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## In historic vote, city council bars

### Huge turn out to protest proposal

By Brendan Rooney  
Correspondent

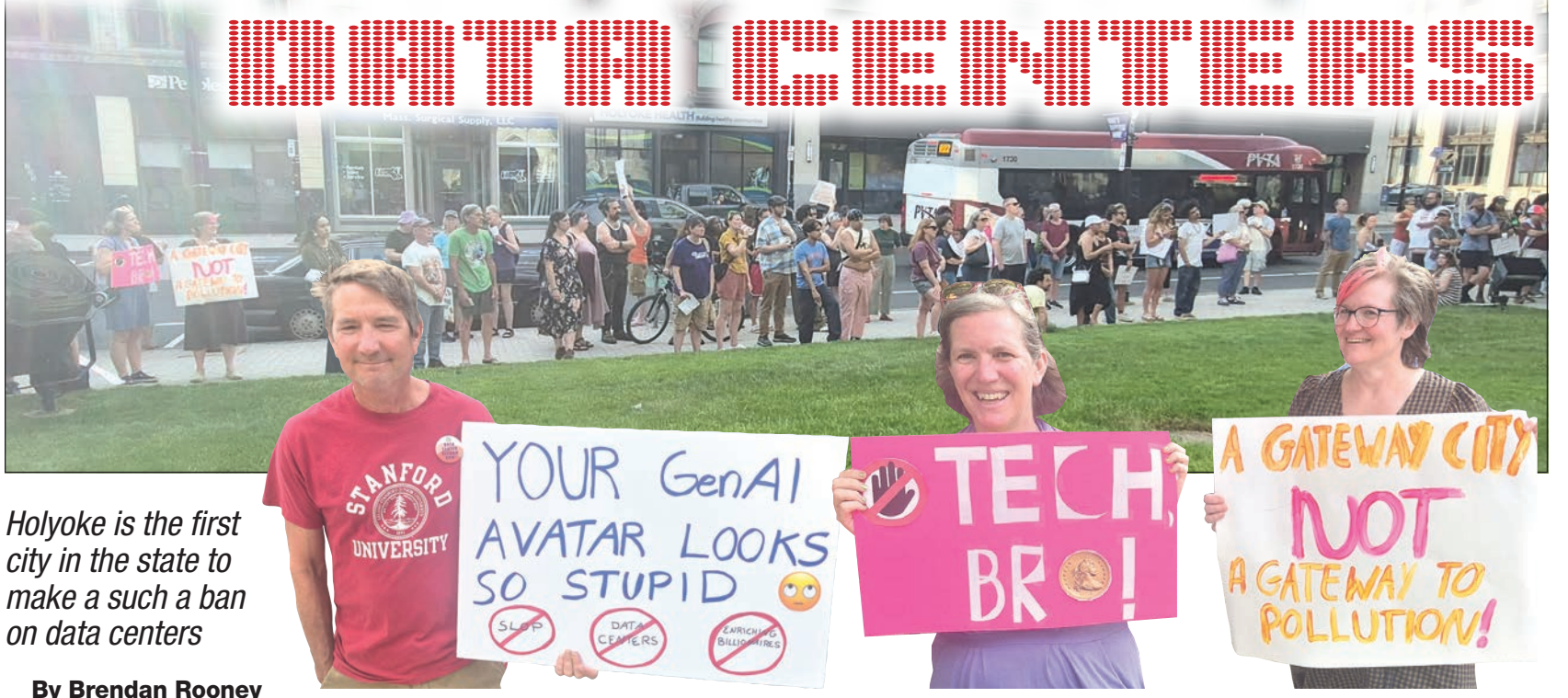
HOLYOKE – For nearly two weeks, the public came out and directed their frustrations toward the initial proposal of a data center, which culminated in the City Council voting 9-4 to ban future data centers over 12 MW (see related story).

Among those organizers were representatives from Indivisible and The Real Holyoke, along with a few outside voices, who stood outside on the grass of City Hall and voiced concerns on various topics ranging from water pollution and strains on Holyoke's electrical supply to potential noise pollution; among them was Remy Burnham, an environmental scientist who studies drinking water, who appeared both times.

Burnham explained that a noticeable emerging link between data centers and PFAS is one of several red flags that are going unnoticed, and can have significant implications.

"All of this is so new, there's not a lot of science on the books about it right now, everybody's kind of scrambling to try and publish, but a lot of what's going on is ... all these data centers are popping up very suddenly in rural communities, and those rural communities are seeing really elevated levels of PFAS in their drinking water," Burnham shared. "I have worked in a PFAS testing lab, and I saw how hard it was to get it out of the water, how expensive it was to treat, and the health impacts it can have on local communities."

See **PROTEST**, page 10



Holyoke is the first city in the state to make a such a ban on data centers

By Brendan Rooney  
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – History transpired within the Paper City this past Tuesday night, on June 16th, as the City Council voted 9-4 to officially ban future data center projects over 12 MW in the city, becoming the first in the state to ban the development of AI data centers. Once the decision passed, a rush of applause from the general public took center stage, as the once tightly cramped and claustrophobic council chamber, which consisted of close to 75 people who arrived just before the meeting.

Voting against the measure was City Council President Tessa Murphy-Romboletti, who joined Councilors Howard Greaney, Michael Sullivan and Linda Vacon. Voting in favor were councilors Israel Rivera, Mimi Panitch, Anne Thalheimer, Nicole Maisonet, Richard Purcell, Juan Anderson-Burgos, Meg Magrath-Smith, Jenny Rivera and Patti Devine.

In addition, the motion approved was an agenda item that was carried over from the most recent ordinance committee meeting, which recently passed 4-1, which ordered an amended measure that included both a temporary moratorium and

Members of the public stand outside Holyoke City Hall, ensuring their voices are heard.

potential ban language on data centers. Also to note, the revised order also officially removed warehouses from being associated with the definition of data centers as a possible place of acceptable use, and will still allow the continued use of the Massachusetts Green High-

ly the victory of the people of Holyoke: Everyone who contacted their councilors, who came out last Thursday to be present and tonight to speak, all the organizers and all the citizens. Not gonna lie: it was incredibly moving. Thank you, one and all," she said.

*"This is really the victory of the people of Holyoke: Everyone who contacted their councilors, who came out last Thursday to be present and tonight to speak, all the organizers and all the citizens."*

- City Councilor Mimi Panitch

Performance Computing Center to continue operations up to a 12-megawatt cap, which has been in service since late 2012, acting as a supercomputer and data storage resource for several universities, including prominent academic institutions such as Harvard, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Yale.

Reacting to the decision was Panitch, who shared on social media late that evening:

"Friends, you probably already know this, but the Council passed the data center ban tonight. This is real-

#### How We Got To This Point

This decision is the latest response in an ongoing saga that started to take root earlier this January, as the original zoning ordinance amendment order was filed on January 20. What followed then was multiple rounds of public hearings from February until the middle of April. The ordinance was then voted out of committee and sent to the full council for a vote, which happened on June 2. The same day that came as a shock too many, when the sudden reveal of the initial proposal that developer

Chestnut River Power and Infrastructure was publicly revealed, which discussed the prospect of a \$200 million, 20-megawatt data center to take shape at the vacant Hampden Papers complex at 100 Water St., an abandoned cannabis growing facility in the industrial Flats neighborhood, that sparked focus of all levels of engagement, not only within the city, but across the state, and social media.

And then the next domino to fall was Holyoke Mayor Joshua Garcia back on June 3rd, who stated in a statement via social media that he heard and understood residents' concerns, but wanted to clarify that energy costs and the city's water supply would not be impacted by a data center. He then noted that the proposed project is "fundamentally different" from other developments that are arousing concern throughout the country.

"At just 21 MW, this is a small, right-sized facility, comparable to the Massachusetts Green High Performance Computing Center (MGHPCC) that has operated responsibly in Holyoke since 2012 without negatively impacting our water or electric supply," he said. "It is nothing like the

massive gigawatt-scale projects proposed by billionaire developers elsewhere. To put it into perspective, there are 1,000 MW in just one gigawatt. This is a fraction of that scale." The comment then led to community frustration manifesting, which became noticeable and apparent back on the June 11th subcommittee meeting, and carried over into Tuesday's discussion, as both days in total featured close to 250 members from the public who came out and directed their frustrations toward Chestnut's proposal, and as frustrations from the public took priority, so did differences among the City Council members, as last Thursday, Thalheimer pointed to a sign that dominates the Council chamber that reads, "Makers of Law, Makers of History," and called upon her peers to vote in a full ban.

Echoing similar sentiments was Rivera, who stated that the residents already living near the zone have enough to deal with.

"It's already a significant burden for those two communities to be carrying - a lot of the industrial activity that's happening in this community - hence some of

See **BAN**, page 3

## Hampden hood cleaner's license suspended after February fire closed Holyoke Mall



Submitted photo

The State Fire Marshal suspended an exhaust cleaner's business following a fire earlier this year.

### Admits code violations after investigation by DFS and HFD

HOLYOKE – State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine this week suspended a commercial cooking exhaust hood cleaner's license for up to two and a half years after failing to clean the ductwork where a fire later broke out at the Holyoke Mall.

The State Fire Marshal's office issued the following press release relating to the incident.

