

Chicopee Register

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COMMUNITY

Grads receive Rotary Club Scholarship

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE – Three recent high school graduates received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Rotary Club of Chicopee.

The students are Chicopee Comprehensive High School graduates Gianna Sleeper and Hannah O’Neil and Chicopee High School graduate Samantha Walsh.

Sleeper was presented with her scholarship during the Rotary Club’s June 10 meeting, while O’Neil and Walsh received theirs on June 19 at the Panera Bread on Memorial Drive in Chicopee by Rotary Club Co-President John Arthur.

Sleeper will be attending Quinnipiac University to pursue their business school, O’Neil will be going to Springfield College to major in occupational therapy and minor in art therapy and Walsh is heading to the University of Vermont to major in wildlife and fisheries biology.

Sleeper expressed excitement in receiving the scholarship, having heard about the scholarship when it was posted at Comp and learning she passed all qualifications to apply.

“I’m super excited and so grateful that I was given this



CCHS Graduate Gianna Sleeper poses for a group photo with members of the Rotary Club of Chicopee after receiving this year's Rotary Club Scholarship.

opportunity to apply and that I won this money for college,” Sleeper said.

Reflecting on her essay, Sleeper said she focused on her internship at Polish National Credit Union, which inspired her to pursue business in college.

“I wrote this because obviously college is so much money and I wrote my essay about how--actually--my internship at Polish National, how much it impacted me and made me really want to go

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CCHS Graduate Samantha Walsh, Rotary Club of Chicopee Co-President John Arthur and CCHS Graduate Hannah O’Neil in a group photo after receiving this year's Rotary Club Scholarship.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

COMMUNITY

City Council approves FY26 school budget

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – The City Council approved the FY26 budget for the city on June 26, in a swift unanimous vote with the value totaling \$276,259,599.78, with a magnified focus on the public school budget being at the center, with an appropriated number of \$131,601,452 being recognized as “a 6 million dollar increase from last year,” according to comments from Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware.

Ware mentioned that the rise in cost was due to a variety of factors such as the increase of city costs, insurance spikes, along with the acknowledgment of ongoing contract negotiations between the CEA and UFCW unions, but did confirm one settlement has been reached with clerks as other units remain in constant communication.

Assisting with the budget was John Miarecki,

Chicopee Public Schools director of budget and finance, who relayed to the City Council that the FY26 School Budget went through about 9 versions until all sides felt it was up to code and deemed fit for presentation to the committee.

Miarecki explained that the latest budget can best be described as ‘needs-based’ with two points of significant focus being addressed—such as the staggering amount of vacancies—but clarified he and Ware found a way to fill the holes and distribute that wealth to ensure they are hiring candidates in the positions they require, along with the confession of tracking low-income numbers.

“Our Chapter 70 currently, as of our FY25 budget, we are at 70.5% low income, within the city of Chicopee for our students,” Miarecki said. “And that is on the threshold of going

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COMMUNITY

CPL hosts Summer Reading Kickoff Party

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – On June 23, the library hosted their Summer Reading Kickoff Party in the theme of fantasy faire.

This party provided opportunities for children to sign up for the library’s Summer Reading Challenge, do a walking storybook and try out archery. The event also collaborated with Project Bread and ChicopeeFRESH to provide families with information about their summer meal resources.

Youth Services Coordinator Erin Daly shared why she believes free events like this are so important during summertime for both children and their caregivers.

“Everybody’s out of school and they need stuff to do. So, we want to provide them with fun and variety and opportunities to learn things and opportunities to just play and hang out,” Daly said.

Youth Services Associate Beth Oliveira was helping children on a super fun archery adventure. She shared with us why she believes these events are great for kids during the summer.

“School’s out, so that’s a big chunk of time where they’re not there. And this is a way to extend that. Like, get them excited about reading and

Rapunzel from A Moment of Magic spreading fun and joy at the Summer Reading Kickoff Party.

like doing activities and programs,” Oliveira said.

“So, we hold our kickoff parties together. There’s is for their summer reading and ours is for our free summer meals. We’re handing out schedules this year,” Food Service Clerk Bri Jackson said

Chicopee’s Summer Eats program provides free meals for all kids and teens age 18 and under from June 24 to Aug. 15. No registration or I.D. is required, and all meals must be eaten onsite. While ChicopeeFRESH was spreading the word about their program



by handing out schedules and talking with attendees, Project Bread provided free meals from their food truck for party attendees.

Teen Librarian Brent Tenerowicz shared why he believes the Summer Eats program is such a great resource for the community.

“I think it’s so important to have them at every event that we can because they are such a wonderful community resource. And in the summer in particular, I think it is extra valuable because they do provide free summer meals to kids. And there are a lot of families who depend on the school meals to get a good lunch,” Tenerowicz said. “So, during the summer, ChicopeeFRESH is able to provide free healthy meals to everyone in the community, it’s great, and by having them here at the kickoff event we can help them spread the word that they’ll be around in the city and also even just at the library every weekday to give out lunches.”

The festivities of the day included both outdoor and indoor activities for attendees to enjoy. Outside, meanwhile, Oliveira ran the archery adventure, Project Bread provided free meals, ChicopeeFRESH spread the word on the Summer Eats program and kids had the option to do a walking story book. Attendees could also meet and take a picture with Rapunzel from A Moment of Magic.

Volunteer Micheal Massa talked about A Moment of Magic.

“We’re a nonprofit organization that goes to hospitals, group homes, events such as these to provide enriching activities and interactions for kids who could really benefit from it,” Mas-

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TURLEY PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

COMMUNITY

McKinstry Intersection receives \$100K for traffic mitigation, safety improvements

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE – The intersection of McKinstry Avenue and Chicopee Street has received a \$100,000 grant to address traffic mitigation and safety improvements.

The announcement was shared in a June 16 press conference outside the former Cavalier Restaurant with remarks from Mayor John Vieau, State Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield), State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow), City Council President/Councilor-at-Large Frank Laflamme and Ward 3 City Councilor Susan Goff.

The grant was secured through Gomez’s office to start a safety improvement

project for the intersection.

Vieau said the egress “in and out of Willimansett is right here” and the intersection connects with Aldenville and the city’s other villages.

“The reason why we’re here is because of the pre-existing building right now and the line-of-sight issue that it creates when you’re traveling north on Chicopee Street. So, standing behind me, you come up McKinstry and the line-of-sight that you see on this bend make it very uncomfortable pulling out as cars are coming towards you,” Vieau said.

He added, “There’s been a lot of reported accidents at this intersection,” and the city has been “trying for years to finally try to get some type of resolve here.”

“In the past with the current guidelines set by private

highway, it wasn’t warranted to put any type of signal or traffic light because I was asked many times, brought it to them,” Vieau said. “But, when you take a look at the accident reports and also take a look at the issue of line-of-sight that I described, we are very confident and comfortable to say that we’re hopeful DOT along with our city engineers will embrace the fact that there needs to be some type of mitigation--traffic mitigation done there--and hopefully that will resolve in a traffic signal and it will definitely safen this neighborhood.”

Other significant changes in the area Vieau shared are significant upgrades to the northern side of Chicopee Street, the city receiving the

See **SAFETY** page 6



A board shows a full scope of the intersection of McKinstry Avenue and Chicopee Street in Chicopee, which received a \$100,000 earmark from the state on June 16 for traffic mitigation and safety improvements.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

IN THE CITY

Project Lifesaver program launches in Chicopee

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE – The Project Lifesaver program, an initiative to help protect residents with cognitive conditions who are at risk of wandering or getting lost, has been officially launched in Chicopee.

The announcement was shared during a press conference held at City Hall Auditorium on June 11 with remarks from Mayor John Vieau, Fire Chief Daniel Stamborski, Police Capt. Holly Cote on behalf of Chief Patrick Major, Lt. Deputy Greg Moss of the Hampden County Sheriff's Department and Deputy Elizabeth Rodrigues.

Members of the fire and police departments were also recognized with certificates after completing training to use the Project LifeSaver technology, which consists of lightweight, easy-to-use transmitters enabling first responders to locate individuals quickly through state-of-the-art receivers.

Project Lifesaver is a program under the Hampden County TRIAD program utilizing technology and rapid-response teams to assist individuals with autism, Alzheimer's, dementia or other cognitive conditions safely return home--and quickly--if they go missing.

In September 2024, VCare Medical Group also donated \$5,000 to the city to fund the equipment along with membership from the Hampden County Sheriff's Office.

Anyone interested in learning more can contact the Hampden County Sheriff's

Office at 627 Randall Road, Ludlow, MA 01056, or call 413-858-0060.

It's also free of charge.

Vieau explained Sheriff Nick Cocchi "has been nothing but an amazing partner to the city of Chicopee for many years and it's something that we want to continue to grow that wonderful relationship on protecting our community."

He also thanked VCare and Sergey Sokolovsky, CEO of VMG of Chicopee & Holyoke, for their support in helping the city get the equipment.

"This was brought to us just over a year ago as this wonderful way to help those people who may be nonverbal, who may be suffering from Alzheimer's or, frankly, any age group. Some of whom could, potentially be lost," Vieau said. "With this amazing technology, we'd be able to hopefully find them and bring them back to their loved ones as quickly as possible and that's really what Project Lifesaver is all about."

Stamborski commended the effort by the Sheriff's Department in reaching out to the fire department and its members to get them involved, saying the department looks forward to implementing the new program.

"As early as this morning, I was watching the news and an elderly gentleman missing in Springfield--right?--and you can imagine the turmoil going through this family's mind, 'Where is he? Where can we find him?'" Stamborski said. "But, this technology, I think, we're going to be able to do a lot of good."

Cote also expressed excitement about the technology

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Hampden County Sheriff's Office Lt. Deputy Greg Moss demonstrates the bracelets through the Project Lifesaver program.



Fire Chief Daniel Stamborski shares how members of the fire department took part in the training for Project Lifesaver.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS
Mayor John Vieau explains how Project Lifesaver will help individuals and support family members and caregivers in Chicopee.



Hampden County Sheriff's Office Deputy Elizabeth Rodrigues showcases the technology first responders use to track those wearing the Project Lifesaver bracelets, with Lt. Deputy Greg Moss explaining the technology



Police Capt. Holly Cote expresses support for Project Lifesaver on behalf of the police department.



