 in the Pioneer Valley Tip-Off. Fay was named the Player of the game in that contest.

The following season, Fay scored 11 points in another victory against the Pacers on the Mullins Center court.

Chicopee High squeaked out a 51-50 win in last year's Tip-off, which the returning Comp players haven't forgotten about.

Comp's other four seniors are Modesto Galindrez, who didn't play in the game, Colby Paul (9 points), Mario Lavertue (2 points), and Francis Jordan (2 points).

"Brody is our only senior who played for the varsity team as a freshman," said Comp head coach Gavin Miller. "He was the Player of the Game as a freshman, and he was selected for the same award in tonight's game. He has worked very hard and is a dedicated basketball player."

Fay, who hasn't made his college decision, was selected as the Player of the game for the second time following this year's contest. He came very close to posting a double-double as he finished with 9 rebounds.

Junior Elijah Kleps accom-

plished the milestone with 13 points and 11 rebounds.

The other two Colts double digit scorers were junior's Xavier Kleps (14 points) and Jacoby Haney (16 points).

Fay and Haney each made three 3-pointers.

Gavin Miller's brother, Jordan, is the Chicopee High head coach.

"The Chicopee High and Comp game is always very special. We're looking forward to playing Comp at the end of the regular season," Jordan Miller said. "It's also special getting to play a game at the Mullins Center."

The Pacers were led offensively by senior Dominic Garcia with 17 points and junior Jabari Flowers with 16 points. No other Chicopee High player scored more than six points in the contest.

Garcia scored the game winning basket in last year's meeting on the home court of the UMass Minutemen.

The only other Chicopee High senior is Rafael Aviles Jr., who didn't score any points.

There wasn't very much drama in the first meeting of this season between the cross-town rivals.

Elijah Kleps scored six points which helped the Colts build a 16-2 lead in the middle of the opening quarter.

The Pacers responded with a 10-3 run. A Garcia lay-up closed the gap to 19-12 in the final seconds of the first quarter.

Comp, who outscored High, 26-16, in the second quarter, headed into the locker room holding a comfortable 46-28 halftime advantage.

The third quarter was evenly played, but the Pacers were still trailing, 62-45 entering the final eight minutes of the contest.

The Colts then put it into cruise control in the fourth quarter, as they outscored the Pacers, 24-4.

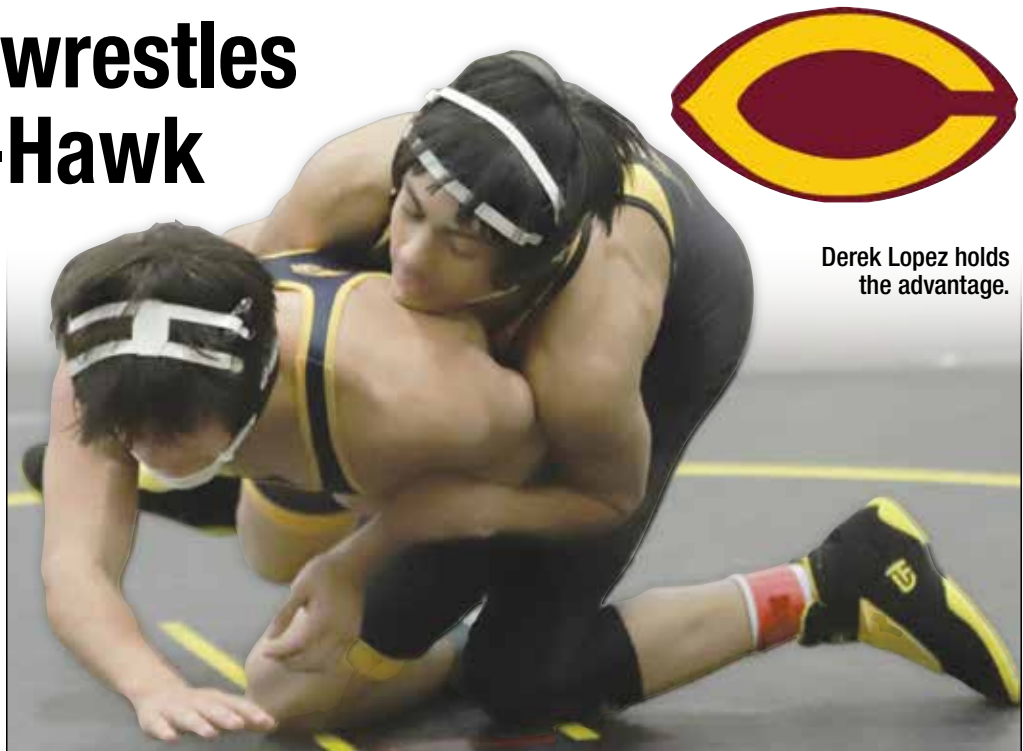
Comp is scheduled to host Chicopee High on February 6.