The order bars Joseph Gorecki and his business, Gorecki & Sons LLC, from performing any regulated work until September 2029, but it would allow him to seek reinstatement after 15 months if he takes and successfully passes a certification exam administered by the Office of the State Fire Marshal's office. The remaining 15 months would be con-

sidered a probationary period during which his individual and business licenses could again be suspended and new penalties could be imposed if he violates any aspect of the State Fire Code.

Neither Gorecki nor his business is alleged to have started the February 18, 2026, fire at the Holyoke Mall. That fire began when sparks from work in the area ignited built-up grease within the exhaust ducts.

Rather, a joint investigation by the Department of Fire Services' Code Compliance & Enforcement Unit and the Holyoke Fire Department determined that Gorecki & Sons LLC had failed to properly clean that ductwork of grease, failed to document his work accurately, and failed to notify the property owner of any areas that were inaccessible, not cleaned, or not compliant

See **FIRE**, page 2

## Community gathers together to support St. Paul's Church

By Quinn Suomala  
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – St. Paul's Episcopal Church hosted a fundraiser last week after a robbery took place earlier this month.

The church was robbed on June 4, with items for the veteran's lunch, the church daycare program and the church's children's golf tournament prizes.

The church and its community were devastated by the robbery, which caused the church to close for much of the week as they grappled with next steps.

Holyoke Financial Advisor Ryan Alan heard about what happened and stepped up to support the community through organizing a fundraiser.

"I think I am uniquely placed to be able to facilitate the fundraiser and make it happen," he said. "It was a privilege to be able to speak with so many

people and, when I called, they answered the call."

Alan's grandfather is a veteran and Alan goes with him to the veteran's lunch every week. He knows how much St. Paul's means to the community and he wanted to support them.

"When I heard that this happened, I had to jump into action," Alan said.

Quickly Alan reached out to community members and businesses to begin pulling the fundraiser together. A mere eight days after the robbery, Alan had the fundraiser planned.

So many community businesses came together to support the fundraiser.

The Elks Lodge in Holyoke opened up their banquet hall for the event and community members were invited to come and enjoy pizza donated by Amedeo's Pizza, music from Dj Louie and a 50/50 raffle put together

See **CHURCH**, page 10

# Holyoke Community College Summer Youth Programs begin July 7

**HOLYOKE** – Registration is open for 2026 Summer Youth Programs at Holyoke Community College.

Starting July 7 and running through August 8, HCC will offer 16 week-long, in-person summer programs for youth aged 8 to 16.

For more than 40 years, HCC has offered fun, challenging summer education activities for youth, providing early opportunities for students to experience a college environment guided and encouraged by experienced professionals.

HCC's 2026 on-campus summer youth programs run Monday through Friday, some for a full day and others for a half day.

All in-person programs will be held on the main HCC campus, 303 Homestead Ave., except for cooking classes, which are held at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, 164 Race St., Holyoke

**July 6-10**  
**Cooking without Borders with Chef Marangelly Vargas-Gonzalez**  
(ages 9-16)

In this lively hands-on camp, young chefs will team up to chop, stir, and create tasty dishes from around the world. Each day brings a new theme and a chance to discover fresh ingredients, cool cooking techniques, and the joy of working together in the kitchen. By week's end, they'll walk away with new cooking skills, delicious recipes to show off at home, and plenty of tasty memories. (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

**Fun Bites with Chef Diana Swanigan**  
(ages 9-16)

Join us for an exciting week of hands-on culinary fun, where young chefs will discover the joy of cooking delicious, easy-to-prepare meals to share with family and friends. Participants will work together to chop, sea-

son, cook, and taste a variety of recipes – all made from scratch. Each day introduces new menu themes, ingredients, and techniques designed to build confidence in the kitchen. (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

**July 13-17**  
**Cooking without Borders with Chef Marangelly Vargas-Gonzalez**  
(ages 9-16,  
9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

**Fun Bites with Chef Diana Swanigan**  
(ages 9-16,  
9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

**ROBLOX Coders**  
(ages 8-10; 11-14)

Discover the Lua coding language while designing experiences in ROBLOX, an online universe where you can create anything you dream of. New developers will learn to use ROBLOX's Studio software to reimagine the popular game genres with their own custom code. Instructor Brittany

Pietskowski. (9 a.m. to noon for ages 8-10; 1 to 4 p.m. for ages 11-14, \$199)

**July 20-24**  
**Around the World with Chef Diana Swanigan**  
(ages 9-16)

Cuisine around the world serves as a universal language that unites people across cultures through shared flavors, traditions, and stories. Learn to prepare full-course meals from Asia, Puerto Rico, Greece, Italy, and New Orleans. (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

**Make Your First Video Game**  
(ages 8-10; 11-14)

Go beyond the limitations of traditional 2D game design classes and create an immersive 3D world. Students will learn the physics behind 3D games, explore beginner event scripting, level design, controlling the flow of gameplay, and storytelling. Instructor Brittany Pietskowski. (9 a.m. – noon

for ages 8-10; 1 – 4 p.m. for ages 11-14, \$199)

**Passport to Flavors with Chef Marangelly Vargas-Gonzalez**  
(ages 9-16)

This hands-on cooking camp takes kids on a delicious journey across global cuisines, exploring flavors, techniques, and ingredients that make each culture unique. Dive into fun daily themes like diner classics, Mexican favorites, Mediterranean feasts, Filipino street bites, and southern comfort food, all while building confidence one tasty dish at a time. (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

**July 27-31**  
**Around the World with Chef Diana Swanigan**  
(ages 9-16,  
9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

**Minecraft Designers**  
(ages 8-10; 11-14)

Learn how to create a custom map, design structures to share between

worlds, build with Redstone and Command blocks, and create custom textures for you to import at home or share with friends. Instructor Brittany Pietskowski. (9 a.m. – noon for ages 8-10; 1 – 4 p.m. for ages 11-14, \$199).

**Passport to Flavors with Chef Marangelly Vargas-Gonzalez**  
(ages 9-16,  
9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

**Python Programmers**  
(ages 8-10; 11-14)

Learn the world's fastest-growing programming language favored by Google, NASA, YouTube, and the CIA. Learn how to code with Python to create engaging apps and games. Instructor Brittany Pietskowski. (9 a.m. – noon for ages 8-10; 1 – 4 p.m. for ages 11-14, \$199).

To register for in person or online Summer Youth Program classes, please go to: [hcc.edu/summer-youth](http://hcc.edu/summer-youth).

## 80th anniversary of B-17 crash on Mount Tom

**HOLYOKE** – The 80th anniversary of the July 9, 1946, crash of a B-17 that killed all 25 aboard will be held at the crash site on Saturday, July 11, at 10 a.m.

The flight, enroute to New York from Greenland, was to stop at Westover Field in Chicopee as the port of entry into the United States before continuing on to its final destination.

For nearly three decades, the community has gathered annually at the crash site to honor their memory and ensure that their service and sacrifice are never forgotten.

While making the approach to Westover on a

dark, rainy night, the plane struck the 1200-foot mountain about 300 feet below the summit. After tearing through trees, the B-17 hit a rocky outcrop causing the aircraft to disintegrate and start-



ing an intense fire that burned for much of the night.

Several people who were at the Mountain Park amusement park at the base of Mt. Tom that night climbed up toward the accident site but

could not get close due to the heat of the fires. In the morning, rescue crews found the bodies of the young men among the wreckage. All were killed on impact.

The crash was, at the time, the worst air disaster in New England's history and the single largest loss of Coast Guard life outside of a maritime accident.

This year's ceremony marks not only the 80th anniversary of the tragedy but also the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Mt. Tom Memorial, which has become a place of reflection, education, and gratitude for generations of visitors.

## Wheels for Hope Car Show returns June 27

**HOLYOKE** – The third annual Wheels for Hope Car Show will return to High Street on Saturday, June 27.

The show, which will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., is a fundraiser for cancer patients and their families. Money raised will be divided among Holyoke Medical Center's Oncology Department; Rays for Hope, a Western Massachusetts initiative dedicated to the fight against breast cancer; and children diagnosed with cancer.

Holyoke's High Street, from Cabot Street

to Appleton Street, will be closed to traffic during the one-day show.

The entry fee for exhibitors is \$30. Motorcycles and power wheels are welcome. Prizes will be awarded in five categories. A special trophy will be presented by a cancer survivor.

The show includes raffles, food, music, face painting and more. Coolers will not be allowed.

The rain date is July 11. For more information, contact Carmen Rodriguez, (413) 210-8896.

### FIRE, from page 1

with the Fire Code. Gorecki admitted to these violations and similar violations at three restaurants in Haverhill, Westfield, and Marlborough.

"The Fire Code's hood cleaning provisions protect lives and property," said State

Fire Marshal Davine. "They were put in place after a grease fire in restaurant duct work killed two firefighters. The overwhelming majority of hood cleaning license holders understand the risks and do effective, professional work. Those who don't put people and businesses in

harm's way."

"Every day, families put their trust in the Fire Code to make restaurants, malls, and other public spaces safe to visit," said Holyoke Fire Chief John Kadlewicz. "Code violations aren't administrative technicalities – they're serious business.