A group photo with members of the Hampden County Sheriff's Office, the Chicopee Fire and Police Departments, Mayor John Vieau and staff from VCare Medical Group

RiverMills hosts 'The History of Emancipation & Juneteenth' presentation

By Elise Lyons
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – On June 16, a "The History of Emancipation & Juneteenth" presentation was hosted at the senior center.

The presentation was given by local historian Christopher Daley, who spoke to participants about the history of Juneteenth—a holiday made in celebration of the emancipation of the last slaves in Galveston, Texas in 1865, marking the end of slavery in the United States. Daley's presentation covered the vast history surrounding the holiday, from the start of slavery in America, to the Abolitionist movement, the American Civil War, the Civil Rights movement, and many other events spanning all the way to its official recognition as a federal holiday in 2021, where it had previously been a holiday celebrated only African-American culture for generations prior.

After his presentation, Daley elaborated more upon his career and what led him to do community lectures.

"[My career] started over thirty years ago as kind of a side gig," Daley said. "I started doing this initially as a way to make myself look good on paper to get a teaching job; I started giving lectures at historical societies and it became a good way to make a little extra money, and I also loved just talking to people outside the school framework."

Daley went on to discuss his passion when it comes to giving lectures to the public about history.

"I love presenting and I love what you just saw there, with those people who were really interested and they had a lot of questions, and sometimes I learn a lot—like that one gentleman in the back brought a lot to the discussion, so I really like that," Daley said. "[W]hat I hope to get out of it is just what you saw here: a lot of people

came in, they knew a little bit about things and then they walked away a little bit more informed about Juneteenth, about emancipation."

When asked for his view on Juneteenth and its significance, Daley said this.

"Like I said, Henry Louis Gates said that any holiday that celebrates freedom in America should be celebrated. And initially, when I heard about it, I knew [Juneteenth] was like [a] Texas [holiday], so I didn't understand [why it had become federally recognized], but when you talk about when The Great Migration [occurred], it spread to [and became celebrated in many] other states. [The government] decided, because these were the last enslaved people to be freed at the end of the Civil War [and because] that was a big thing, that [Juneteenth] should be celebrated as a holiday," Daley said. "I think a lot of people up North had no idea what it was— they didn't hear

about it— so now they know more than, 'It's just the end of slavery in Texas.' [T]hey can see how it's spread and what the meaning of the holiday is. [T]here were many other holidays, but this is the one that still exists."

Later, Daley gave his thoughts on the best ways for members of the community to learn more about both Juneteenth and history as a whole.

"I was a teacher and I'm critical of the way history is taught today because you just get a lot of information and you can't get deep into things," Daley said. "I'd like the folks in Chicopee to know that something like this is your chance to go down deeper into something that you might know a little about. [T]here are programs all over Massachusetts like that, where you have people like me giving talks on something that might've been a footnote in your textbook, but now you realize how much more deep the subject is. Now we have

the Internet and you can find books and things on a specific thing that you like. (I) think that's a better way to teach history, although you don't cover everything."

In his closing statements, the historian left a final comment on the importance of doing research into history as a whole, not only for the sake of interest, but for being more informed as we move through the world.

"The thing we learn from history is we don't learn from history; we keep making the same mistakes. I'll see people on TV talking about historical things and they really don't know what they're talking about; they know a little bit, but they don't really have the background," Daley said. "You have to have the big picture about things; you have to know where these things came from. And I used to tell my students that it's like when you take dominos, and line them up and hit one; it's just a series of events that

caused the outcome and if you know what happened with the last four dominos, that really doesn't tell you what happened to the rest."

To learn more about upcoming events at the senior center, call 413-534-3698 or check out their monthly newsletter.



TURLEY PHOTO BY ELISE LYONS
Christopher Daley, local historian, gives his lecture on the history of Juneteenth and its deeply-rooted history in America, its first celebration dating back to June 19, 1866.

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IN THE CITY

Chicopee celebrates the Fourth of July with fireworks

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE – The community celebrated the coming Fourth of July holiday with a fireworks display at Szot Park on June 29.

The celebration of America’s birthday also included vendors, games and more for residents and families to enjoy.

The fireworks were hosted by the city’s Parks and Recreation Department, who also sponsored them.

This year’s sponsors were Chicopee Electric Light, Florence Bank, PeoplesBank, Republic Services, Teddy Bear Pools & Spas, Center for Martial Arts and Fitness, Westfield Bank, the City of Chicopee’s Facilities Department, WWLP 22 News, Western Mass News and MassLive.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS



Juvenile arrested, charged with murder

SPRINGFIELD – A juvenile has been arrested in connection to a homicide that occurred in January 2025.

The Springfield Police Homicide Unit, under the direction of Captain Trent Duda, began investigating this shooting and were able to identify a suspect. Detectives applied for and was granted an arrest warrant for the individual.

On Thursday June 26, 2025, Springfield Homicide Detectives and Chicopee Police Officers arrested a 16-year old juvenile, whose name cannot be released at this time due to their age. At approximately 12:30 p.m., the juvenile was located on Dulong Circle in Chicopee and officers were able to place them under arrest. The

juvenile was arraigned in Springfield District Court on (1) count of murder and held without the right to bail.

On Sunday January 12, 2025, at approximately 11:30 p.m., Springfield Police Officers responded to the 100 block of Oakland Street for a ShotSpotter activation. Upon arrival, officers located an adult male gunshot victim. He was transported to Bay-state Medical Center where he succumbed to his injuries.

The victim has been identified as Semaj Brewster, 19, of Springfield, Massachusetts.

This remains an ongoing investigation by the Hampden District Attorney’s Office in conjunction with the Springfield Police Detective Bureau’s Homicide Unit.

CPL Adult Programming for July

CHICOPEE – It’s time for Summer Reading at the Library.

Here are some of things that will be happening at the library over the summer. All ages are welcome to join Summer Reading.

We will be having an English Language Conversation Circle for English Language Learners every Wednesday from 6 to 7:30 p.m. from July 2 – August 27. Emma, an ESOL teacher will lead the class. This is for all levels of learners to practice conversing.

Thursday Night Concerts: All concerts begin at 6:30 p.m. Concerts are outside, weather permitting unless otherwise indicated. Bring your own seating. Snacks and water are encouraged. Our concerts are

supported by the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the MA Cultural Council, a state agency.

7/10-Wildcat O’Halleran-Blues

7/17-Sarah Clay and the Starcats-“Games People Play” Jazz Program

7/24-Dan Kane Youth Singers (indoors)-a wide variety of musical styles

7/31-Lonesome Brothers-American Roots Rock

8/7-Carrie Ferguson and the Grumpytime Club Band-Family Music

8/14-Sarah the Fiddler-a blend of Classical, Bluegrass and Celtic Music

For Tuesday Talks:

7/15 at 6:30 p.m. Join us for a talk about “Creating More Happiness” with life coach Chris Rich

7/22 at 6:30 p.m. Elemental Forces within the Minor Arcana of Tarot with Winifred from Awentree. Registration is required. Register through the Chicopee Library Calendar or call 413-594-1800x3. Bring your tarot deck if you have one.

7/29 at 6 p.m. Catholic Churches of Chicopee with Bob Comeau, a popular local historian and tour guide

This talk is supported by the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the MA Cultural Council, a state agency.

8/5 at 6:30 p.m. Speed Puzzling Competition (10+) Register through the Chicopee Library Calendar or call 413-594-1800x3. Puzzlers will complete in teams of four.

8/12 at 6 p.m. Coloring

for Adults: Van Gogh’s Sunflowers with Marie Manley Tucker. Register through the Chicopee Library calendar or call 413-594-1800x3.

As always, the computer lab is available to work on genealogy on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am - noon and 6pm - 8pm. We are a FamilySearch Affiliate Library and have helpful databases such as Ancestry, American Ancestors and HeritageQuest to help you in your search.

If you need technology help, we offer one-on-one computer help on Mondays and Fridays at 2 p.m. or by appointment.

For more information, email or call the Reference Desk at cpl@chicopeepubliclibrary.org or 413- 594-1800 x3.

Chicopee Public Library hosts Summer Events 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 July 2025, including information about the annual Summer Reading Challenge.

Recurring Events

Outside Musical Storytime will be held on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. in July. A little bit of storytime, a little bit of a dance party. Join us outside on the back patio under the new shade structure for stories and movement. Geared towards kids ages 2-5, older kids welcome.

Toddler Time will be held on Mondays at 10:30 a.m. in July. An open ended playtime for Toddlers to socialize and play! For ages 0-2, no registration required. In the event of bad weather, this program will move into the Children’s

Room.

Outside Playgroup will be held on Fridays at 10:30 a.m., July 11, 18 & 25. Play outside at the library! Families are invited to hang out under our new shade structure. Library staff will bring toys and sidewalk chalk. In the event of bad weather, this program will move into the Children’s Room Playspace.

Game On! Games and activities for kids ages 6 and up, different themes each week. Thursdays at 2:30 in July. Teens welcome.

July 10 - BIG Games
July 17 - Video Games
July 24 - Playground Games

July 31 - Best of the Summer! Another round of the favorite activities from each of the previous weeks.

Wednesday Event Series

Henry the Juggler will dazzle and delight library patrons with his show on Wednesday, July 9 at 2 p.m. Henry the Juggler (AKA Henry Lappen) is wanted! He is wanted by audiences every-

where for his zany attempts to defy the laws of gravity. He juggles any number of balls, clubs, rings, members of the audience . . . He balances strange items on the tip of his nose. Everything is accomplished wordlessly as Henry uses body language (and road signs!) to express himself. Caution: Henry is known to use innocent bystanders in his act. This show is supported by the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Learn to Hula Hoop with Wildkat Hoops on Wednesday, July 16 at Noon! This all-ages program is guaranteed to get you up and moving.

Kids 5 and up are invited to a Puppet Workshop with Caravan Puppets on Wednesday, July 23 at 2 p.m. Participants will make a puppet and then everyone will show off their work together in a short skit.

The library will hold

a Mess-tival on Wednesday July 30 at 2 p.m. Dress for mess and enjoy a variety of messy outdoor activities.