Fawwaz Aylan locks up in a match.

## Chicopee wrestles at Knight-Hawk

CHICOPEE – Last Saturday, Chicopee wrestling, which is a co-op program featuring Chicopee High and Chicopee Comprehensive, took part in the Knight-Hawk Classic at neighboring Holyoke High School. Chicopee would finish fourth at the meet with 127 points. The big winner for Chicopee was Michael Jenkins, who won the 157 pound bracket. Coming up with a third place finish was Giovanni Moye at 138 pounds, and Peyton Rogers at 190 pounds.



Derek Lopez holds the advantage.



Gavin Costa tackles his opponent.



Giovanni Moye wrestling in a match at 138 pounds.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



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**VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICER POSITION**

The Town of Sturbridge is accepting applications to fill the part-time, 10 hours per week, Veteran' Service Officer position. The position will act as a Veterans' Agent and thus requires all appropriate State and Federal certification. Applications are available on-line on the Town of Sturbridge website under job opportunities. **https://www.sturbridge.gov/your-government/pages/job-opportunities**  
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Find archives of this local newspaper at **www.newspapers.turley.com**

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In observance of **NEW YEAR'S** for Dec. 29-Jan. 2 newspapers there will be an **EARLY CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE!** Place your advertisement no later than **Thurs., Dec. 26 at 3 p.m.**  
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## PUBLIC NOTICES

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
SALE OF REAL ESTATE  
UNDER M.G.L. c. 183A, §6  
AND M.G.L. c. 254, §5  
AND §5A  
UNIT 6026C, DOVERBROOK  
ESTATES CONDOMINIUM  
70 GREENWOOD  
TERRACE,  
CHICOPEE,  
MASSACHUSETTS**

By virtue of Judgment of the Chicopee District Court (Civil Docket No. 2320CV000243) in favor of the DOVERBROOK ESTATES CONDOMINIUM against MICHAEL J. AXTON establishing a lien pursuant to M.G.L. c. 183A, §6 on the real estate known as 70 Greenwood Terrace, Unit 6026C, in the Doverbrook Estates Condominium, for the purpose of satisfying such lien, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 254, §5 and §5A, the real estate be sold at Public Auction at **11:00 O'CLOCK A.M. on the 20TH DAY OF JANUARY, A.D. 2026** at the premises located at 70 Greenwood Terrace, Unit 6026C, Chicopee, Massachusetts. The premise to be sold is more particularly described as follows:

All that certain parcel of land situated in Chicopee, Hampden County, Massachusetts, more particularly described in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

As per M.G.L. Chapter 188, sect.13, the Grantor, under oath and subject to the pains and penalties of perjury, does hereby depose, state and certify that: (i) I release all rights of Homestead in the subject realty, (ii) that no spouse, non-owner spouse, former spouse, or any other person resides in the home, and (iii) at the time of delivery of this deed, no spouse, former spouse, or any other person is entitled to claim the benefit of an existing estate of homestead.

Being the same premises conveyed to the grantor by deed dated November 2, 2010, recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds, Book 18531, Page 33.

**EXHIBIT "A"**

The Unit 6026C contains 871 square feet of building area, more or less, and is laid out as shown on the Unit Plan attached hereto and recorded herewith, which Unit Plan is a copy of a portion of the plans recorded with the Master Deed. A verified statement in the form provided for in Section 9, Chapter 183A, of the General Laws of Massachusetts, is attached to such Unit Plan.

The Unit is conveyed together with a 0.1621917% undivided interest (subject to adjustment in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Master Deed) in the Common Areas and Facilities as defined and described in the Master Deed. The Unit is subject to and has the benefit of all applicable provisions contained in the Master Deed (including the provisions granting exclusive use rights), and in the Declaration of Trust (including by-Laws) of the Doverbrook Estates Condominium Trust dated December 3, 1982 and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds, Book 5351, Page 220, and the rules and regulations from time to time adopted thereunder by said Trust, including without limitation the provisions for assessment of common expenses.

The Unit is also conveyed together with an exclusive right to use: (a) the parking space assigned to the Unit in Exhibit B to the Master Deed and shown on the Site Plan recorded with the Master Deed; (b) the garden area adjacent to the Unit as shown on the Site Plan; and (c) the storage area, if any, assigned to the Unit in Exhibit B to the Master Deed and shown on the Site Plan.

Except as otherwise provided in paragraph 8 of the Master Deed, the Unit is intended to be used for residential purposes. The Unit is subject to the restrictions on use contained in paragraph 9 of the Master Deed, which are incorporated by reference.

The Grantee is acquiring the Unit with the benefit of, and subject to the provisions of Chapter 183A of the General Laws of Massachusetts relating to condominiums, as that Statute is written as the date hereof, and as it may in the future be amended.