Holyoke firefighters spent four hours fighting the three-alarm fire at the Holyoke Mall, and we're extremely fortunate that no one was seriously injured."

The license suspension was based on cooperative efforts by the Department of Fire Services and the

Holyoke Fire Department following the February fire; witness interviews; Gorecki & Sons inspection records; and spot-checks of various locations where Gorecki & Sons had performed regulated work. They were also based on Gorecki's admissions, in which he took

responsibility for the violations.

Anyone aware of hood cleaning work performed by Joseph Gorecki or Gorecki & Sons LLC prior to September 2027 is asked to contact the DFS Code Compliance & Enforcement Unit at 978-567-3375.

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# OneHolyoke hosting event featuring Lt. Gov. Driscoll

H O L Y O K E – OneHolyoke CDC will host its second annual “Building & Sustaining Livable Communities” event, featuring a keynote address by Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, on Monday, June 29 at 9 a.m. at Wyckoff Country Club, 233 Easthampton Road, Holyoke.

This year’s event will center around Innovations in Public Safety, bringing together community leaders, public safety officials and community members to explore collaborative approaches to safer, stronger neighborhoods. Registration is open for the event, which will include breakfast, with a suggested donation of \$50 at [OneHolyoke.org/sustaining-communities](http://OneHolyoke.org/sustaining-communities). For commu-

nity members there is a limited number of complimentary registrations.

In addition to Lt. Governor Driscoll, the event will also feature a presentation by First Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Fitzgerald on the Hampden County District Attorney’s Emerging Adult Court of Hope (EACH) Program, a specialized, collaborative program launched in partnership with Roca, Inc. and designed to give young adults ages 18-24 facing serious criminal charges a second chance through intensive support and judicial oversight. Fitzgerald serves as one of Hampden County District Attorney Anthony Gulluni’s top administrative prosecutors, overseeing all of Hampden County’s criminal prosecu-

tions. She was appointed by D.A. Gulluni when he was first sworn into office in 2015.

The event will also recognize Ed Caisse and his impact through the Holyoke Safe Neighborhood Initiative (HSNI). Caisse retired earlier this year after more than three decades with the Hampden County Sheriff’s Department. The HSNI is a partnership between local, state and federal law enforcement; city & state government; civic & human service organizations; faith based organizations; the business community; education providers; property managers; and residents coming together with a goal to create safe, healthy and economically viable Holyoke neighborhoods.

Also part of the program

will be a presentation from the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), bringing its expertise on community engagements and improvement planning. LISC is the home of recognized experts on Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), and will share about upcoming work with OneHolyoke CDC to develop a neighborhood blueprint based on CPTED principles.

Michael Moriarty, Executive Director of OneHolyoke CDC, will serve as moderator for the event. According to Moriarty, “One of our priority organizational strategies at OneHolyoke is to assure that families and individuals living in our housing communities feel safe. This requires us to collabo-

rate with others, and we have targeted the Churchill neighborhood for special attention in employing leading-edge approaches to achieve that goal. This symposium will provide us and other like-minded individuals and organizations innovative ways to build safer communities.”

Driscoll is the 73rd Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. She was sworn in on January 5, 2023, joining Governor Maura Healey as the first all-women executive team to lead Massachusetts. Exemplified by her extensive and successful career in local government, Driscoll has served as a notable proponent for the economic development of Massachusetts cities and towns, and serves as a liai-

son for municipalities across the state. Driscoll previously served as the City of Salem’s first woman Mayor. Under her leadership, Salem became one of the first communities in Massachusetts to adopt the expansion of free, high-quality early education opportunities starting at age four.

OneHolyoke CDC is the only certified Community Development Corporation based in the City of Holyoke. Founded in 1971, OneHolyoke CDC has created over 160 new homes in the Flats, Churchill and South Holyoke neighborhoods, rehabilitated hundreds of apartments and provided thousands of home improvement grants to homeowners through the Neighborhood Improvement Program.

## BAN, from page 1

the references to the asthma rates, hence some of the references to what people deal with on a day-to-day issues when they’re in those lower wards,” he said.

In addition, before Tuesday’s meeting, Murphy-Romboletti clarified why she remained hesitant about a ban and what led her to ultimately vote “nay” on that evening, sharing on social media:

“I have strong reservations about passing a permanent ban on any industry without a defined timeframe and a commitment to doing the work necessary to develop thoughtful regulations,” she wrote. “My position has never been that Holyoke should welcome massive data centers without restrictions. My position has always been that we should take the time to understand the issue, gather public input, and create policies that will stand the test of time.”

And at this moment, it’s clear that Holyoke is currently the first city in the state to implement a ban, but reservations remain as Murphy-Romboletti’s also shared that a moratorium would likely stand less legal scrutiny, while bringing attention to the city’s law department, which had

pointed out the state Attorney General’s office “had previously approved a temporary data center moratorium in another Massachusetts community because it was limited in scope and duration,” in the same statement on social media.

As of this moment, the project now resides in a state of limbo after the ban passed, as shared by various outlets. In an attempt to receive clarification, Ben Marshall, the Co-Managing Director for the developer, Chestnut River Power and Infrastructure, provided a statement that read:

“We’re still taking in tonight’s decision and want to review it carefully before we say more,” Marshall stated. “I’m grateful to everyone who engaged in this process — the Council and the residents alike — and we’ll have more to share soon.”

Other significant developments during Tuesday’s meeting included Murphy-Romboletti and City Councilor Meg Magrath-Smith filing an order to establish, by ordinance, a temporary ad-hoc committee to study and provide an analysis of the potential impacts of commercial data center development in Holyoke. The committee, which would expire June 30, 2027, would

make recommendations to the City Council regarding potential zoning and permitting requirements. Based on the order, the committee would include one member from Holyoke Gas and Electric, Holyoke Water Works — or a member of the Water Commission — a member of the Massachusetts Green High Performing Computing Center, one member of the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Office of Planning and Development, a community member or resident appointed by the City Council president and a member of the City Council.

The City Council then approved sending the ad-hoc committee proposal to the Ordinance Subcommittee for further discussion.

In terms of other local data centers being the topic of discussion, the Westfield Planning Board just voted earlier this week unanimously to recommend a 12-month moratorium on data centers to the City Council, but during the meeting, City Planner Jay Vinskey clarified that the moratorium would not apply to the previously permitted project on Servistar Industrial Way. The decision then went to the City Council chamber, which took place this past Thursday.

## Celebrate America with UCCH

H O L Y O K E – In honor of America’s 250th birthday, the Western Massachusetts chapter of the American Guild of Organists is presenting “Celebrate America,” a free concert featuring American music and composers.

The concert takes place Sunday, June 28 at 4 p.m. at the historic Skinner Chapel of the United Congregational Church

of Holyoke. Performers include Guild members and community volunteers, performing on organ and other instruments. All are welcome.

The United Congregational Church of Holyoke is an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ, welcoming all individuals regardless of where they are on their journey. For more information, visit

[uccholyoke.org](http://uccholyoke.org), find us on Facebook or Instagram, or call 413-532-1483 Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.



## Summer reading to kick off on June 25

H O L Y O K E – The Summer Reading Program at Holyoke Public Library will kick off on Thursday, June 25, with a party going from 1 to 5:30 p.m.

There will be free ice

cream during the entire time, and balloons available.

There will be a drag story hour with Holyoke Pride held at 1 p.m., face painting available from

1:30 to 4:30 p.m., and a movie from 3 to 5 p.m. This year’s theme is “Plant a seed, Read,” and summer programs are available for children, teenagers, and adults.

Join OneHolyoke CDC for the 2nd Annual

# Building & Sustaining Livable Communities

## Innovations in Public Safety

### Monday, June 29, 2026 • 9 am

Wyckoff Country Club  
233 Easthampton Road • Holyoke

Featuring A Keynote Address by

## Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll



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*Hampden County District Attorney’s Emerging Adult Court of Hope (EACH) Program*



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Breakfast Included  
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Guest Column



## Why don't we have a minimum Social Security benefit?

Dear Rusty:

I think we should have a Social Security baseline of \$2,500 for each person.

When I retire, my Social Security benefit will not be enough to survive. There are many of us, who worked low paying jobs all our lives because we raised families and only started saving later in life. Considering all the money our government wastes on other countries and welfare programs for people who have not worked, it seems unfair that they will not reward those of us who contributed to society all our lives.

**Signed: Needs More Social Security.**

Dear Needs More:

For information, the concept of a "minimum" Social Security benefit is not new and, indeed, already exists, but it is one which few beneficiaries qualify for.

The so-called "special minimum benefit" was meant to lift low-earning workers above the poverty line, but less than 32,000 SS beneficiaries (out of about 59 million retirees) currently qualify.

That's because Social Security's benefit formula turns out to be more generous because it is based on lifetime earnings (wages), while the "special minimum benefit" program is based on consumer prices. That causes the SS benefit formula to provide a higher SS benefit than is provided by the "special minimum benefit" option. In other words, people get a higher benefit because their SS benefit is based upon their actual lifetime earnings vs. an artificially created special minimum benefit.

In short, the existing SS benefit formula usually provides more than the estab-

lished "special minimum benefit."

The SS benefit program is based on each person's average monthly income over their lifetime.