Teen Programs

All teen programs are for ages 11 and up. Registration is required. Contact the Children’s Room or sign up online.

Ever wanted to hammer out some metal? You’re in luck! Join Heather Beck for a special workshop just for teens where you’ll learn a bit about Metalsmithing and get to hammer out your very own custom bookmark! Monday, July 7 at 4 p.m.

Teens are invited to try Splatter Painting on Tuesday, July 15 at 4 p.m. Create your own unique piece of gaming themed art! We’ll be using negative space to create awesome, colorful splatter paintings. You’ll be able to choose from a variety of silhouettes from the fantasy genre, board games, video games, and more! While all effort will be made to minimize mess and washable paint

will be used, please make sure to wear clothing you are alright potentially getting a little paint on.

Teens, Make Your Own Plushie on Tuesday, July 29 at 4 p.m. Ever wanted to make a little plushie but not sure how to sew? No problem! This special workshop for teens will go over some basic stitches and then walk everyone through the process of making a simple, yet adorable, plushie! All materials will be provided and you keep your plushie buddy.

Hey, got time for a mini-adventure? Join your fellow party members for a short campaign and help save a trapped wizard! This campaign is beginner friendly and we will be using pre-made characters, so there is no need to bring your own. Dice and character sheets will be provided. Each group will meet twice on Thursday afternoons at 4pm.

Group 1 will meet on July 10 and 17, so please make sure you can attend

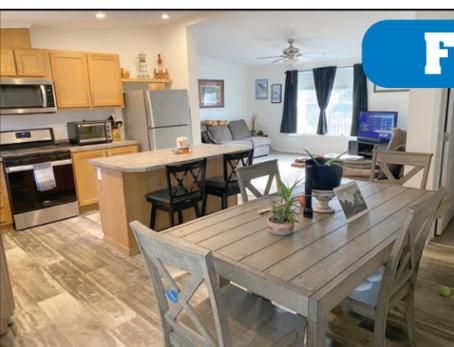
BOTH days.

Group 2 will meet on July 24 and 31, so please make sure you can attend BOTH days.

Summer Reading Challenge

“Chicopee, Did you read today?” is the question of the season. The Library is challenging everybody to read every day from June 23 - August 15. You can read books or comics, listen to audiobooks, read to someone, or listen to someone read to you. You can read as much or as little as you want. The goal is to spread the joy of reading and learning throughout the community. Sign up for our reading challenge online with Beanstack (look for the link on the library homepage) or visit the library to get started!

Summer is a busy time at the library for all ages. Visit the library website for more info about library events, including programs for adults and Thursday night Concerts. www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org



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GUEST COLUMN



When will funds stolen from Social Security be replaced?

Dear Rusty:

When will the funds stolen from the SS Fund be replaced?

They used Social Security when the government ran out of money and used it for illegals. I think the funds should be replaced except for legitimate payments to Social Security recipients. This money was never meant to be used by the federal government to pay their bills.

Signed:
Concerned Senior

Dear Concerned Senior:

I must tell you that no funds have ever been "stolen" from the Social Security Administration despite the persistent myth. All money received by SS from payroll taxes, interest on investments and income tax on SS benefits is – and always has been – immediately converted to special issue government bonds (investments), which are held in the Social Security Trust Funds and which pay interest at the current federal bond rate.

Those bond investments held in reserve have been and are used only to pay benefits to those who have earned them by contributing to Social Security via payroll taxes for at least 10 years (40 quarters). Only U.S. citizens and legal residents can get Social Security benefits. Illegal aliens cannot receive Social Security benefits.

For information, repayment of the special issue bonds held in SS reserves occurs every day, because incoming revenue has been insufficient to pay all Social Security benefit costs for several years now, which means that the bonds must be redeemed regularly so that full benefits can

be paid to all SS recipients, who have earned them. There were about \$2.8 trillion in SS reserves as of the end of 2023, but that balance is steadily decreasing due to being redeemed to pay full benefits. As of the last report by the Trustees of Social Security, the reserves will be depleted in about 2033, unless Congress passes reform legislation to restore SS to full solvency.

FYI, the Association of Mature American Citizens is working hard to prevent depletion of the Trust Fund, suggesting to Congress a way to reform the program so future generations can fully benefit from it, with AMAC's Social Security Guarantee proposal. AMAC is constantly working to prevent depletion of the SS Trust Funds, which would result in an across the board cut in everyone's benefit by about 23%. AMAC works every day in Washington D.C. to ensure Social Security is here for many generations.

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.

OPINION



GUEST COLUMN

What are biennials exactly?

Right now, many of our favorite "cottage-garden" flowers are beginning to put on a summer show.

Most of these fall into the category of plants known as biennials. From the towering pastel spikes of the beloved hollyhock, to the tattered, clove-scented sweet William and the mysterious and dangerous foxglove, each share the same life cycle.

Unfortunately, however, here is where lots of gardeners get confused. So then, what exactly are biennials? Do they bloom every other year or just during the second growing season? Is a "short-lived perennial" the same as a biennial?

Let's take a closer look. Merriam-Webster defines biennial as "continuing or lasting for two years; specifically: growing vegetatively during the first year and fruiting and dying during the second." In other words, if you started a hollyhock plant from seed in the spring expect it to put on a lot of green growth this season.

Next spring (year two) the plant will send up a flower stalk. The flowers will eventually die and seeds will form and drop from the plant.

Usually, the mother plant will not return for a third season. If all goes as Nature intended though, a percentage of her seeds will germinate the following spring, starting the two year process to flower all over again.



klung of organic fertilizer) and water (a drink during droughty periods) if you want them to compare to their parents.

Speaking of parents, what happens when the older plant survives into year three? This happens to me periodically, especially with hollyhock, foxglove and sweet William. Certainly not every plant in the clump comes back, but perhaps one out of three do.

Sometimes they look okay, while other times the crown is woody or the flowers aren't quite as tall. Oftentimes diseases can take their toll. Be your own judge here if you want to gamble, leave the plants in place.

Presently I am doing just that with an amazing stand of hollyhocks that bloomed ever so beautifully near my lamp-post last summer. So far, so good. But, to be on the safe side, I do have a couple of self sowers waiting in the wings for next year, since a third year of blooming is highly unlikely.

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

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GUEST COLUMN



By Ellenor Downer



Osprey

Last week on a trip to Rhode Island with my brother and cousin, we saw two osprey when we stopped by Point Judith Lighthouse.

We watched them as they flew over the ocean and hovered as they looked for fish. One got ready to dive as it tucked in its wings, but then stopped and flew to another spot to hover.

The osprey, also known as the fish hawk, eats a diet of live fish, has the ability to hover and dives into the water to catch them. They are often seen soaring over shorelines.

Ospreys are brown birds with a white head and a brown stripe through its eye. Underparts are grayish. They are over 24 inches long and have a wingspan of 71 inches. They are the only raptor

whose outer toe is reversible, allowing it to grasp its prey with two toes in front and two behind.

Ospreys are very successful in catching fish. According to a study at least one out of every four dives results in catching fish. The average time ospreys spend hunting before making a catch was about 12 minutes.

Ospreys often build large stick nests on manmade structures such as telephone poles, channel markers, and nest platforms designed for their use. Their eggs do not hatch all at once with the first chick emerging about five days before the last one. The oldest chick dominates the younger ones. When food is scarce, the younger chicks may starve to death.

A Brimfield resident,

who likes to visit inland ponds, often watches osprey nesting. Ospreys migrate and this resident reports their return in the spring. An osprey, equipped with a tracking device, flew 2,700 miles from Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts to French Guiana South America during 13 days in 2008.

Other seashore birds

In addition, to the osprey we saw cormorants, seagulls, bank swallows, grackles and even a redwing blackbird whose epaulets were bright red. There were new benches installed along the cliff bank. When we stopped there last year, the benches were in poor condition.

Birds in Sutton

My brother lives in Sut-

ton. He sets out grape jelly and a hummingbird feeder. The Baltimore orioles, catbirds, red bellied woodpeckers and even house finches come for the jelly. The ruby throated hummingbirds come for the sugar water.

Mass Audubon Society sightings

The Massachusetts Audubon Society reports several unusual bird sightings. They included swallow-tailed kites in Mashpee, a Mississippi kite in Mashpee, a Franklin's gull and two royal terns in Provincetown, a continuing prothonotary warbler in Concord, a Wilson's phalarope at Belle Marsh Reservation in Boston and a Brewster's warbler in Amherst.

Berkshire County sighting were a worm-eating warbler on Mt. Washington Road in Egremont, a least bittern in the Post Farm Marsh in Lenox, an Acadian flycatcher at the Jug End Reservation in Egremont and six red crossbills at the summit of Mt. Greylock in Adams.

In Franklin County, there were four sandhill cranes on Plainfield Road in Ashfield

and two hooded warblers on Falls Road in Sunderland.

Hampshire County highlights were a Brewster's warbler on the Narwottuck Rail Trail in Amherst and a least bittern near Station Road on the Narwottuck Rail Trail also in Amherst, three purple martins and four blue grosbeaks in the Honey Pot on Moody Bridge Road in Hadley and a common goldeneye on the Quabbin Reservoir off the Windsor Dam in Belchertown.

Hampden County notables were two upland sandpipers on the Perimeter Road in Ludlow and two blue grosbeaks at the Southwick Wildlife Management Area in Southwick. Worcester County had an Acadian flycatcher near the Uxbridge Rice City Pond in Uxbridge and five evening grosbeaks at a private residence in Royalston.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

Chicopee Register

TEAM

EDITOR
Kristin Rivers
krivers@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

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@ChicopeeRegister



www.chicopeeregister.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President



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The deadline for submissions is Tuesday at noon.

WE CARE ABOUT YOUR NEWS!

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

Election letters to the editor

The Chicopee Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to Chicopee Register care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to journals@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.

IN THE CITY

Driss, Majda celebrate dedication day with community

By Brandice J. O'Brien

Marketing and Communications
Manager, Greater Springfield
Habitat for Humanity

WEST SPRINGFIELD – On a picturesque Sunday in early June, Driss, Majda, and their four children embodied the spirit of community and family at the dedication of their new home. As the kids played with other youth, Majda poured homemade hot tea from a Moroccan teapot into vintage Moroccan tea glasses, and offered a spread of home-cooked dishes. The couple also thanked guests for attending and posed in pictures.

Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) staffers, board members, volunteers, city officials, and family friends celebrated the completion of construction at 1688 Dwight St on June 1. More than 35 people attended the event in the backyard of the two-story home.

"This house represents stability for us," said Driss. "It will allow us to focus on raising our children and helping them achieving their goals, so they can grow and contribute positively to society."

Construction began in summer 2024. This project was made possible by sponsorships and donations from James Hardie, Key Bank, the Davis Family Foundation, RJL Contracting, Episcopal

Diocese of Western Massachusetts, Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, and Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Springfield, which let Habitat use its parking lot. It's across the street from the new home.

"We can't do this on our own and it's always so gratifying to see the amount of people who come out and are a part of this," said Aimee Giroux, GSHFH executive director. "Most people do not have any previous construction experience, but are willing to give some effort and time to make this happen. We can't do this alone."

"We all know how important housing is right now, especially in Springfield. To try and have affordable decent housing for people is our part to have an impact in this community, city, and in Hampden County," Aimee said.

Two-hundred seventeen individual and corporate volunteers were involved in the endeavor to build GSHFH's 67th home in Springfield. Many came from Restoration City Church, Liberty Bank, MassMutual, MGM Springfield, Positive Regard Network/Springdale Education Center, Appleton Corp., Commonwealth Care Alliance, Liberty Mutual, OMG, M&T Bank, Second Baptist Church of South Hadley, and Westfield State University, among

others.

"I had the opportunity to come down here with my Chief of Staff, Robin, and spend a few hours helping with work. It does really make you feel good when you know you're not only giving back to the community, but also giving back to the family that needs and cares so much this project," said State Rep Brian Ashe (D-2nd District Hampden). "Habitat for Humanity is not just about building homes, it's about building hope, stability, and a brighter future for families in our community."

Family friend Mary Johnson spoke about the early days when Driss, Majda, and their two girls lived with her family. She spoke of their friendship, when Majda helped Mary with her Arabic, and taught songs in Arabic that Mary said she still sings with her own children.

"Majda taught me what it looks like to love your friends, to really love them," said Mary. "This is a truly beautiful neighborhood here. It already has so many wonderful neighbors, homes, and families. Now that Majda and Driss are here too, I know they'll fit right in. They'll bring their kindness, the Moroccan hospitality, kindness, and love to everyone they meet."

In 2018, Driss and Majda, with their two young



Left to right: New homeowners Driss and Majda pose with family friend Mary Johnson, State Rep. Brian Ashe (D-2nd District Hampden), Springfield City Councilor At-Large Kateri Walsh, Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) Executive Director Aimee Giroux, and GSHFH Board President Ray Walsh at the June 1 dedication in Springfield.

daughters, immigrated to Western Massachusetts via a lottery diversity program in hopes of discovering a new country and gaining more opportunities. For several years, the family acclimated to the United States, welcomed two sons, and lived in a house in West Springfield. One day a car crashed into the home causing structural damage. The house was condemned and the family moved into a tiny two-bedroom apartment in the same town. The older girls shared one bedroom. Driss, Majda, and the younger two boys shared the other bedroom. Driss said because the rent was too expensive and the apartment is too small, they applied to the Greater Springfield Habitat homeownership program in early



New homeowner Majda pours tea for guests (right) State Rep. Brian Ashe (D-2nd District Hampden) and Springdale Education Center Young Adult Teacher Trina Winans before the dedication

2023 after learning about it from a friend.

Driss and Majda are expected to close on their home later this month.

To learn more about Greater Springfield Habitat's homeownership program, visit habitatspringfield.org/how-to-apply.

Volunteer at Harmony House

CHICOPEE – Harmony House of Western Massachusetts is a social model home for hospice care located in Chicopee.

The beautiful new facility reopened in the spring of 2024 and has been a safe and loving home for people with limited support who cannot live on their own. Potential volunteers are invited to explore the opportunity to help care for individuals who are in the final stage of their lives. Harmony House is currently in need of care-

givers and support people. Whether it's a few hours a week or a few hours a month, Harmony House is a welcoming place for people looking to help people.

A Meet-and-Greet event is scheduled for Tuesday, July 29, at 6 p.m. at the South Hadley Library, 2 Canal Street, South Hadley, in their Common Room. Please come and meet members of the Board of Directors and current volunteers to learn more and have your questions answered by those who

are directly involved in resident care.

Harmony House is a local, non-profit organization whose mission is to provide a loving home offering compassionate care for people who are on hospice and are in need of care. If interested in learning more or becoming a volunteer, please complete the online volunteer application form at www.harmonyhousewma.org/volunteer-1 or email us at admin@harmonyhousewma.org.

Free youth kayaking offered

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Rows is pleased to announce another great lineup of free summer programming to help our community get out and explore on the Connecticut River.

From free all ages kayaking days to a free learn to row week for Holyoke, Chicopee and Springfield middle and high school students, there are endless

options to enjoy the outdoors from our boathouse at Holyoke Rows, 25 Jones Ferry Rd, in Holyoke.

Holyoke Rows is pleased to announce Free Summer Nights for Youth and Families that will take place Mondays/ Wednesdays July 7 through Aug 20 5:30 to 8 p.m. Children, youth, and families are invited to come down to the

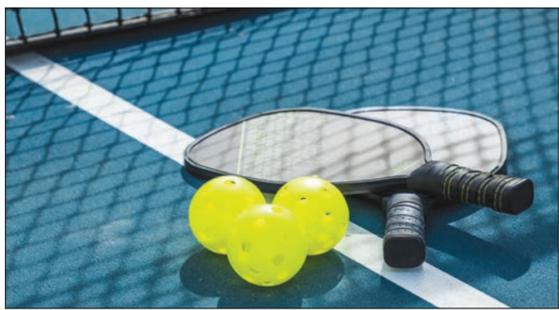
boathouse for free kayaking, fishing, and more.

No registration needed, all equipment & instruction provided. Enjoy the outdoors from our boathouse at Holyoke Rows, 25 Jones Ferry Rd, in Holyoke.

This program is offered as part of the Massachusetts DCR Summer Nights grant program.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Pickleball tournament to benefit Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity



WESTFIELD – Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) is excited to announce a Pickleball Tournament open to players of all skill levels on Sunday, July 20, at The Picklr 415 E. Main St (The Westfield Shops Retail A-1).

From Noon to 4 p.m., seasoned players and rookies alike, will play a "King of the Court" three-person style play. Tickets are \$40 each, which

includes prizes, snacks and refreshments, swag bags, and ridiculous amounts of fun. All are welcome to participate or spectate. To purchase tickets, visit habitatspringfield.org

"We are excited to be hosting this event. The staff at The Picklr has been educating us on all things pickleball and helping us to ensure a fun and lively event while raising awareness and supporting our

construction programs," said Aimee Giroux, GSHFH executive director.

Greater Springfield Habitat is also looking for sponsors for the event. Sponsorships range from \$500 to \$1,500. For more information, see attached flyer.

GSHFH is dedicated to strengthening communities by empowering low-income families to change their lives

and the lives of future generations through homeownership and home preservation opportunities. Since 1987, Greater Springfield Habitat has built or repaired 129 homes in Hampden County.

For more information, contact Olga Calligos, Homeowner Programs coordinator, at calligos@habitatspringfield.org or (413) 739-5503 x1003.

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shoe Drive
Fundraiser to raise
money to support
the Library

CHICOPEE – The Friends of the Chicopee Public Library is conducting a shoe drive fundraiser beginning July 7 and running through Sept. 8 to raise funds for the library.

The Friends will earn funds based on the total weight of the pairs of gently worn, used and new shoes collected, as Funds2Orgs will issue a check for the collected shoes. Those dollars will benefit The Chicopee Public Library's special programs.

Anyone can help by donating gently worn, used and new shoes at the following collections sites:

- Chicopee Public Library 449 Front St Chicopee
- The Boys & Girls Club 580 Meadow St Chi-

copee

- The Council on Aging Riverfront Senior Center 5 W. Main St. Chicopee

- Goodworks Coffee House 46 Center St Chicopee

All donated shoes will then be redistributed throughout the Funds2Orgs network of micro-enterprise (small business) partners. Funds2Orgs works with micro-entrepreneurs in helping them create, maintain and grow small businesses in developing countries where economic opportunity and jobs are limited. Proceeds from the sales of the shoes collected in shoe drive fundraisers are used to feed, clothe and house their families. One budding entrepreneur in Haiti even earned enough to send to her son to law school.

"We are excited about our shoe drive," said Lisa Pasternak, President of the Friends of the Library. "We know that most people have

extra shoes in their closets they would like to donate to us. By doing so, we raise money for library special programs, and we have the chance to help families in developing nations who need economic opportunities. It's a win-win for everyone."

By donating gently worn, used and new shoes to the Friends of the Chicopee Public Library, the shoes will be given a second chance and make a difference in people's lives around the world.

About The Friends Of The Chicopee Public Library.

The Friends are a non-profit group that raises monies through donations and fundraisers (Concerts, Shoe Drive, Golf Tournament, Concession Sales, Raffles just to name a few) to help support the library's special programming and projects that would go unfunded.

Head Start holding
Raising A Reader
Family Shared
Reading Program

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Chicopee Family & Community Program is currently hosting a "Raising A Reader" Family Shared reading program.

The program is for families with children from infant to five years old.

Let's get together for fun activities that develop reading readiness and social emotional skills! Take home a red bag each week with books to borrow.

The program takes place on Wednesdays, 4 to 5 p.m. at HCS Head Start the first and third Wednesday of the month at 41 Commercial St., Holyoke.

Please call or email Shane at ShaneW@headstart.org or 413-310-1632.

This program is funded

by the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grant awarded to HCS Head Start by the Department of Early Education and Care.

Senior Travel Club
seeking another
Travel Planner

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Senior Travel Club is looking for another travel planner to join its team.

The Travel Club is a volunteer-operated group that works out of the Chicopee Council on Aging at RiverMills Center, located at 5 West Main St. in Chicopee.

The travel planner works a weekly three-hour shift at the travel desk inside the center and helps people register for trips, provides information on upcoming trips, and accepts and documents payments for trips.

