

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

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

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

Registration is required.

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

Afterward, everyone comes together for an early dinner.

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

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

Angelo stressed how "caregivers



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

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

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

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

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

learned through interactive demonstrations led by Lavoie.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bucalo encourages residents to check out Memory Connections.

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

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

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

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

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

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

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

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

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

The November 29, 2023 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. Zoom credentials are available upon request by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM - 5 PM or by email at [aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov](mailto:aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov).

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>. You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email [aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov](mailto:aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov). 11/10, 11/17/2023

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

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

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

**Kayla Elizabeth Ashley**  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/08/2023.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

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

Date: November 10, 2023

**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
11/17/2023

### INVITATION FOR BID CHICOPEE ELECTRIC LIGHT

**725 FRONT STREET, CHICOPEE, MA 01020 BID NO. CEL 23-0508**

**ISSUE DATE: November 10, 2023**

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

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

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

### BIDS.

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

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

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

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

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

BID NUMBER: CEL 23-0508

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

Natalie A. Colberg, Purchasing  
11/17/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758

Docket No. HD23C0330CA  
In the matter of: **Teanna Yvette Cody**  
**CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**  
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed

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

**Teanna Yvette Rodriguez**  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/05/2023.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

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

Date: November 07, 2023

**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
11/17/2023

### INVITATION FOR BID CHICOPEE ELECTRIC LIGHT

**725 FRONT STREET, CHICOPEE, MA 01020 BID NO. CEL 23-0509**

**ISSUE DATE: November 10, 2023**

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

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

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

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

The Vendor/Contractor

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

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

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

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

**BID NUMBER: CEL 23-0509**

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

Natalie Colberg, Purchasing  
11/17/2023

### SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

**Under G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A**

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on November 24, 2023, at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2002 Toyota Camry Soara Se  
VIN: 2T1CE22P12C014468  
John Renaud  
8E Townhouse Rd  
Broad Brook, CT 06016

2006 Honda Accord  
VIN: 1HGCM56436A055071  
Raymond Grabiec  
109 Honey Pot Rd.  
Hadley, MA 01035

2002 Honda Accord  
VIN: 1HGCG225X2A018999  
Jean Jones  
3056 39th St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53210  
10/27 11/03, 11/10, 11/17/2023

### SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES UNDER G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on November 22, 2023, at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2001 Saturn L200  
VIN: 1G8JU52F81Y573457  
Hennesie Cruz  
112 Tokeneke Rd  
Holyoke, MA 01040

2003 Honda Pilot  
VIN: 2HKYF18513H557949  
Halilu Daraja  
19 Moseley Ave  
West Springfield, MA 01089

2007 Honda Ridgeline  
VIN: 2HJYK16207H538341  
Rozeley Fernando Patricio Neto  
49 Hosmer St Apt 1  
Everett, MA 02149

2011 Ford Fusion  
VIN: 3FAHPOHA6BR295433  
Emely Ramirez  
21 Worcester Pl Apt 3  
Holyoke, MA 01040

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