However, it is very important to understand that the program is also designed to provide a higher monthly benefit to those with a lower lifetime income.

Thus, the percentage of "replacement income" for those with lower lifetime earnings is more than it is for those with higher lifetime earnings.

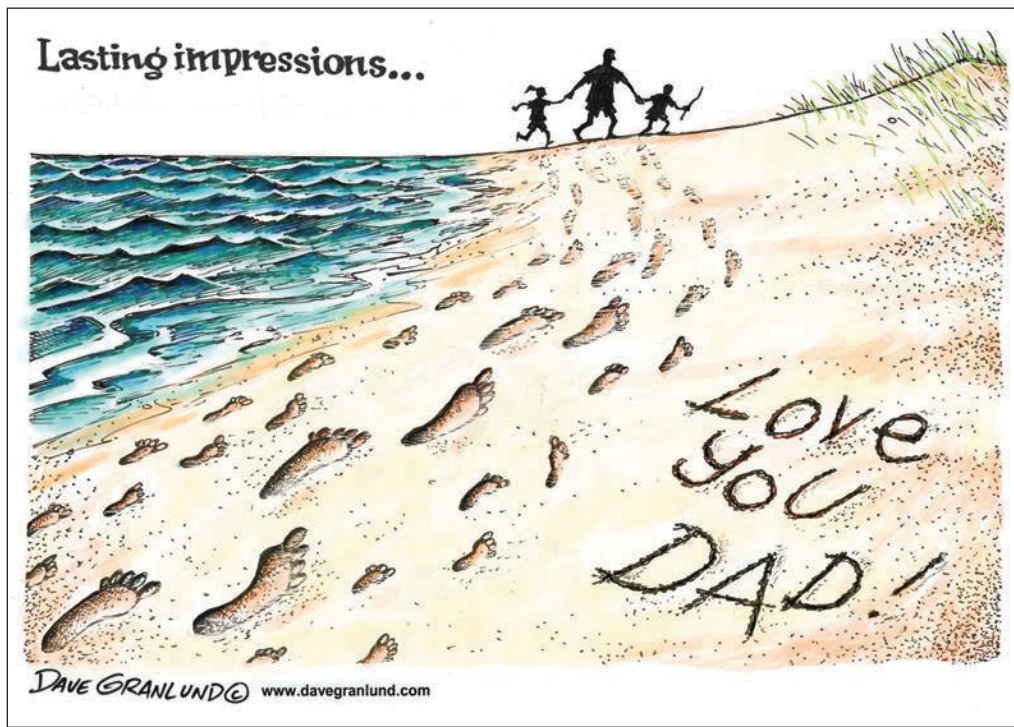
Typically, a lower-lifetime income person will get about 40% of their average pre-retirement monthly income as their Social Security benefit, whereas a higher-income person will get about 20% or less of their pre-retirement monthly average income.

In this way, Social Security is already a "progressive" program. But it's important to understand also that Social Security, from its beginning, was never meant to provide 100% of a person's income needs in retirement.

Thus, each beneficiary should plan to supplement their retirement income in other ways such as retirement savings, investment income, working longer, working part-time, etc.

Having said that, it is also important to know that Social Security is a completely self-sustaining program and not dependent on general public funding, which would make it more susceptible to political shenanigans (imagine giving re-election seeking politicians easy access to Social Security's separately held resources).

While it is certain-  
*See SECURITY, page 5*



Guest Column



Indigo bunting

A reader emailed she saw an indigo bunting at her feeder. The indigo bunting is sometimes called the "blue canary."

However, the indigo bunting like all blue colored birds, lack blue pigment. Their color comes instead from microscopic structures in the feathers that refract and reflect blue light, much like the airborne particles that cause the sky to look blue.

Bunting plumage contains the pigment melanin, whose dull brown-black hue is seen when holding a blue feather up so the light comes from behind it, instead of toward it.

The bunting is sparrow

size and about 4.7-5.5 inches long. The adult male Indigo Bunting is dark blue in the spring and summer. Females are brown, usually with fine streaks on the chest and a blue tinge on the tail. A one-year-old male in summer may be blue with a white belly.

Males are often seen singing from a perch in a tall tree. For years, a male indigo bunting sang from a dead limb on a tall tree. Rarely, I spotted the female usually in a brushy area.

They inhabit brushy pastures and bushy wood edges. For nesting, the indigo bunting favors roadsides, old fields growing up to bushes, edges of woodlands and other

edge habitats such as along rights-of-way for power lines or railroads.

The male indigo bunting establishes territory in the spring and defends it with song. A male may have more than one mate at a time living on his territory.

The nest site is usually one to three feet above ground, rarely up to 30 feet or more, in dense shrub or low trees.

The female lays three to four white to bluish-white eggs with brown or purple spot. Females incubate the eggs and feed the young.

Males will help feed young when they are nearly old enough to fly. Young usually leave nest 9-12 days after hatching.

The male sometimes takes over feeding of fledged young while the female begins second nesting attempt as she has two broods per year.

Indigo buntings forage at all levels from the ground up into shrubs and trees. They take insects from leaves, seeds from the ground or stems and berries from shrubs.

They eat mostly seeds and insects. In breeding season, the indigo bunting feeds mainly on insects and spiders and also some seeds and berries.

Young in the nest are fed mostly insects at first. In winter, they eat many seeds and also some insects.

Indigo buntings migrate at night, using the stars for guidance.

*See BIRDS, page 5*

## Strawberry culture 101

Melissa, who gardens in Belchertown asked this question of the Garden Lady.

"It's always so hard to install strawberry plants and pinch off the flowers the first year. Do you really have to? It would be so wonderful to enjoy some fruit."

I completely understand where you are coming from! Last year I was in the same boat. This year, the fruit is coming in and boy, am I enjoying it!

Removing the flowers redirects the plant's energy away from reproducing to forming strong roots and more shoots, so yes, it recommended practice.

I thought you might find this column, one of my very first, helpful. It contains lots

of good tips for strawberry culture.

I have fond memories of strawberry picking. One of the first days of summer vacation was always spent at a local pick-your-own farm with my mom, filling boxes with luscious red berries.

Like any kid I did my share of sampling out there in the rows, and my taste buds never forgot the intense sweetness found only in fresh picked fruit. Now that I have my own space to garden I am able to go strawberry picking in my backyard.

With a lot of patience and a little labor, so can you!



My bareroot strawberry plants arrived by mail in early spring. I had prepared the sunny space intended for them ahead of time, by eradicating all weeds and tilling in two-inches of finished compost and some slow release organic fertilizer.

Lime wasn't necessary, as strawberries prefer a slightly acidic soil.

The plants looked a bit limp from their trip so the roots were soaked in water

for an hour to rehydrate them prior to planting. I set the crown of the plant right at soil level with the roots spread over a small mound of soil in the hole.

Keeping in mind that strawberries send out runners (daughter plants), I set my plants in a single row roughly two-feet apart with three feet between the rows. This wide spacing allowed for four daughters to be positioned four-five inches apart from mom and each other.

Some gardeners prefer to

pinch away all runners, and nourish only the original mother plant. Initial yields may be higher, but without replacement plants the patch will expire sooner.

All blossoms, although it is tempting to leave them, must be removed the first season so that energy will be spent on building strong roots.

I set up a soaker hose among the plants to be sure that they would continue

*See GARDEN, page 5*

## The Holyoke Sun welcomes election letters to the editor

The Holyoke Sun 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 *The Holyoke Sun*, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to [thesun@turley.com](mailto:thesun@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 Friday'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 413-283-8393.

### Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspa-

per 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 *The Holyoke Sun*.

the HOLYOKE Sun

We Want to Hear From You

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Greg Scibelli  
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## Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed.

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to [thesun@turley.com](mailto:thesun@turley.com). Mailed letters can be sent to *The Sun*, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

\$12.50 Each



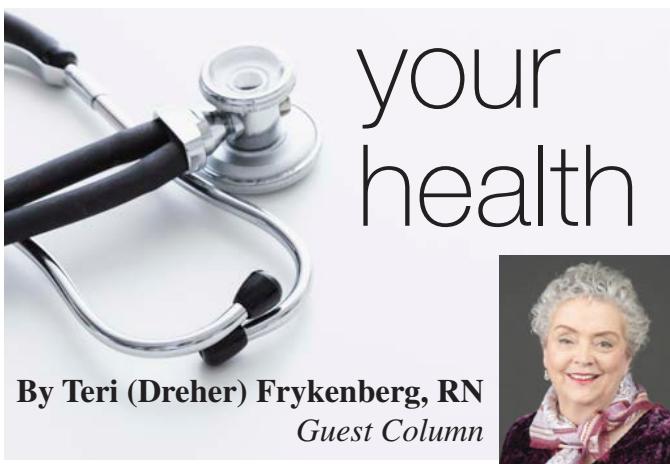
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By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN  
Guest Column

# Hydration's importance: We'll drink to that!

of it can lead to a host of health problems.

This is especially true for seniors. Physical changes as we age mean we may not be as aware of our need to replenish fluids. Our kidneys and muscles aren't as efficient in conserving fluid. The hypothalamus, the part of the brain that triggers thirst, is less effective. Older people are sometimes restricted in mobility or experience cognitive decline, making it harder for them to rehydrate.