Several hours are required at home for planning purposes, including planning trips and working with vendors. Planners attend monthly planners' meetings and monthly Travel Club open meetings.

The Travel Club is looking for someone with strong computer and organizational skills to prepare flyers and reports, who enjoys working with people, has an open schedule, is comfortable with public speaking, and who loves to travel. Cover letters and resumes may be submitted to Chicopee Senior Travel Club, RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St., Chicopee, MA, 01020.

Visit us at
www.turley.com

IN THE CITY

CPD rescues, later adopts cats



PHOTOS AND CAPTION COURTESY OF CHICOPEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

A few weeks ago a resident located two cats that were abandoned. A call was placed to TJ O'Conner to come and take the cats in an attempt to locate the owner. The owners were not able to be located and the cats were put up for adoption. We are happy to say that Ofc. Paquin and Sgt. Lyman have adopted both kittens and they are now enjoying their new homes.

City Council approves FY26 budget

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – On June 26, the Chicopee City Council approved the FY26 budget for the city, in a swift unanimous vote with the value totaling \$276,259,599.78.

The official report was read into the record by City Clerk Keith W. Rattell, with the first official number revealed for FY26 via the budget being the approval and allocation of \$66,200,793.10 going towards the Administrative and Finance departments, and finally for the first section next up was Public Safety accounted for \$33,301,265 and

25 cents.

A majority of the official financial numbers went towards the finalized school budget, which has been a topic of hot debate, as of late, most notably due to the ongoing and highly discussed contract negotiations between the City Council, School Committee, and the CEA, which was approved for \$131,601,452.

A full breakdown can be found in this week's edition as well.

In addition, Public Works funds were ratified for \$12,216,873.54. From there, Rattell announced that the Total Public Work Funds Enterprise Fund was allocated

for \$25,785,586.91, which came out to a grand total of the FY26 budget for the city being \$276,259,599.78.

The following adjustments were an additional \$14,638,142.30 cents from sewer receipts, along with another \$11,147,444.61 as part of water receipts. And finally, an additional \$7,668,342 from the Stabilization for Educational Purposes Fund.

After the adjustments, this created a number of \$242,805,670.87, which represents the amount that has to be raised in the FY26 tax levy.

Overall, the grand total FY26 budget as stated earlier is \$276,259,599.78.

READ from page 1

sa said. Inside, Fiona Cioch, a nurse from The Central Pioneer Valley Public Health District, was sharing information about sun safety, the importance of sunscreen, and handing out bracelets that detect the UV. Local History Reference Librarian Kate Ouimette helped kids make their own toy swords out of pipe cleaners and Assistant Director of CPL Anne Gancarz was dressed up in the fantasy theme helping direct people.

For more information about CPL's summer reading program and for information about upcoming events, visit chicopeepubliclibrary.org/.

For more information about A Moment of Magic visit amomentofmagic.org.

For more information about ChicopeeFRESH and Project Bread's Summer Eats program, visit www.projectbread.org/summereats.

Assistant Director of CPL Anne Gancarz dressed up for the fantasy themed Summer Reading Kickoff Party.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

Jennifer Boze and Food Service Clerk Bri Jackson at the Summer Reading Kickoff Party with Chicopee Fresh.



Youth Services Associate Beth Oliveira helping Ariana Locke with the adventurous archery activity.



Youth Services Associate Beth Oliveira helping Abraham O'Connor with the adventurous archery activity.

SAFETY from page 1

Safe Streets for All Grant, an RFP for plans to review the city "from a comprehensive standpoint when we're looking at the network of streets of Chicopee" to make them safer and putting in a pre-warning signal allowing tractor trailers and truck drivers to be aware of the low height for the DOT rail when traveling from North Willimansett to

the Buckley Boulevard and Fairview sections of Chicopee where many tractor trailers get stuck.

Gomez said the earmark will also improve pedestrian safety and noted in November 2022, voters approved a new 4% surcharge of income above \$1 million annually, known as the Fair Share Amendment.

"This new revenue resource--this source that cre-

ated this type of funding--was dedicated to quality public education and also affordable for public schools and also for colleges and universities and to repair and maintain roads, bridges and also public transportation," Gomez said. "We have generated more than \$1 billion more for initial projects in this fiscal year of 2023 into 2024. Addressing this intersection at McKinstry Avenue and Chicopee Street

is exactly the kind of project that the legislature intends to do with these funds."

Arriaga, who grew up in Willimansett, noted how dangerous the intersection was growing up as a child and as an adult driving today and addressing public safety is number one.

"It is really, truly, the time to be here and cherish this moment because if you are from Chicopee, you know

it's been like this for years. So, it is truly a great time for our pedestrians and our commuters alike to just recall that public safety is number one and this is one of many projects that we are eyeing and hope to address in the near future," Arriaga said.

Oliveira commended Gomez "for constantly prioritizing things within this district that need correcting" and finding the state funding to go towards it, adding the blind-spots do create a safety issue as he's noticed them when he walks in his hometown of Ludlow.

"That's what this project prioritizes. It prioritizes the ability for pedestrians, motorists, bicyclists, anybody that's going along this road can actually access," Oliveira said.

Also pointing out the Fair Share Amendment, Oliveira noted its success and how transportation and education are "the two areas that the residents of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts want to invest in."

"When we see aging infrastructure, aging roads, aging bridges, aging rail systems that need infrastructure improvements, legislators like us--Representative Arriaga, Senator Gomez--know this district well. They travel it each and every day. They understand the issues that their constituents face when they're trying to get up this main thoroughfare," Oliveira said.

Laflamme said this project "is long overdue" and also thanked DPW Superintendent Elizabette Batista for her support in getting to this point and for explaining the process to a resident.

"It can't just be done. You need help and this was done on behalf of the state representatives and the senate, and it is a bad intersection. I also grew up down this area of Chicopee," Laflamme said.

Laflamme noted public safety is also important to the City Council.

"I'm glad you did this today in presenting it because I'm going to let the people of Willimansett (know)--as well as Sue will do--that wanted something done," Laflamme said.

Goff, who represents the ward, called it "a big day for Ward 3," thanking Gomez, Arriaga, the City Council and the DPW "who never gave up" and "who always worked hard to try to find a way to get this done."

"The collaboration of the city officials, the community members, the leaders that came together and pushed for a solution to improve the safety of this intersection only shows how dedicated they are in making our streets safer for everyone," Goff said. "Safe streets save lives. Thank you again, I'm proud to be part of this."

When asked about the project's timeline post-press conference, Vieau said this.

"The timeline is this is the design part. This is going to allow us to actually look at what options are available and to see what the state feels about the intersection and the support we can get moving forward," Vieau said. "If it is going to be a traffic signal-type intersection, mitigation project--which we believe it will be and we're hopeful that's what's going to be the case--it's going to be expensive too, so we're going to have to figure out how we're going to pay for that. So, this just covers design."

Also, this regarding the project cost.

"It's my understanding estimates could be somewhere from \$450,000 to \$750,000 to mitigate the traffic improvements here at this intersection," Vieau said.

More on this as it develops.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) speaks as City Council President/Councilor-at-Large Frank Laflamme, Ward 3 City Councilor Susan Goff, State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), State Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield) and Mayor John Vieau look on.



Mayor John Vieau provides opening remarks.



Ward 3 City Councilor Susan Goff expresses her gratitude for the state funding to support the McKinstry Avenue and Chicopee Street intersection.



City Council President/Councilor-at-Large Frank Laflamme shares the importance of public safety on behalf of the City Council.



State Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield) helped secure the funding for this project, explaining the Fair Share Amendment's role.



State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee) discusses the intersection.

SPORTS

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Mutiny clinches playoff spot

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Back on June 8, the New England Mutiny scored a season-high six goals during a road victory against the New Jersey Alliance. The Alliance were scheduled to make their first ever visit to Lusitano Stadium last Sunday afternoon, but they didn't have enough players to fill out their roster.

Instead of taking the weekend off like the Western Mass. Pioneers were forced to do 24 hours earlier, the Mutiny were able to find another opponent on short notice. The Worcester Fuel made the 45-minute trek west on the Mass. Pike to Ludlow.

It wasn't a very competitive match, as the Mutiny posted a 12-0 shutout victory in what was most likely their final home game of the season.

The Mutiny and Fuel were originally scheduled to face each other at Millbury High School on July 6.

"New Jersey indicated to

See **MUTINY** page 8

Bankers take second straight over Saints

HOLYOKE — Last week in Tri-County League action, PeoplesBank defeated St. Joe's 5-3 at Mackenzie Stadium in Holyoke. Jovanni Merced got the win with Jack Feltovic taking the loss. Seth Allen had two hits and two RBI for the Bankers while Dave Clark turned in two hits. PeoplesBank is a perfect 6-0 so far this season while St. Joe's is 7-4.



Kyle Platner goes for a tag.



Above, Dave Clark slings a throw to first. Left, Devin Slattery sends a throw to first.



Jovanni Merced sends a pitch home for PeoplesBank.



Cam MacDonald gets an out.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Brandon Magni attempts to catch a pickoff throw.

Teddy Bear Pools remains winless

CHICOPEE — With the folding of the Chicopee Falls Tigers last year, Teddy Bear Pools has taken over the varsity field at Holyoke Community College and

also absorbed several of Chicopee's players.

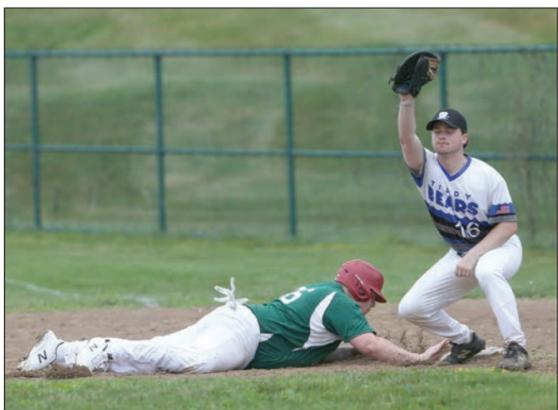
So far, Teddy Bear Pools is 0-5-1 on the season.

Last Tuesday, they were defeated by St. Joe's 10-5.

