

- **legals** -

TOWN OF NORTH BROOKFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Brookfield Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing to consider a petition to locate poles, wires, cables, and fixtures, including the necessary anchors, guys, and other such sustaining and protecting fixtures, brought before it by Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc **Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 6:15 PM** at the North Brookfield Police Department, 55 School Street, North Brookfield, MA 01535.

The pole location that will be

considered is as follows:
Green Rd – National Grid to install 1 JO Pole on Green Rd beginning at a point approximately 1,135’ feet south of the centerline of the intersection of Ward St. Install Stub Pole # 81-84 and anchor, across the street from existing P81 Green Rd.

Said hearing will begin at 6:15 PM and continue until completion, and will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 166.

Jason M Petraitis, Chairman
Jamie Gilman
Ralph Kay

02/06, 02/13/2026

Local students named to WNEU President’s List

SPRINGFIELD – Western New England University takes immense pride in recognizing the outstanding academic achievements of nearly 600 students who have been named to the President’s List for the fall 2025 semester.

Local students include Gabriel Paquette, Ariana Masterjohn,

Thomas Robidoux and Matthew Tiberii, all of West Brookfield; Alexis Kaloudis of Brookfield; Shyra McWhorter of North Brookfield; and Kallie Laflamme of Sturbridge.

Students are named to the President’s List for achieving a semester grade point average of 3.80 or higher.

- **community** -

WATERSHED FROM PAGE 1

rivers and began to lay out two paddling trails. Things were progressing.

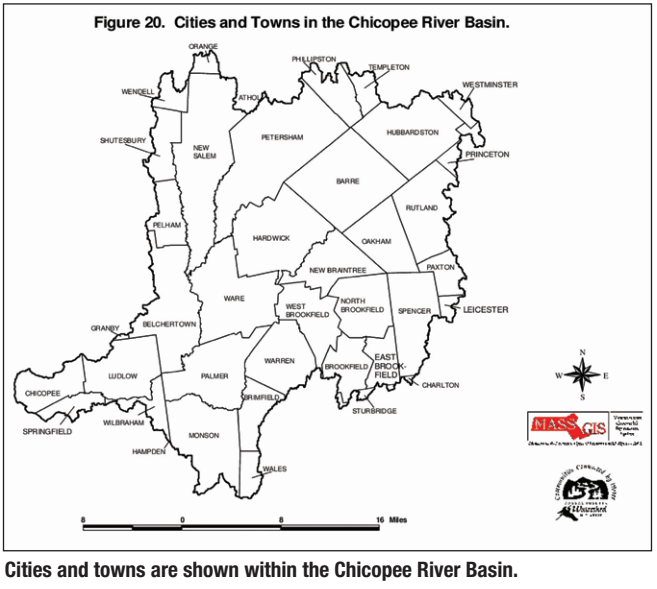
C4R has sampled up to 25 sites and has developed two more Blue Trails. Yet to continue to serve, it needs help.

Then we hit some bumps: COVID stemmed momentum, how people volunteer and commit to things have

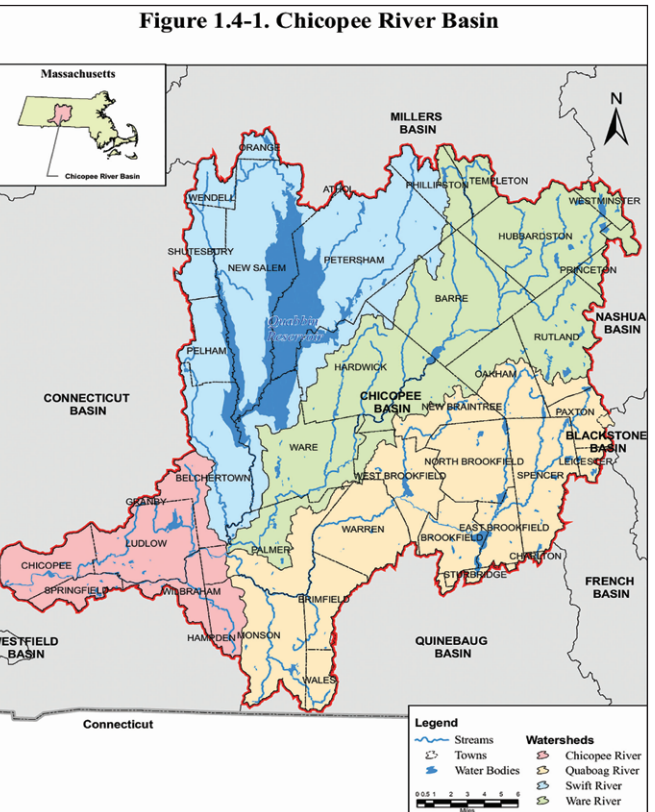
changed and we have found it more difficult to continue progress. The hope of maintaining C4R as a voice for the watershed and rivers has dimmed.

So, 2026 is a new watershed moment! Which way things tip will depend on if new and younger people step forward.