You may not even realize you're dehydrated because you won't necessari-

ly feel thirsty. People who are mildly dehydrated can experience irritability, fatigue and lightheadedness, which can progress to confusion, fainting and symptoms of shock as the brain experiences less blood flow.

How much water you need each day depends on a variety of factors, including age, weight and level of activity. A common guideline is half your body weight in ounces, for example: 150 pounds divided by two equals 75 ounces. That sounds like a lot, but remember that up to 20% of that can

come from hydrating foods such as soups, fruits and vegetables.

Another way to gauge your hydration level is urine. If your urine is the pale yellow of lemonade, you're probably getting enough water. Bright yellow urine means you need to drink more.

Like other health practices, getting enough fluid is a habit you can build. Here are some tips.

- Make sure it's handy. When I get in the car, I always make sure I have a water bottle with me. Keep

water next to the bed, or next to you if you're watching TV.

- Make it fun. If a colorful, pricey water bottle will remind you to drink, have at it. Sipping through a straw seems to make drinking less of an effort.

- Mix it up. Water fatigue is a thing. If you get tired of plain water, try some of the caffeine-free sparkling waters that are all over grocery shelves to find a flavor you like. Carbonation doesn't appear to harm fluid uptake. Or just add slices of lemon,

See HEALTH page 8

## SECURITY, from page 4

ly true that the government spends freely on "welfare programs" for those who have not worked, Social Security is not a program, which is dependent on government largesse. Rather, it is a benefit which is earned by working and contributing to the program, which provides retirement benefits based upon each person's average lifetime work income.

If you expect financial difficulties when you retire,

I encourage you to visit this website sponsored by the National Council on Aging ([www.benefitscheckup.org](http://www.benefitscheckup.org)). Here you can enter your zip code and find many public programs which you might be eligible for where you live, including assistance with healthcare costs, housing, utilities, etc.

*The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental*

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

## BIRDS, from page 4

The oldest recorded wild indigo bunting was a male and at least 13 years, 3 months old when he was recaptured and rereleased during banding operations in Ohio in 2013.

### Other birds

Besides seeing an indigo bunting, the reader also has several Baltimore Orioles, rose breasted grosbeaks and goldfinches.

She stated, "Around the corner at the Brook Road pond in West Warren, there was a lone swan. There was a lone swan there for a couple years about six years ago and it made me wonder if it was the same one."

### Pileated woodpecker

I received another email on June 6 from a Belchertown resident.

She stated, "My husband and I witnessed a beautiful pileated woodpecker mating ritual in our backyard this morning.... They jumped around the tree on opposite sides going around several times before then jumping to other trees moving farther back into the woods during the process."

She stated, "After looking them up, I realized that I have heard their calls and rapid pecking sounds in my backyard for the past two years, but never saw them until now. What a joy to watch and video. They are beautiful birds."

She also stated her home has semi dense woods immediately behind that is a haven for several bird species, robins, yellow finch, bluebirds and blue jays. The property also borders some wetlands that

attract a variety of species from time to time, including hawks, owls and ducks.

### Mute swans

My brother, who lives in Sutton, has a pond bordering his property. For several years, a pair of mute swans have raised their family on the pond. They are back this year.

### Bluebirds

I often see a pair of bluebirds in my yard. After seeing them, I put out dried mealworms for them. I don't feed the birds in summer because of the black bears. Hopefully, bears are not interested in a few mealworms and the birds will eat the mealworms before the bear.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by emailing [mybackyard88@aol.com](mailto:mybackyard88@aol.com) or [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com) or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

## GARDEN, from page 4

to grow with gusto during droughty spells. If you choose to do the same, be sure to position runners under the hose, otherwise removing it for winter storage may be a difficult and tangled task.

A mulch of chopped leaves conserves soil moisture and prevents weeds from sprouting. Evergreen boughs laid over the row after the ground has frozen lessens temperature extremes, preventing the plants from being heaved out of the ground during winter freeze/thaw cycles.

Anticipation begins to build in the spring of the second season. It is only a matter of time before the plants will be loaded with ripe berries.

As new growth emerges remove the protective boughs. Pull stray weeds and reapply mulch. If frost threatens during blossoming cover the plants with spun

poly floating row covers or old bed sheets.

Keep up with watering. Lightweight netting works well to deter birds, while slugs can be captured in shallow containers filled with beer and buried at ground level. Remove dead slugs and top off the beer nightly.

June-bearing strawberries bear fruit for two-three weeks. Harvest when the berries are bright red; if fruit is picked unripe it may turn red, but flavor will be sacrificed.

The season can be extended a bit by growing early, mid and late season varieties, or by growing day-neutral types which bear smaller amounts of fruit over a longer period, from June-October.

Nourse Farms ([noursefarms.com](http://noursefarms.com)) of South Deerfield is an excellent local source for strawberry plants.

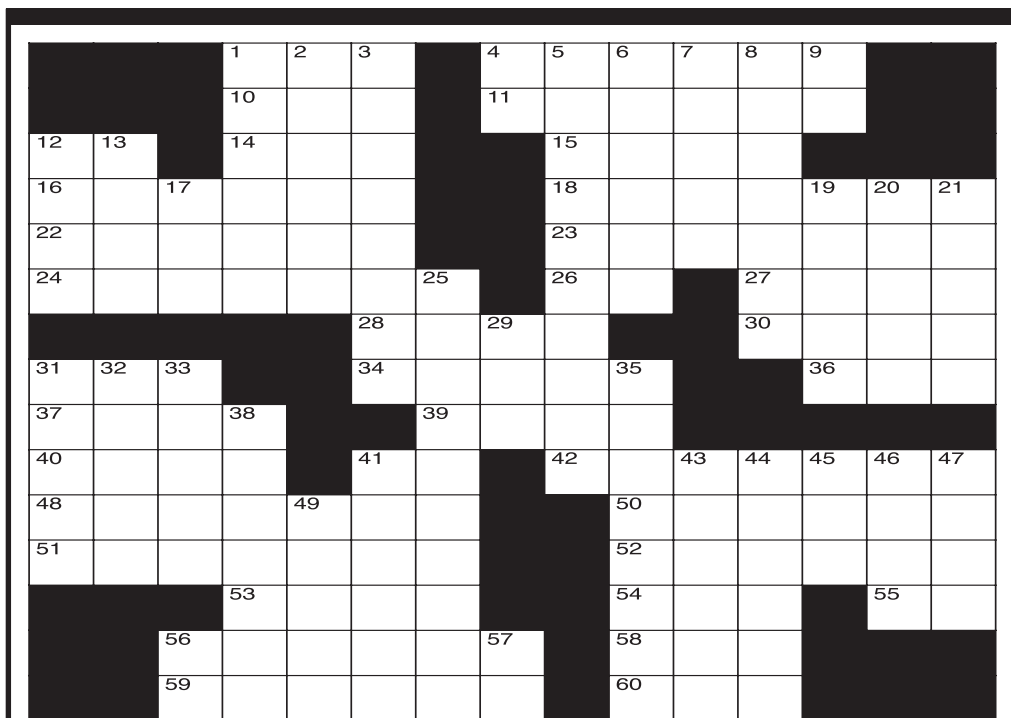
After fruiting is complete mow down the plants

with a push mower. I had to cross reference a few advice books before I had the courage to do this, but it surely did wonders to renovate the bed.

Rake away the mowed leaves, thin runners that are too close, and remove the oldest plants. Top-dress with compost and a sprinkling of fertilizer before remulching.

Although labor intensive, strawberries are worth the work. Managing a strawberry patch in this manner will likely keep it productive for five years. Imagine, your own flavorful memories!

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 34 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*



### CLUES ACROSS

- Similar
- Have an ambitious plan or a lofty goal
- No (Scottish)
- \_\_\_ Aires, city
- Morning
- Senior's son (abbr.)
- A notable achievement
- European nation
- Endings
- Puts into place
- Former
- Grenadier
- Sea patrol
- Algerian port
- Norwegian river
- Precipitation
- Sunscreen rating
- New York is one
- Patti Hearst's
- captors
- Soft mineral with greasy feel
- Retired Brazilian footballer
- An Indian nursemaid
- Atomic #24
- Immobile
- Insignia of royalty
- Seeds from which chocolate is made
- Begin again
- Round root
- Beginning to end (alt. sp.)
- What newlyweds just said
- Empire State
- Give back
- College hoops tournament
- Unstable situations

- Young women's association

### CLUES DOWN

- Administer a drug
- Holy places
- Contrary opinions
- Blood type
- Gags
- Micturating
- Silly
- A type of "cuff"
- Spanish be
- Austrian river
- Messenger ribonucleic acid
- Consume food
- California supermarket
- Electronic communication
- Cassia tree
- Written works
- Cool!
- Noteworthy 90s lawyer Kenneth
- One who was compensated
- National symbols
- Raising
- A type of talk
- Cloud
- Middle Eastern peoples
- Pouches
- 007's creator
- A cut of meat
- Sports entertainment award
- Christine \_\_,
- actress
- Relief organization (abbr.)
- Canadian province (abbr.)