Teddy Bear is back in action following the Fourth of July holiday against St. Joe's on Monday, July 7 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Joe's Field in Palmer.



Ryan Magni catches a throw down to second.



Tyler Evans catches a pickoff throw.



Brendan Fournier pitches to the plate.



Greg Koziol completes a play to first.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Mason Barcomb sends a throw to first.

First inning surge leads Blue Sox past Sharks

HOLYOKE — A four-run first inning was the catalyst for a dominant Blue Sox win on Saturday, as they handily defeated the visiting Martha's Vineyard Sharks by a final score of 6-2.

After an error by Vineyard's Harley Goodner opened the scoring, Valley piled on three more runs. The runs scored on a Gavin Schrader single, a Mike Lucarelli double and a Cade Carr sacrifice fly.

"It allowed us to be confident," said Head Coach Endy Morales of the early surge. "We had lost to them already this week, they're a really good team, so to come out and punch them first, it just set the tone for the rest of the game."

Michael O'Connor added the other two Valley scores on a home run that soared into the Blue Sox bullpen. Sebastian Mexico contributed a two hit performance, and Michael Elko came across home plate twice as a base runner.

Valley threw eight pitchers in the contest, striking out 11 Vineyard batters. Max McCrary earned the win. Andrew Wertz came in for the ninth inning, when he struck out two batters to close out the game and earn the save.

Gio Colasante started the game for Vineyard, allowing four hits and four runs across two innings of work. He was credited with the loss.

The Blue Sox improve to an overall record of 10-8 on the season, while the Sharks fall to 12-7. The win snaps a two game losing skid for Valley.

"I thought that was a good one to get. It could have

See **SOX** page 8

SPORTS

Registration open for annual Julia's 3v3 Soccer Jamboree

BELCHERTOWN — The Third Annual Julia's 3v3 Soccer Jamboree is scheduled to be held at the State Street Fields in Belchertown on August 16th, 2025. The annual event is held in memory of 13-year-old Julia Haynes who passed away in March of 2023 following a battle with brain cancer. All of the funds the Jamboree raises benefit the Julia Haynes Scholarship Fund, which is a 501(c)(3) founded

by four of Julia's classmates. The first two events hosted more than 60 teams, each year, in grades 3 through high school for the all-day event bracket which also featured food trucks, raffle and dunk tank. Registration is open until July 20 and is \$100 per team for up to four players and includes an event t shirt. There is also a new bracket for class of 2022 - 2025 participants. There

will again be food trucks, a DJ and some fun activities for attendees including a raffle. Those interested in registering a team, becoming a volunteer, sponsor or donating to the raffle can get more details on the @julias3v3jamboree Instagram or Julia's 3v3 Soccer Jamboree Facebook pages or through Runsignup: <https://runsignup.com/Race/MA/Belchertown/Julias3v3SoccerJamb>

T-Birds recognized for multiple honors

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — The Springfield Thunderbirds were recognized among their peers across multiple business areas during the American Hockey League's Team Business Meetings presented by Victory Live in Indianapolis. The team captured the following honors:

- AHL Marketing Department of the Year
- AHL's Most Unique Social Media Content
- Matthew McRobbie: 3rd in Eastern Conference in corporate sales revenue generated
- Ticket Sales Department Benchmark Award for 600 New Full Season Equivalents
- Corporate Sales Department Benchmark Award for 90% Renewal in Corporate Cash

The highlight of this year's award recognition was the team's Marketing Department capturing top marks in the 32-team league with the title of AHL Marketing Department of the Year. The department has excelled with a fully in-house strategy blending creativity, consistency, and a strong brand identity. Each of the team's 36 home games features a unique campaign built around a cohesive season-long look, incorporating bold visuals and local imagery. Their efforts span digital, print, radio, billboards, and social media—reinforced by a revamped website and new mobile app—all designed to engage fans and drive recognition across every platform.

The Thunderbirds' Social Media Departments also earned leaguewide recognition during the 2024-25 season, most noticeably by winning the award for Most Unique Social Media Content. The honor stemmed from the team's inventive response to a shipping mishap that sent their Teddy Bear Toss jerseys to Germany by mistake. Turning an unfortunate situation into an opportunity, the social media team showcased that agility and creativity are sometimes the most powerful tools in a successful strategy.

"As we look back on the 2024-25 season, we couldn't be prouder of our team's tireless effort and passion in delivering a first-class experience for our fans—both in the arena and through our marketing and social media content," said Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. "To see those efforts recognized at the league level is incredibly rewarding and reinforces the strong year-round engagement we strive for. When you pair that with another record-setting year at the Thunderdome—including new highs in attendance, season ticket membership, and corporate revenue—it's a testament to our entire organization."

In addition to teamwide awards, the Thunderbirds also saw Director of Business Development Matthew McRobbie recognized for finishing third among all Eastern Conference representatives in

corporate sales revenue. This marks the second consecutive season that McRobbie finished in the top-3 in the conference in this category.

Continuing a trend established over the previous three seasons, the 2024-25 Thunderbirds once again set new Springfield hockey records in average attendance per game (6,369), season ticket members, and group sales revenue. The ticket sales team also earned benchmark recognition with 600 new Full Season Equivalents (FSEs), the industry standard for measuring full- and partial-season ticket sales.

In another milestone year for the club's corporate sales team, the department was honored for achieving a renewal rate exceeding 90 percent in corporate cash accounts, helping drive a new single-season record in corporate revenue for the second straight year.

The Thunderbirds enjoyed another impactful season in the Springfield community, making over 400 appearances with mascot Boomer and players alike. Their presence spanned everything from youth hockey practices to major charitable events, including the Rays of Hope Walk, annual Teddy Bear Toss deliveries, the Community Caravan (with support from MassMutual), and a variety of corporate-sponsored initiatives. Altogether, the T-Birds Foundation raised more than \$100,000 in support of charitable causes across Western Mass. the 2024-25 season.

SOX from page 7

very easily been three losses in a row," said Morales. "Now we get to go into the off day with a win, and a really tough stretch coming up next week. I thought that was a great way to approach the off day and beat a team that's super competitive."

The Valley Blue Sox suffered defeat on Friday despite a rally in the sixth inning that saw them score four runs and take the lead.

Down 3-0 to the visiting Mountaineers, Valley went on a run that featured a Rees Kozar two run double, a Clay Burdette sacrifice fly and an additional run on a

throwing error.

Vermont responded in the top of the seventh with a Jaylen Hernandez two run home run, securing the 5-4 victory at MacKenzie Stadium.

"Overall, our defense needs to be cleaned up. We're making key mistakes later in the game ... I would like for us to be a little more efficient on the mound, and then defensively just clean up in those big moments," said Head Coach Endy Morales.

Beau Ellson started the game on the mound for Valley, allowing six hits and three runs across four innings of work. Riley Williams was credited with the loss in relief

for Valley.

For the Mountaineers, Jack Rollo earned the win. Oliver Ellison got the save.

The loss drops Valley's record on the season to 9-8. Morales will look to build on this record today, when they host the Martha's Vineyard Sharks.

"In the grand scheme of things, we're still above .500, I would love to stay above .500 [today] ... This is the time where you want to make that separation. You don't want it to be the last week of the season and you're chasing four wins to try and get into the playoffs. You want to do that now so you have a bit more buffer," Morales said.

Contact the sports editor at sports@turley.com

MUTINY from page 7

us that they were having roster issues for this weekend, so we decided to switch our game with Worcester," said Joe Ferrara, who's the Owner/Managing Director of the Mutiny. "We'll try to reschedule the game with New Jersey or find another opponent to fill out our regular season schedule."

Because Mutiny head coach Federico Molinari was unavailable to coach last Sunday's home match, Ferrara took over the coaching duties.

The Worcester team used to be in the same Division as the Mutiny, but they were moved down to the second Division this year. They've played a couple of other games

against First Division clubs this season.

The victory improved the Mutiny's record to a perfect 7-0

Racing Power, who are from Baltimore, lost to the Mutiny, 3-0, at Lusitano Stadium on June 14, but they'll most likely be hosting the playoff game on July 13 because of the goal differential. The margin is capped at five goals for each match.

The U.W.S. National semifinals and finals are scheduled to be held in Chicago, Illinois.

The Mutiny, who lost in last year's championship match, clinched a berth in the United Women's Soccer League playoffs for the fifth

time since they moved to Lusitano in 2019.

"We've had a lot of success since we began playing our home matches here at Lusitano Stadium," Ferrara said. "We've had a dynamic group of players during the past couple of years. We are losing a couple of key players for the rest of the season."

Chioma Okafor was called up to play for the Nigerian Women's National Team in the African Nations Women's Cup. Cat Perez, who's a goalie, is playing for the Colombian National Team.

Kendall Bodak, who's from Monson, returned to Clemson University to start preparing for the college soccer season. Avery Galante also

went back to the University of South Carolina.

While the Mutiny were missing a couple of players, Hope Santaniello played in her first match of the season against Worcester. She returned home to Agawam after playing for a professional soccer team in Iceland. She has been a member of the Mutiny since 2019.

"Playing soccer with this team is something that's very special to me," Santaniello said. "It was great to be back and see all the girls again. I've also really enjoyed playing for the professional soccer team in Iceland. I'm learning a lot of different things."

Santaniello scored the Mutiny's fifth goal of the first

half and added three more during the first 20 minutes of the match.

"Hope just looks fantastic," Ferrara said. "She's been on our roster the whole season and is one of our all-time best players."

Hope's younger sister, Bella, was also scheduled to play for the Mutiny in last Sunday's match. However, because Worcester didn't have enough players show up for the match, she played for the visitors.

"My sister definitely has a lot of potential," Hope said. "I'm very glad that she's following in my footsteps. It was a lot of fun playing against her today."

Maddy Theriault, who graduated from Palmer High

School, recorded a hat-trick during the first 15 minutes of the opening half.

Bella Meadows scored the other first half goal for the Mutiny. She also scored the first goal of the second half.

Avery Klingensmith, who graduated from Belchertown High School, chipped in offensively with a pair of second half goals.

Mila Dillard, who's from Chicopee, also scored a goal during the second half.