Grantee, for Grantee and Grantee's successors and assigns, as owners of the Unit, by executing and accepting this Deed, hereby appoints and constitutes Grantor, and Grantor's successors and assigns, as Grantee's true and lawful attorney-in-fact with full power coupled with an interest which cannot be revoked, to vote for, execute, acknowledge, deliver and record (i) one or more amendments to the Master Deed, pursuant to paragraph 12 thereof, for the purpose of adding additional phases to the Condominium (ii) one or more amendments to the Master Deed, and deeds, easements or other instruments, pursuant to paragraph 14 of the Master Deed, for the purpose of dedicating streets within the Condominium, in whole or in part, as public ways; and (iii) one or more amendments to the Master Deed, and deeds, easements or other instruments, pursuant to paragraph 4 of the Master Deed, for the purpose of conveying a parcel of land within the Condominium to the City of Chicopee as war memorial.

Being the same premises conveyed by Quitclaim Deed from Doris I. Hebert and William V. Guiel, Jr. to Michael J. Axton dated January 26, 2022 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 24375, Page 343.

Said Unit is subject to any/all and all covenants, easements, encroachments, conditions, restrictions and agreements effecting the unit whether recorded or unrecorded.

**TERMS:** A deposit payable in cash or certified bank check or money order of \$5,000.00 shall be payable at the Auction and the balance of the payment shall be payable by cash, certified bank check, money order or wired funds within thirty (30) days of the Auction.

Other terms to be announced at the sale, including a minimum bid and the right to reject all bids if none are acceptable.

**DOVERBROOK ESTATES CONDOMINIUM**  
By Its Attorney,

Dated: December 9, 2025

Gina M. Desrochers  
(BBO #681910)  
Perkins & Ancil, P.C.  
6 Lyberty Way, Suite 201  
Westford, MA 01886  
(978) 496-2000  
gdesrochers@perkinslawpc.com  
12/19, 12/26/2025, 01/02/2026

**CITY OF CHICOPEE  
ELECTRIC LIGHT  
LEGAL NOTICE**

Chicopee Electric Light is updating its rate tariffs effective January 1, 2026 as detailed below. The changes in the rates will more accurately represent CEL's costs to provide distribution, transmission and generation services to its customers while ensuring the necessary resources to provide reliable, high quality service. For updates, please refer to the rate section on Chicopee Electric Lights website at [celd.com/electric-service-rates](http://celd.com/electric-service-rates). Tariffs being modified are listed with their updated M.D.P.U numbers as follows:

M.D.P.U. No. 146 – Battery Energy Storage System Station Service

M.D.P.U. No. 147 – Industrial M.D.P.U. No. 148 – Large General Service

M.D.P.U. No. 149 – Large General Service – Off Peak Heating and Water Heating Service

M.D.P.U. No. 150 – Small General Service

M.D.P.U. No. 151 – Small General Service – Off Peak Heating and Water Heating Service

M.D.P.U. No. 152 – Residential Service

M.D.P.U. No. 153 – Residential Service – Off Peak Heating and Water Heating Service

M.D.P.U. No. 154 – Security and Contract Lighting

**Filed – December 15, 2025**  
City of Chicopee Municipal Lighting Plant  
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Chicopee, Massachusetts 01020  
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<http://www.celd.com>  
12/19/2025

**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.  
HD24P0392EA**

**Estate of:  
Helen Victoria Ciejek  
Date of Death: 08/27/2023  
CITATION ON  
PETITION FOR  
ORDER OF COMPLETE  
SETTLEMENT**

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by **Daniel S. Ciejek of Castle Rock, CO** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, a determination of testacy and heirs at law and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/20/2026.**

**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.**

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

Date: December 17, 2025  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
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 January 2nd 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.

2015 Honda Civic  
VIN: 19XFB2F76FE259175  
Alica Ashe  
73 Broad Reach Unit T84C

Weymouth, MA 02191

2009 Mercedes Benz M1350  
VIN: 4JGBB86E79A445097  
Howard Heckstall  
88 Cross St. Bsmt  
Southbridge, MA 01550

2014 Volkswagen Jetta  
VIN: 3VW637AJ3EM331688  
Brittany Dulude  
26 James St.  
East Longmeadow, MA

2014 Mercedes Cla 250  
VIN: WDDSJ4GB3EN146638  
Adrian Velez Cotto  
50 Lawndale St.  
Chicopee, Ma 01020

2010 Nissan Sentra  
vin: 3n1ab6ap8al620972  
Jonathon Acevedo  
385 Water St.  
Indian Orchard, MA 01151

Transpro Tank  
VIN: LLPTGLHE4S1850365  
Angel Toledo  
5 Worcester Pl., Apt. 3  
Holyoke, MA 01040