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 8

### Blessed Sacrament Parish

Rev. Duy Le  
[frduyle@blessedsacramentholyoke.org](mailto:frduyle@blessedsacramentholyoke.org)  
1945 Northampton St., Holyoke  
PARISH RECTORY: 413-532-0713  
OFFICE HOURS:  
Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Friday 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
WEEKEND MASSES:  
Saturday 4 p.m.  
Sunday 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.  
DAILY MASS AND ROSARY  
Monday - Friday: ROSARY 6:15 a.m.  
Monday - Friday: MASS 6:45 a.m.  
Legal Holidays: ROSARY 7:30 a.m.  
Legal Holidays: MASS 8 a.m.  
ROSARY AND MEDITATION  
Monday Evening: 6 p.m.  
[www.blessedsacramentholyoke.org](http://www.blessedsacramentholyoke.org)  
FaceBook: @bspholyokema

### First Baptist Church

Pastor Theresa Temple  
1976 Northampton St., Holyoke  
(413) 533-7728  
[firstbaptistchurchhollyoke@comcast.net](mailto:firstbaptistchurchhollyoke@comcast.net)  
Facebook: First Baptist Church of Holyoke, MA  
HOURS: Sunday worship service (winter hours) at 10:30 a.m. (summer hours) at 10 a.m.  
Wednesday Bible Studies, one at 11 a.m. and one at 5:30 p.m.

### Our Lady of the Cross Catholic Parish

Pastor: Fr. Albert Scherer, OFM Conv.  
Email: [pastor@ourladyofthecross.com](mailto:pastor@ourladyofthecross.com)  
Holy Cross Ave., Holyoke  
Parish Offices are located at: 15 Maple Street, Holyoke (413) 532-5661  
[parish@ourladyofthecross.com](mailto:parish@ourladyofthecross.com)  
OFFICE HOURS:  
Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
WEEKEND MASSES:  
Saturday 4 p.m.  
Sunday 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m. (Polish), and 10:30 a.m.  
DAILY MASS:  
Monday - Saturday 8:30 a.m.  
Legal Holidays Mass 9 a.m.  
Reconciliation (Confession) Monday - Saturday 8 a.m.  
Saturday 3:15pm  
Anytime by Appointment  
DEVOTIONS  
Monday - Saturday  
Divine Mercy Chaplet - 7:50 a.m.  
ROSARY 8:05 a.m.  
[www.ourladyofthecross.com](http://www.ourladyofthecross.com)

## CHURCH DIRECTORY



## Your Community Church

### St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Rev. Debora Stein  
34 Jarvis Ave., Holyoke  
Office: (413) 536-3369  
Office: [stpetershollyoke@gmail.com](mailto:stpetershollyoke@gmail.com)  
Pastor: [revdebma@gmail.com](mailto:revdebma@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.stpetershollyoke.org](http://www.stpetershollyoke.org)  
Social media: [facebook.com/stpetershollyoke](https://www.facebook.com/stpetershollyoke)  
OFFICE HOURS:  
Monday and Thursday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Friday, 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
WORSHIP:  
Sundays at 9:30 a.m. (also on Facebook Live) & Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.  
Other: Prayers with Pastor - Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. - on Facebook Live.

### St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Canon Joel Martinez  
485 Appleton St., Holyoke  
413-532-5060  
[Office@StPaulsholyoke.org](mailto:Office@StPaulsholyoke.org)  
[StPaulsholyoke.org](http://StPaulsholyoke.org)  
Instagram: [stpaulsepiscopalchurch\\_holyoke](https://www.instagram.com/stpaulsepiscopalchurch_holyoke)  
OFFICE HOURS:  
Tuesday - Friday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Days and Hours of Services:  
Sunday: 8 a.m.  
Sunday: 10 a.m.  
Sunday: 5 p.m. (Spanish)

### First Lutheran Church

1810 Northampton St.  
Holyoke, MA 01040  
Every Sunday at 9 a.m.

# Public Notices

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING

North Bridge Organics Inc. is giving notice of a Community Outreach Meeting for a proposed marijuana cultivation license in the parking lot at 7 N Bridge St. Holyoke, 01040, their proposed location, at 5:15 pm on July 6th, 2026. There will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions or, email ezra@blueskiescan.com 06/19/2026

## The City of Holyoke Office of Purchasing REQUEST FOR QUOTES 2026-63SD New Burglar Alarm Systems 2 Schools

The Holyoke School Department is soliciting quotes for the replacement of the burglar alarm systems at E.N. White School, 1 Jefferson Street, Holyoke, MA 01040 and at Morgan School, 596 South Bridge Street, Holyoke, MA 01040. The installation of modern alarm systems at both schools. This will include the removal and replacement of the existing master panels, LCD Key-pads, cell communicator, motion detectors, door sensors and batteries if needed. The testing of the system would be required at completion of install.

Documents will be available electronically starting June 17th, 10:00 am, at [morrowj@holyoke.org](mailto:morrowj@holyoke.org). Electronic submissions will be accepted at [morrowj@holyoke.org](mailto:morrowj@holyoke.org) no later than July 6th, 2:30 pm. The subject line of the email must read: "Quote Submission 2026-63sd Burglar Alarms 2 Schools". The time the email is received will be the official timestamp.

Non-Mandatory but highly recommended, a pre-bid walk-through will be held June 25th at 11:00 am. E.N. White first then on to Morgan. This is being bid out in accordance with CH.149 and all other applicable local and state statutes. Electronic submissions must be received no later than July 6th, 2026 at 2:30PM. The city reserves the right to reject any and all quotes if in the city's best interest. 06/19/2026

## The City of Holyoke Office of Purchasing INVITATION FOR BID 2026-61SD CEILING & LOCKER PAINTING 2 Schools

The Holyoke School Department invites sealed bids from qualified individuals or firms for the painting of the 1,760, first and second floor lockers at Holyoke High School located at 500 Beech Street and the cafeteria ceiling at E.N. White School and Holyoke High. Work on this project includes the masking off of the floors, walls and locker hardware, cleaning, sanding and priming then paint using chemically bonding paint (2 coats) for the lockers. At E.N. White the cafeteria floor, duct work and skylights need to be protected, the loose, flaky paint scraped from roof deck and girders and painted with chemically bonding, bright white paint. The ceiling covers 3,080 sqft. Documents will be available electronically starting June 17th, at 10:00 am, by requesting from; [morrowj@holyoke.org](mailto:morrowj@holyoke.org)

Sealed bid submissions will be accepted through hand delivery or mail service to Purchasing Office, 536 Dwight Street, Room 3, Holyoke, MA 01040 no later than July 7th, 2:30 pm where bids will be opened publicly and read.

Non-Mandatory but highly recommended, a pre-bid walk-through will be held on June 26th at 1:00pm at Holyoke High School then E.N. White School.

All Bid submissions must be accompanied by a 5% Bid Deposit. NO LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED. This is being bid according to CH.149 and all other applicable local and state statutes.

The city reserves the right to reject any and all quotes if in the city's best interest. 06/19/2026

## The City of Holyoke Office of Purchasing REQUEST FOR QUOTES 2026-59SD Countertop Replacements 2 Schools

The Holyoke School Department is soliciting quotes for the replacement of the classroom countertops at Morgan School, 596 South Bridge Street, Holyoke, MA 01040, and Sullivan School, 400 Jarvis Avenue, Holyoke, MA 01040. The replacement is for 15 countertops at Morgan and 15 countertops at Sullivan. This will include the removal of the old countertop, disconnection of the sink, and reconnection of the sink once the new countertop is installed. The countertops will be laminate and have a matching backsplash. The color and finish will be chosen at a later date and time.

Documents will be available electronically starting June 17th, 10:00 am, at [morrowj@holyoke.org](mailto:morrowj@holyoke.org). Electronic submissions will be accepted at [morrowj@holyoke.org](mailto:morrowj@holyoke.org) no later than July 6th, 2:00 pm.

Non-Mandatory but highly recommended, a pre-bid walk-through will be held on June 25th at 10:00 am. Morgan School first then on to Sullivan School.

All work is expected to be neat, clean, and in a professional workman-like manner. The job site will be left clean and free of debris generated from this project.

This is being bid out in accordance with CH.149 and all other applicable local and state statutes. Electronic submissions must be received no later than July 6th, 2026 at 2PM. The subject line of the email must read: "Quote Submission 2026-59SD Countertop Replacement". The time the email is received will be the official timestamp.

The city reserves the right to reject any and all quotes if in the city's best interest. 06/19/2026

## The City of Holyoke Office of Purchasing INVITATION FOR BID 2026-62SD Flooring Replacement 2 Schools

The Holyoke School Department invites sealed bids from qualified individuals or firms for the removal and replacement of the flooring at Dean Technical High School at 1045 Main Street, Morgan School 596 South Bridge Street, and 2019 Northampton Street. The old flooring is to be removed, and the installation of either VCT or carpet tile. Dean and Morgan will receive VCT, and Metcalf will receive carpet tile. Documents will be available electronically starting June 17th, 10:00 am, at [morrowj@holyoke.org](mailto:morrowj@holyoke.org)

Sealed bid submissions will be accepted in person or through a mail service delivered to The Purchasing Office, 536 Dwight Street, Room 3, until July 7th, 2026, at 3:00 pm. at which time they will be publicly opened and read.