It was the Mutiny's fourth shutout of the regular season. The defense was anchored by Aida Name, who's from Chicopee, Kylie Ray, who graduated from Minnechaug Regional, Rachel Marchini, and Anna Carson.

Send Us Your Community Autumn Events

Turley Publications will print your Autumn event FREE OF CHARGE in our Autumn Fest Supplement which will be published September 10, 2025. Total circulation of 85,000 which reaches over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley. Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO: Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email* them to: jamie@turley.com *Be sure to indicate "Autumn Event" in the subject line of your email.

Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 11.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13	14				15
16			17							18
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56			57	58		59			60	
62			63		64			65		66
67		68								69
							71			

CLUES ACROSS

1. Notes
6. Long-haired dog breed
12. ESPN's nickname
16. Spanish be
17. Disadvantage
18. Of I
19. Actor Pacino
20. On your way: ___ route
21. Fifth note of a major scale
22. Companies need it
23. News agency
24. Faces of an organization
26. Ponds
28. Samoa's capital
30. Partner to "Pa"
31. Adult male
32. Cool!
34. Used of a number or amount not specified
35. No No No
37. Hosts film festival
39. British place to house convicts

40. Made of fermented honey and water
41. Chief
43. College army
44. Thyroid-stimulating hormone
45. Consume
47. One point north of due east
48. For instance
50. Brews
52. Alaskan river
54. Not soft
56. Atomic #22
57. "The Golden State"
59. "The world's most famous arena"
60. Larry and Curly's pal
61. One billion gigabytes
62. Conducts inspections
63. Malaria mosquitoes
66. Unit to measure width
67. Features
70. Affairs
71. Letter of Semitic abjads

CLUES DOWN

1. Follower of Islam
2. Trauma center
3. French young women
4. Norse god
5. U.S. commercial flyer (abbr.)
6. Merchant
7. Peyton's younger brother
8. Jungle planet in "Star Wars" galaxy
9. Tree-dwelling animal of C. and S. America
10. "Pollack" actor Harris
11. Stuck around
12. Put on
13. Influential Norwegian playwright
14. Christian ___, designer
15. Fulfills a debt
25. Style
26. More (Spanish)
27. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
29. Remedy
31. Disturbance

33. "The Martian" actor Matt
36. Express delight
38. Brooklyn hoopster
39. 1900 lamp
41. Motionless
42. One's mother (Brit.)
43. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
46. Compels to act
47. Gardening tool
49. Ancient country
51. Frightening
53. Wimbledon champion Arthur
54. Popular plant
55. Database
- management system
58. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
60. Where soldiers eat
64. Tenth month (abbr.)
65. Illuminated
68. Atomic #18
69. Adults need one to travel

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 23RD DAY OF JULY, A.D. 2025** 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 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: June 10, 2025

Gina M. Desrochers
(BBO #681910)
Perkins & Anctil, P.C.
6 Lyberty Way, Suite 201
Westford, MA 01886
(978) 496-2000
gdesrochers@perkinslawpc.com
06/27, 07/04, 07/11/2025

**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.
HD25P1356EA
Estate of:
Bruce C Dunigan
Date of Death: 05/27/2025
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Eric Dunigan of Charlton, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Eric Dunigan of Charlton, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/25/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the

Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

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

Date: June 26, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
07/04/2025

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 July 4th 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.

2012 Nissan Rogue
VIN: JN8AS5MV5CW375115
Andrew Hanson
88 Macarthur Dr.
Millbury MA 01527

2007 Mercury Grand Marquis
VIN: 2MEHM75W27X614958
Tyson Baker
15 Stanton Ave.
Brockton, MA 02301

2016 Chevrolet Equinox
VIN: 2GNALBEK6G1185498
Ta Leah Smith
164 High St., Apt. 303
Holyoke, MA 01040

2007 Jeep Grand Cherokee
VIN: 1J8GR48K57C674373
Brittany Callahan
28 Russell Rd.
Westfield, MA 01085

2010 Ford Edge
VIN: 2FMDDK4JC0ABA52610
Felicia Everard
125 Maple Lane
Medway, MA 02053

2009 Chevrolet Silverado 1500
VIN: 2GCEK23C791140436
Joel Diaz Santana
38 Ina St,
Springfield, MA 01109

2018 Nissan Altima
VIN: 1N4AL3AP3JC182954
Augustine Mensah
426 S Springfield Rd., Apt. G2
Clifton Heights, PA 19018
06/20, 06/27, 07/04/2025

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 July 11th 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.

2025 Acura MDX
VIN: 2HNYD18265H541019
Karel Mcdonald
126 Union St., Apt. 11-06
Westfield, MA 01085

2012 Honda Accord
VIN: IHGCP2F33CA225633
Sadie Gilman
174 Euclid Ave.
Springfield, MA 01108

2008 Hyundai Elantra
VIN: KMHDU46D08U512980
Lennyel Camacho
5 W Burnside Ave.
Lowell, MA 01850

2015 Honda Cr-V
VIN: 5J6RM4H52FL120273
Aubrey Klerowski
81 Hillcrest Dr.
Bernardston, MA 01337

2008 Jeep Grand Cherokee
VIN: 1J8HR58N88C226425
Gina Duclos
4 Common St.
Granby, MA 01033
06/27, 07/04, 07/11/2025

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 July 18th 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.

2015 Mercedes - Benz C300
VIN: 55SWF4KB3FU007385
Wellington Bispo De Franca
22 Campbell St.
Woburn, MA 01801

2014 Kia Forte
VIN: KNAFK4A67E5175951

David Parker
24 Taylor St., C321
Springfield, MA 01103

2016 Lincoln MKZ
VIN: 3LN6L2J94GR616400
Nour Hashem
40 Mcgregory Rd.
Sturbridge, MA 01566

2014 Ford Taurus
Police Interceptor
VIN: 1FAHP2MK1EG120089
Charles Lippert
10 Sawgrass Lane
Southwick, MA 01077

2016 Yamaha YFM700FWB
VIN: 5Y4AM93Y4GA105201
Unknown Owner
07/04, 07/11, 07/18/2025

**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.
HD25P1381EA
Estate of:
Elizabeth E McKay
Also known as:
Elizabeth Ellis McKay
Date of Death: 06/05/2024
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**

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

The Petitioner requests that: **Brian E McKay of Chicopee, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/29/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: July 01, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
07/04/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No.
HD25P1329EA
Estate of:
Lorena Mercier
Date of Death:
March 19, 2025
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petitioner Steven J. Mercier of Granby, 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 Uni-

form 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.
07/04/2025

**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.
HD25P0407EA
Estate of:
Linda Lee Moineau
Also known as:
Linda L Moineau
Date of Death: 01/02/2025
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Heidi Forgette-Paul of Wilbraham, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Heidi Forgette-Paul of Wilbraham, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/23/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: June 25, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
07/04/2025

**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.
HD25C0211CA
In the matter of:
Molly Elizabeth Tunstall
CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME**

A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by **Molly Elizabeth Tunstall of Chicopee, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing her name to:

**Maxwell Elijah Tunstall
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 07/21/2025.**

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: June 23, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
07/04/2025

**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.
HD25P1379EA
Estate of:
Martin Anthony O'Brien
Date of Death: 10/23/2023
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Elizabeth M O'Brien of New York, NY** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Elizabeth M O'Brien of New York, NY** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/29/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: July 01, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
07/04/2025



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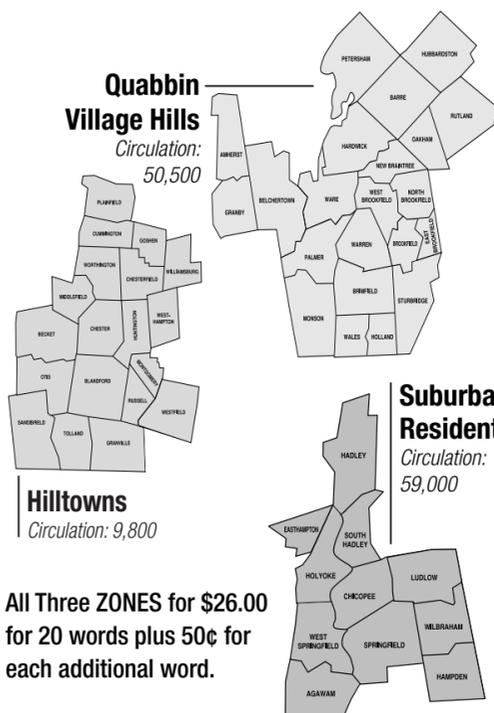


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IN THE CITY

CFD members become Electronic Search Specialists



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 Recently three of our members attended training at the Hampden County Sheriff's Office to become Electronic Search Specialists with the Project Lifesaver Program. This week, Chief Stamborski was able to present these members with their certificates. Congratulations to Firefighters Clark, Bushey and Davis.

PROJECT from page 2

gy coming to Chicopee and the police officers who went through the training.

"I would like to echo the same sentiments as the mayor and Chief Stamborski that this technology will allow us to better locate people who are missing and get them back to their family members," Cote said. "Thank you for being here and thank you to the officers and firefighters who went to the training and to the Sheriff's Department

for bringing it to us."

Moss shared the trial version of the program began in 2021 when Cocchi started the TRIAD program, demonstrating the transmitter with one of the officers.

"You see on his wrist, it's basically a watch-type worn device. People can either put it on their wrist or their ankle, whichever feels more comfortable for them. It comes in two different size bands depending on the size of their structure," Moss said. "We have several different colors

to appeal to each person's liking and every two months, we go out to the person's household or school with the program and we change out their batteries to make sure that everything's up to par."

Moss added that each transmitter has their own radio frequency.

"So, when a person goes missing, into our equipment we punch in there a specialized radio frequency from the transponder on that and then we go from the person's last known location," Moss said.

Rodrigues emphasized that the training also helps with communicating with individuals in addition to learning the technology.

"So, we not only train on just finding the person, but also how to communicate with someone with a cognitive condition. So, anyone with Alzheimer's or even autism--kids with autism--it's important that we know how to bring them home safely, home to communicate with them so that they feel safe with us," Rodrigues said. "So,

we go through all different strategies and understanding on how to make that connection and communication."

She then praised the police officers and fire department members.