2013 Nissan Altima  
VIN: 1N4AL3APXDN440346  
Hector Preez  
20 Clinton Ave.  
Westfield, MA 01085

2006 Ford Focus  
VIN: 1FAPP34N76W201547  
Katheleen Greenwood  
89 Coleman St., Apt. 834  
West Haven, CT 06516

12/19, 12/26/2025, 01/02/2026

**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: 1GYEE637460172196  
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 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  
HZ2TCDM43S1006043  
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  
1FMCU94183K85298  
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.  
HD25P2558EA**

**Estate of:  
BRIAN R ORMSBY  
Date of Death:  
NOVEMBER 14, 2025  
INFORMAL PROBATE  
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **KRISTEN L LABONTE** of **CHICOPEE, MA**.

**KRISTEN L LABONTE** 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.

12/19/2025

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No.  
HD18P1917GD**

**In the Interests of:  
Manuel E Pichirilo, Jr.  
Of: Chicopee, MA  
RESPONDENT  
Incapacitated Person/  
Protected Person  
CITATION GIVING NOTICE  
OF PETITION FOR  
RESIGNATION OF A  
GUARDIAN OF AN  
INCAPACITATED  
PERSON**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Daisy Lastra of Chicopee, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court:

Accept the Resignation of the Guardian of the Respondent.

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the Guardian and/or Conservator should be allowed to resign; or should be removed for good cause; or that the Guardianship and/or Conservatorship is no longer necessary and therefore should be terminated. The original petition is on file with the court.

**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **01/09/2026**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

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

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

Date: December 11, 2025  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate

12/19/2025

**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.**

*Chicopee Register*  
**OBITUARY POLICY**

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

*Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*

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- 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)**

# DL&G TREE

Tree Removal



Structural Pruning



Crane Service



Storm Damage



Stump Grinding



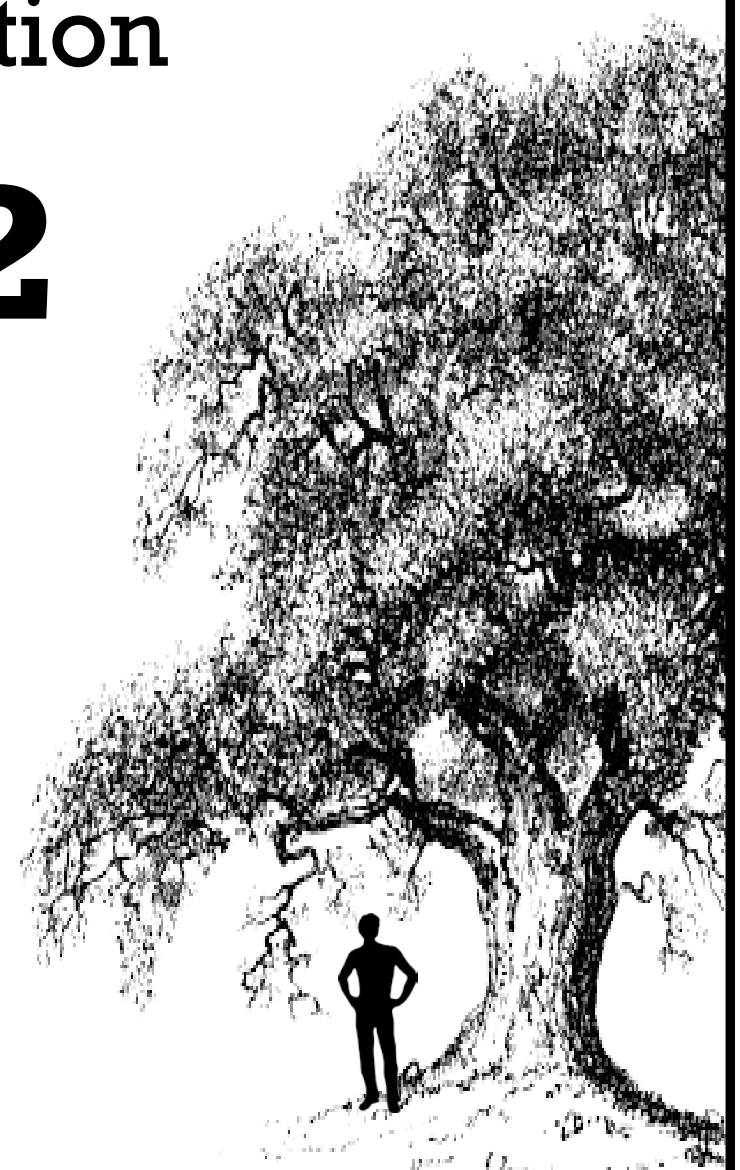
Lot Clearing



Give us a call for your free estimate and tree evaluation

**413-478-4212**

# DL&G TREE



**INSURED AND CERTIFIED**