Non-Mandatory but highly recommended, a pre-bid walk-through will be held on June 26th at 2:00 pm. Dean Tech first, then Morgan, then Metcalf Schools. Work on this project is to include removal and disposal of old floors and installation of new floors.

Bids must be accompanied by a 5% Bid Deposit. NO LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED. This is being bid out in accordance with CH.149 and all other applicable local and state statutes.

The city reserves the right to reject any and all quotes if in the city's best interest. 06/19/2026

## CITY OF HOLYOKE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Local Historic District Commission will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, July 1, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom** to hear, pursuant to Historical District Acts (Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40C, as amended, and the Holyoke Code of Ordinances (Chapter 18-100) Certificate of Appropriateness for proposed exterior work within a local historic district at 68 Fairfield Avenue, Holyoke MA (103-00-046).

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88458964124?pwd=PgSaC9d7TyOZbhCzMbCH0SMkbPsqeI.1> Password: 486016# Meeting ID: 884 5896 4124 Call in: +16465588656,,88

458964124#,,,\*,486016#

A complete copy of the application may be seen at the Holyoke City Clerk's office. M-F. 9:00 am to 4:30 pm

APPLICANT:  
68 Fairfield Avenue,  
Jesse Castellano  
Holyoke Local Historic District Commission  
Chairperson:  
Katherine Hopki  
06/12, 6/19/2026

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD26P1229EA Estate of:

Joseph T. Langland  
Date of Death: March 14, 2026  
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petitioner of Petitioner **Elizabeth Langland of Saint Augustine, FL.**

**Elizabeth Langland of Saint Augustine, FL** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 06/19/2026

## NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by M Tran Properties LLC to Danny S. Laroche and David N. Laroche, Trustees of the 948 Dwight Street Realty Trust, said mortgage being dated August 25, 2023, and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 25131, Page 51, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at **11:00 A.M. on Thursday, July 2, 2026**, upon the premises described in said mortgage, namely 948 Dwight Street and 0 Whiting Avenue, Holyoke, Hampden County, MA 01040, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

That certain parcel of land situated in Holyoke, Hampden County, Massachusetts, with the buildings thereon, being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

### PARCEL 1

Beginning at a point of intersection of the southerly side of West Dwight Street with the westerly side of Whiting Avenue, and thence running

WESTERLY on said West Dwight Street, fifty-four (54) feet, more or less, to land now or formerly of one Neil; thence running

SOUTHERLY along land of said Neil, ninety (90) feet to land now or formerly of one McCrohan; thence running

EASTERLY along land of said McCrohan fifty-four (54) feet, more or less, to said Whiting Avenue; thence

NORTHERLY on said Whiting Avenue, ninety (90) feet to the place of beginning.

### PARCEL 2

Beginning at the northeasterly corner of said lot on the west line of Whiting Avenue, so-called, ninety (90) feet southerly from West Dwight Street; thence running

WESTERLY on land now or formerly of George Thayer and land now or formerly of John H. Clifford, one hundred (100) feet to a stake and stones; thence

SOUTHERLY by land now or formerly of G.N. Philbrick, forty (40) feet to a stake; and thence running

EASTERLY on land now or formerly of Henry Coombs, one

hundred (100) feet to said Whiting Avenue, thence by the west line of said Whiting Avenue, forty (40) feet to the place of beginning.

Said real estate is known and numbered 948 Dwight Street, Holyoke, Massachusetts.

Said premises will be sold subject to and/or with the benefit of any and all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, improvements, covenants, outstanding tax title, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens, rights of parties in possession, and existing encumbrances of record created prior to the mortgage, if any there be, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the Deed.

No representations, express or implied, are made with respect to any matter concerning the premises which will be sold "as is".

The successful high bidder will be responsible for paying the Massachusetts State Documentary Tax Stamps, all closing costs and all recording fees.

**TERMS OF SALE:** The highest bidder in the sale shall be required to deposit cash, bank treasurer's check or certified check in the amount of **FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$15,000.00)** at the time and the place of the sale of the premises to qualify as a bidder (the present holder of the mortgage is exempt from this requirement) to be held by the Mortgagee. The successful bidder will also be required to deposit an additional sum equal to ten percent (10%) of the amount bid less the \$15,000.00 deposit (but no less than \$15,000) with the Mortgagee's auctioneer, Aaron Posnik & Co., Inc., 31 Capital Drive, West Springfield, Massachusetts 01089 or the Mortgagee's attorney as may be directed within five (5) days of the date of the sale to be held by the Mortgagee, and the balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified or bank treasurer's check at the closing which shall occur within thirty (30) days after the date of foreclosure sale, time being of the essence, unless the Mortgagee agrees otherwise. The successful bidder at the sale will also be required to pay a buyer's premium of 5% and shall sign a Memorandum of Terms of Sale containing the above terms at the auction sale.

In the event that the successful bidder at the public auction shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Mortgagee's Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the public auction, the Mortgagee reserves the right, at its election, to sell the property to the second highest bidder at the public auction provided that Mortgagee, in its discretion, may require (1) said second highest bidder to deposit the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein within three (3) business days after written notice to the second highest bidder of the default of the previous highest bidder, (2) the second highest bidder to execute a Memorandum of Sale, and (3) the closing to occur within twenty (20) days of said written notice, time being of the essence unless the Mortgagee agrees otherwise. The Mortgagee reserves the right to sell any parcel or any portion thereof separately, or in any order that Mortgagee may choose and/or to postpone this sale to a later time or date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the sale and to further postpone any adjourned sale date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the adjourned sale date.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the time and place of the sale.

The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Danny S. Laroche and David N. Laroche, Trustees of the 948 Dwight Street Realty Trust, Present Holder of said Mortgage

By /s/ David A. Lavenburg  
David A. Lavenburg,  
Its Attorney  
BACON WILSON, P.C.  
33 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
413-781-0560  
06/05, 06/12, 06/19/2026

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court

## Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103

Docket No. HD26P1273GD  
In the matter of:  
Mikal A Castro Santiago  
Of: Holyoke, MA  
RESPONDENT

## Alleged Incapacitated Person CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Miguel Castro Santiago of Holyoke, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Mikal A Castro Santiago** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Miguel Castro Santiago of Holyoke, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **07/10/2026**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stouemire**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: June 11, 2026

**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
06/19/2026

## The City of Holyoke Office of Purchasing INVITATION FOR BID 2026-60SD SIDEWALK REPLACEMENTS 5 Schools

The Holyoke School Department invites sealed bids from qualified individuals or firms for the replacement of the sidewalks at Dean Technical High School at 1045 Main Street, E.N. White School at 1 Jefferson Street, H.B. Lawrence School at 156 Cabot Street, McMahon School at 75 Kane Road, and Sullivan School at 400 Jarvis Avenue. The replacement of the damaged and degraded existing concrete and brick with concrete or asphalt sidewalks in the specified locations at these five school locations. Documents will be available electronically starting June 17th, 10:00 am, at [morrowj@holyoke.org](mailto:morrowj@holyoke.org)

Sealed bid submissions will be accepted at 536 Dwight Street, Room 3, until July 7th, 2026, at 2:00 pm.

Non-Mandatory but highly recommended, a pre-bid walk-through will be held on June 26th at 11:00 am. Dean Tech first, then McMahon, Sullivan, E.N. White, and Lawrence Schools. Work is to include but not limited to removing existing concrete, and site prep and new concrete installation.

Bids are to be hand delivered or mailed to the Purchasing Department, 536 Dwight Street, Room 3, Holyoke, MA 01040. Bids must be received **NO LATER THAN July 7th, 2026 2PM**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read. Bids must be accompanied by a 5% Bid Deposit. **NO LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** This is being bid out in accordance with CH.149 and all other applicable local and state statutes.

The city reserves the right to reject any and all quotes if in the city's best interest. 06/19/2026

## City of Holyoke

### Notice of Public Hearing

The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council and the Planning Board will hold separate public hearings to hear a zoning ordinance text change proposal to amend Section 6.4.6 Signs in Business and Industrial Districts, Size Limitations Table, of the Zoning Ordinance to increase the maximum surface area permitted for each sign by special permit from 80 sf to 400 sf by special permit of the Planning Board, for projects having 50,000 sf of building area or greater, or for projects of such similar size and scale that said increased sign size is appropriate. **Ordinance Committee public hearing will be held on Tuesday, June 30th, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.** at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via zoom.us Meeting ID 886 8239 2822 Meeting Passcode 994415 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode.

**Planning Board public hearing will be held on Tuesday, July 28th, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. remotely via zoom.us** with Meeting ID 841 8501 6440 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 using same meeting ID.

To provide comments to the Planning Board, please contact Brianna Tejada at [tejadab@holyoke.org](mailto:tejadab@holyoke.org). For the Ordinance Committee, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at [Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org](mailto:Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org) or by phone 413-322-5525.

Planning Board Chair  
Lauren Niles  
Ordinance Chair  
Meg Magrath-Smith  
06/12, 06/19/2026

## City of Holyoke

### Notice of Public Hearing

The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday July 1, 2026, at 5:15 pm.** You can join via Zoom. com; ID **83974921923**; CALL IN: **\*67 646 558 8656** or in person at City Hall, 536 Dwight St. in the Old Tax Collector Office Room 6, regarding the application for a **Transfer of an Annual All Alcohol Off-premises License from Bal Kishan LLC DBA High Street Liquor, 648 High Street to Fernandez Wine & Spirit #2 Inc. DBA High Street Liquors 648 High Street.** pursuant to M.G.L. Ch.138.