"They did a fantastic job training with us, so we're happy to have them on board with us to be able to do these searches and we have full confidence in them to be able to bring home our family members safely," Rodrigues said.

Vieau encouraged the

community to sign up for the program.

"We want to protect this community. It's wonderful to have technology, but if we don't bring the technology to the public it doesn't work. So, the goal is to get as many people--your loved ones, anyone who's viewing or watching--your loved ones have this opportunity to wear these semi-permanent bracelets on either your wrist or ankle," Vieau said. "The goal is to rescue people and that's what we're hopeful this does."

BUDGET from page 1

down to decile 10, we are currently at an 11, but we are relatively close and watching that closely as we go into next year, and the date we work with is Oct. 1."

Additionally, the budget also saw a sense of structural adjustment take place, which included new directorial hires at the Chicopee Public Schools Dulong office, along with the purge of national law being included, which will assist and help fund to prepay up to four months at the rate of \$750,000 allocated for students attending CPS out of district as well. The numbers didn't stop, however, as for those deemed under the umbrella of school choice, which was revealed to have \$2 million, but Miarecki relayed that the budget will only use only half of that amount which will go towards FY26.

He also touched upon the proprietary value of circuit breaker funds being close to \$1.2 million, which will be utilized just as well.

"With Circuit Breaker, by law, we have to spend at least what we got in the previous year, and we are well above that," Miarecki said. "I also want to add that working with LVPC, who is our provider who puts in all circuit breaker data, those amounts will be coming up, which is a good thing."

This led to a point of approval and praise from Mayor John Vieau.

"I just want to commend John (Miarecki) and Dr. Ware and his team for finding, digging deep to find creative ways to make ensure were still able to provide a high quality education here within Chicopee," Vieau said.

Vieau added, "they are really looking for a needs-based focus and have been vital in making our school district one of the best in Western Mass, due to their passion along with the School Committees' support of the budget as well."

Later, a few outlier concerns from the proposed budget were brought into question by Ward 6 Councilor Samuel Shumsky, as he raised the con-

cern that general supplies and instructional materials have decreased despite the official budget not offering a point of affirmation towards this.

"I was wondering why general supplies were \$10,000, but this year were \$9,500, and other pages have instructional materials for 2025 reported as \$37,500, but this year for 2026 it's \$17,500," Shumsky said. "I was curious as to why these reported numbers drastically shrank, and what we are using the money that was allocated last year for the sole purpose of this year."

These comments prompted Ware to explain that the sole culprit of what led to the reported numerical decrease was partly due to the termination of ESSER funding, which helped to assist in gathering general supplies. Ware also added that there was an appropriate 10% reduction across the board, before offering an insight into what the process entailed and noting this doesn't coincide with or affect the ongoing negotiations with the CEA.

"I can tell you it may look to the eye that we are removing funds to support teachers, is not necessarily true," Ware said. "What I can tell you is that there was a reduction, due to finding creative ways to sustain the budget, which prompted us to do a 10% reduction, which encompassed general and educational supply lines. If we compare last year to this year, we just usually kept rolling the money over that we didn't feel was spent. So, we feel confident that teachers will still be getting the needs they wish to see fulfilled with this budget."

Questions centered around the budget also remained a topic of significant discussion as Shumsky noted that energy and maintenance saw a slash by a margin of \$100,000 as well, which, according to Miarecki, was a reduction processed to balance the budget, due to part of yearly rising inflation, continuing at a steady incline.

Another takeaway from the budget hearing was how the City Council was all in

unison about the approval of Mayor Vieau's proposal to equip school buses with cameras, as previously reported, which falls under the umbrella of Mass General law Chapter 40, section 71, which enables and gives authority to the city of Chicopee to monitor and enforce traffic violations to drivers who speed past the flashing red stop sign.

The initiative is built on the foundation of a 'joint effort' assembled by Vieau, which involves a variety of resources and voices from prominent community figures including Ware, the Transportation Office, assistant superintendents, the police department and the Procurement Office, marking a significant step forward for the city, and it feels all sides are in agreement about the sole mission of student safety.

In addition, before the committee approved and funded the budget in a swift, unanimous motion, Dr. Ware offered the concern of Special Education vacancies being a point of concern that needs to be addressed, before noting that since the COVID-19 pandemic, emergency licensings have ceased dispersal from DESE and the requirements to secure a waiver have not only changed, but the high turnover rate of teachers has led to the rising landslide of roles needed to be filled, as the frequency continues to be out of order with many applying during the summer and losing status due to not following through on the procedures put in place.

"The state of Massachusetts has been very clear about licensure, and that means emergency licenses have gone away, and to be considered waivable, you have to meet certain criteria," Ware said. "Right now, I have received several requests to approve for hire, but our main concern is Special Education, as if you go to our website, it says more than 100 open positions in SPED."

Ware also noted it's a total of three subjects in high regard: SPED as noted, mathematics and multilingual learning.

ROTARY from page 1

into business and be a businesswoman," Sleeper said.

Sleeper expressed gratitude to the Rotary Club for the scholarship, encouraging students to apply for scholarships through local organizations like them and "apply to as many as you can."

"It means everything to me. I am so beyond grateful that I received this and I was one of the applicants. I'm just so grateful that I was given this opportunity to do it," Sleeper said.

O'Neil shared she had applied to many scholarships and "was so happy and honored that I got one" from the Rotary Club.

"Because of my major is occupational therapy--so I'm going to be in school trying to get my Doctorate--so I'm so grateful for this opportunity," O'Neil said.

Walsh also applied for a lot of scholarships too.

"I'm grateful for anyone that I'm able to receive one. I'll be going to school out of state so that tuition's going to be little more hefty and stuff like that," Walsh said. "So, anything helps and I'm very, very grateful for it."

O'Neil and Walsh also credit their schools for lead-

ing them to the scholarship.

"I really am grateful for my school's Career Center. That definitely helped me get a lot of scholarships and apply to them," O'Neil said.

"I heard it through my guidance office at school. They had a whole bunch of them available to us and I took the packet from their desk and filled it out," Walsh said.

O'Neil and Walsh expressed gratitude to the Rotary Club.

"I feel so honored. I really like the quote, 'Service above self' because I love serving my community and volunteering," O'Neil said. "It just makes my heart happy and it helps give back to the community."

"Receiving a scholarship kind of means that I'm able to be a couple steps closer to my dreams and my goals for my education and for my future career that I want to be a part of," Walsh said.

O'Neil and Walsh stressed applying to scholarships offered by the community, advising students to apply to as many as they can and early on in high school and not wait.

"It gives back to the community for sure and it

helps you kind of grow and expand within your community and get to know more people," O'Neil said. "And that definitely helps when you're going to go to college either local or out of state because you still have those connections back home."

"I feel like when it comes to reaching out to resources through your community, it kind of creates those connections and also helps you realize that there are more resources available to you than you might think beforehand," Walsh said.

Sleeper's message to the Rotary Club was this.

"I think that the Rotary Club is amazing and they're such nice and sweet people and I am just so, again, beyond grateful that they give you opportunities out for students to apply for it," Sleeper said. "Thank you!"

O'Neil and Walsh said this.

"I'm so grateful and I feel so blessed to have received this and I am just so grateful for the Rotary Club and for my community in Chicopee," O'Neil said.

"I'm very, very grateful for the scholarship and the future connection I might be able to have with that organization," Walsh said.

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A	L	E	N	S	O	L	H	R	A	P				
R	E	P	S	M	E	R	E	S	A	P	I	A		
M	A	M	A	N	R	A	D	A	N	Y				
N	O	E	S	C	A	N	N	E	S					
G	A	O	L	M	E	A	D							
S	A	C	H	E	M	R	O	T	C					
T	S	H	E	A	T	E	B	N	E	G				
A	L	E	S	M	E	A	D	E	H	A	R	D		
T	I	C	A	M	S	G	M	O	E	B				
I	G	A	N	O	P	H	E	L	E	S	E	M		
C	H	A	R	A	C	T	E	R	I	S	T	I	C	S
T	R	Y	S	T	S	T	S	A	D	E				

DL&G TREE

Tree
Removal



Structural
Pruning



Crane
Service



Storm
Damage



Stump
Grinding



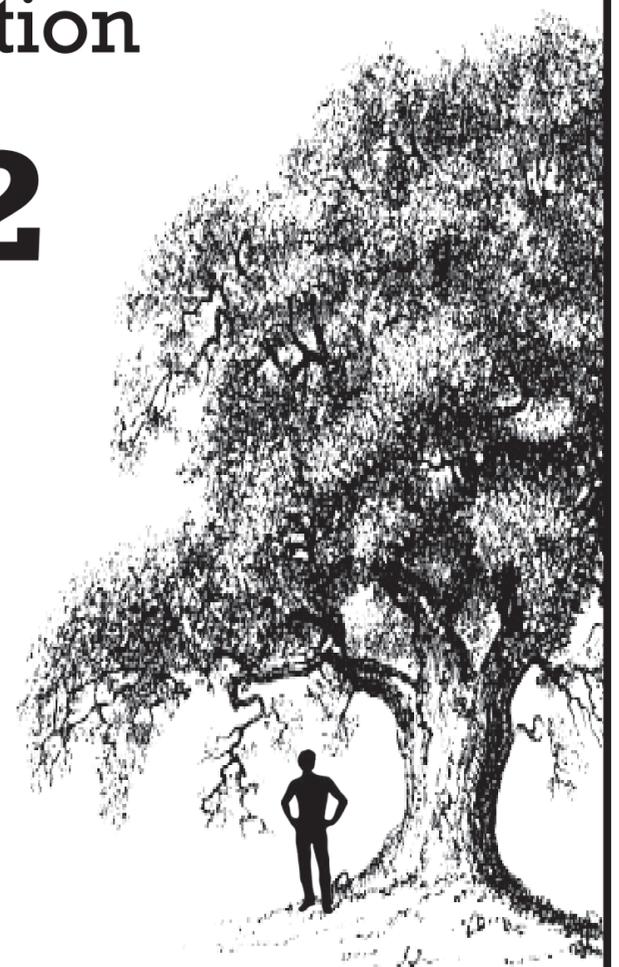
Lot
Clearing



Give us a call for your free estimate
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DL&G TREE



INSURED AND CERTIFIED