Over the next two issues, we will share C4R stories and hopes to help people see



Cities and towns are shown within the Chicopee River Basin.



This map shows the Chicopee River Basin.

PIONEERS FROM PAGE 7

to Wing Hospital.

“The varsity and J.V teams normally practice together,” Rocker said. “The players were very emotional when Abees was injured because the other players really care about their teammate. Abees is a swing player for us and it’s an unfortunate injury.”

Because of the long delay, the j.v. game ended at halftime, which allowed the varsity contest to start on time.

Rocker decided to make a couple of changes to the starting lineup.

Stapleton, along with sophomore Liam Mckee, and eighth grader T.J. Smola made their first career starts in a varsity game.

“Chris is a senior and I wanted to give him the opportunity to start a game,” Rocker said. “I’ve also seen some good things from Liam and T.J. at practice. I wanted to see what they could do at



Ian Squi Nieves attempts the layup under pressure.

the start of the game.”

Doherty and junior Taydem Haley, who are normally starters for the Panthers led the way offensively.

Doherty scored 14 of his game-high 18 points during

the second half. Haley scored 14 points, which gave him a total of 937 career points.

Sophomore Cassian Kowalik (16 points) and junior Cayden Bousquet (16 points) combined to score 32 of the Panthers 41 points. No other Pathfinder player scored more than four points.

A Haley foul-line jumper gave Palmer a 3-0 lead with 6:30 left in the opening quarter before the Pioneers put together an impressive 14-2 run.

Kowalik and Bousquet scored five points apiece during that span. Sophomore Grayson Griswold (4 points) added a lay-up and sophomore Maddox Baer buried a jumper, which was his only points of the game.

Santos, Fredette (9 points), and Gavin Smola (5 points), who are the Panthers other three normal starters, were on the court at the start of the second quarter, along with Haley and

Doherty.

The Panthers outscored the Pioneers, 18-9, during the second stanza and the contest was tied 23-23 at halftime.

After outscoring Pathfinder, 10-6, in a low scoring third quarter, Palmer entered the final eight minutes with a slim 33-29 lead.

A Bousquet lay-up closed the gap to 33-31 with 7:35 left in regulation.

With 4:28 remaining on the scoreboard clock, the Panthers built a 42-36 lead following a Doherty old fashion three point play.

The home team responded with a lay-up and put-back hoop by Kowalik making it a two point game again.

A minute later, Fredette made an inside hoop, and Doherty hit a short jumper, which helped the Panthers pull away down the stretch. They sealed the victory by making four of six shots from the free throw line.

SOCIAL SECURITY I FROM PAGE 4

for inflation) to calculate your “Primary Insurance Amount” or “PIA,” which is what you get if you claim benefits to start at your Social Security full retirement age. If, after your military service, you had 35 or more years of earnings which were higher than your earnings while serving in the military, Social Security would have used your later higher earning years to calculate your benefit, and your military earnings would not have had an effect on your Social Security benefit. However, if any of your military earnings including the “special extra credits” were among the highest over your lifetime, then those higher military earnings would be included when calculating your Social Security benefit.

So, whether you would benefit from these “special extra credits for military service” depends largely on your earnings history after you were discharged from active duty. If your military earnings were among the highest earning years over your lifetime, and you provided SSA with a copy of your DD-214 when you applied for Social Security, then your current SS benefit already includes consideration of your military service. FYI, Social Security

ty should have asked about your military service when you applied. If you didn’t tell SS about your military service when you applied for Social Security, or if you aren’t sure, you should contact the SSA at 1.800-772-1213 and ask if you were given those “special extra credits for military service” for your 1960s military service years when you applied for Social Security. But if you had at least 35 years of higher earnings after you left military service, your current SS benefit is already based on those later higher earning years, and you will not get any additional Social Security benefit because of the “special extra credits” for your military service years.

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 or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

T-BIRDS FROM PAGE 7

the night, failing to connect on a three-minute power play from the remnants of Smith’s penalty time. Despite outshooting Toronto 15-5 in the period, the T-Birds’ deficit grew as Logan Shaw and Michael Pezzetta each beat Zherenko just 1:22 apart, and with just over five minutes left

in the first, it was 3-0, and Georgi Romanov was summoned to replace Zherenko in the net.

Romanov more than did his part as the game moved to the second, as Romanov denied 14 Toronto offerings in the period and helped Springfield kill off a Marlie power play in the process.

After nearly 120 minutes without a goal, for-

mer Marlie Calle Rosen finally got Springfield on the scoresheet with just 10 seconds left in the period, as he sneaked down the left wing and slammed a shot through Artur Akhtyamov on Springfield’s 26th shot of the night to make it a 3-1 game into intermission.

However, the T-Birds did not have any offensive juice left in the tank in the

third, and Romanov finally relented a power-play goal to Luke Haymes past the midpoint of the third, which restored Toronto’s three-goal advantage, 4-1. Romanov finished his terrific night in relief with 26 saves on 27 shots. Bo Groulx would add an empty-netter with the T-Birds skating 5-on-4 with the extra skater to round out the scoring.

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