Applicant:  
Fernandez Wine & Spirit #2 Inc.  
License Board:  
Jose Correa, Chairman  
06/19, 06/26/2026

## City of Holyoke

### Notice of Public Hearing

The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday July 1, 2026, at 5:15 pm.** You can join via Zoom. com; ID **83974921923**; CALL IN: **\*67 646 558 8656** or in person at City Hall, 536 Dwight St. in the Old Tax Collector Office Room 6, regarding the application for a **Transfer of an Annual Beer & Wine Off-premises License from Robert K, LLC, 820 High Street to OM High St. Racing Mart Inc. DBA Racing Mart 820 High Street.** Pursuant to M.G.L. Ch.138.

Applicant:  
OM High St. Racing Mart Inc.  
License Board:  
Jose Correa, Chairman  
06/19, 06/26/2026

## City of Holyoke

### Notice of Public Hearing

The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday July 1, 2026, at 5:15 pm.** You can join via Zoom. com; ID **83974921923**; CALL IN: **\*67 646 558 8656** or in person at City Hall, 536 Dwight St. in the Old Tax Collector Office Room 6, regarding the application for a **Transfer of a Seasonal All Alcohol Off-premises License from Robert K, LLC, 820 High Street to OM High St. Racing Mart Inc. DBA Racing Mart 820 High Street.** Pursuant to M.G.L. Ch.138.

Applicant:  
OM High St. Racing Mart Inc.  
License Board:  
Jose Correa, Chairman  
06/19, 06/26/2026

## NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

# SPORTS

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## Aldenville Legion falls to Post 28

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE – Matt Sutton, a right-handed pitcher for the Aldenville (Chicopee) Post 337 Legion baseball team, was the starter in last Friday night's home opener against Northampton Post 28.

Sutton should've gotten out of the top of the first inning without allowing any runs.

However, Northampton wound up scoring five unearned runs during their first at-bats of the game en route to an 11-3 victory at Snot Park.

"We made three costly errors in the first inning, which changed the complexity of the entire game," said Aldenville assistant coach Ray Carillon.

"We have a bunch of talented ballplayers on this year's team and we're going to clean things up."

Nate Carillon, who's the Aldenville manager, couldn't attend last Friday's Legion game because he was playing in a Tri-County League game for St. Joe's.

Sutton, who was a sophomore on the Chicopee Comp varsity baseball team this past spring, pitched the first three innings against Northampton. He allowed eight runs (three earned) on seven hits. He walked three and struck out three. It was Sutton's third appearance on the mound during the first week of the Legion season.

"Matt recorded a save in our season opener against Westfield on Monday. He also pitched an inning in relief at Sheffield the other night," Carillon said. "I liked the way that he pitched in tonight's game. He

threw more than 70 pitches." Aldenville entered this week's action with a 1-1-1 record. They defeated Westfield Post 124, 6-3, and tied Sheffield 6-6, in a game called due to darkness.

"We were a young team

last year and we didn't make the Legion playoffs," Carillon added. "We have about 13 returning players this year and we're hoping to have a winning season."

See LEGION, page 8



Noah Carillon makes a play on a bouncing ball.



Aiden Robinson makes a throw to second.



Cam Carpenter catches a throw coming into third base.



Matt Sutton, from Chicopee Comprehensive, pitches for Aldenville Post 337.



Ryan Netkovich gets ready for contact.



Memphis Huertas tries to corral a pitch in the dirt. Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

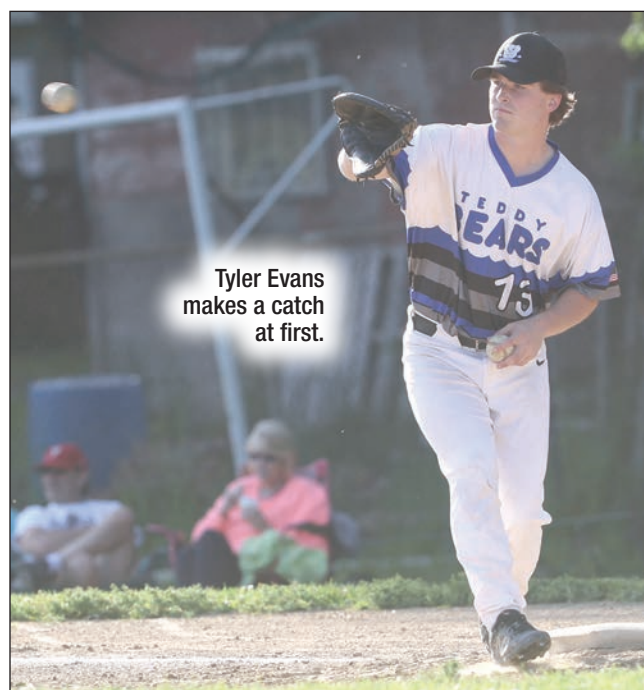
## Teddy Bears Pools scores rare win over defending champs

SOUTH HADLEY – Teddy Bear Pools and Spas wasted no time last Monday evening at South Hadley High School, sending eight men to the plate in the bottom of the first and not looking back en route to a 15-0 blanking of PeoplesBank. The margin was never in question.

The first inning established the tone with swift and relentless efficiency. Bailey Griggs drew a walk that scored a run, Xavion Maldonado doubled to bring home two more, a PeoplesBank error allowed another pair to score, Sean Rosemond drew a walk to push across yet another, and Alex Gochinski grounded out with enough to score one more. Six runs — before PeoplesBank could exhale.

The scoring resumed in the second when Travis Kagan singled to plate one,

See SCORES, page 8



Tyler Evans makes a catch at first.



Danny Gaines pitches for the Bankers. Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Dave Clark picks up a grounder for PeoplesBank.



Milla Lee starts up the field.

Gabby Williams goes after a loose ball.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

## Mutiny defeats Maine Footy

LUDLOW – Last Sunday afternoon, June 7, Maine Footy made their annual visit to Luistano Stadium. The New England Mutiny continued their success against the Footy, defeating Maine 4-0. The UWS win was followed by a win at the Worcester Wanderers 3-0. The Mutiny did suffer a USL-W loss against Hudson Valley 2-1 last Tuesday. The Mutiny will face Hudson Valley against on Saturday, June 20 at Luistano Stadium.



Valentina Molinari looks to get around an opposing player.



Sophia Scyocurka tries to overcome an opponent.

# Valley Blue Sox out to impressive start this summer

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox (6-1-1) took down the Danbury Westerners (3-5) by a score of 4-2 June 13, driven heavily by strong pitching performances from RHP Jackson Hinchliffe (Richmond) and RHP Jake LeFrancois (UMass Lowell).

It was the second night in a row where the Blue Sox's starter pitched at least five complete innings and was relieved by one pitcher who finished the rest of the game.

The ability of Valley's starters to consistently work efficiently through the fifth inning as well as head coach

John Raiola's willingness to keep his starters in the game seemingly have a correlation to the team's early success. Opponents in 2026 have not left a starting pitcher in more than 3.2 innings against the Blue Sox. Valley has done so in all but one game this season.

"It's all them and their ability to throw strikes and to get off the field," Raiola said. "We talk a lot about trying to get length in five or six innings, whatever it is. But the reality is, it's pitch count more than anything. And if we have quick, efficient innings, then they can keep going."

Hinchliffe did exactly that on Saturday night. His final line from June 13 was six innings pitched, four hits, zero earned runs, three strikeouts, and zero walks, all on 70 pitches.

LeFrancois, who earned the nine out save, pitched three innings, allowing one hit, one earned run, striking out two and walking none.

"100 percent," Hinchliffe said when asked if his performance showcased the kind of

pitcher he's built himself to be. "With the two-seam sinker thing, just getting weak contact early in counts allows you to get deep in games, save the bullpen and let the defense work."

As of the morning of June 14, Hinchliffe and RHP Dylan Reid (Brown) lead the NECBL in innings pitched, each with 11.0.

Hinchliffe's second start

was a nice recovery after his first start of the season where he lasted five innings, but allowed five earned runs and five hits. For LeFrancois, it was his fourth appearance of the season and his second in three days.

With the Blue Sox still waiting on select arms to join the team for the summer, the bullpen has stepped up in a major fashion with relievers recording longer outings in order to preserve other pitcher's arms.

"When you play every single day you can't just go 1-1-1 and not have guys avail-

able," Raiola said. "You need some length at times and you have in this case, [LeFrancois] down for a couple days. We have the off day on Tuesday, and we'll get him back on Wednesday. And so, it sets us up nicely for Sunday and Monday."

With the Blue Sox off to one of the hottest starts in the NECBL, the team mentality will not change.

"We talk about it all the time, it is: short memory, show up, continue to get better every single day," Raiola said. "Let the process dictate what the results are going to be."

## LEGION, from page 7

Ten of the 18 players listed on the Aldenville roster played baseball for the South Hadley varsity team.

Sutton struck out two of the first three batters that he faced in the opening frame. He walked the other hitter before his defense let him down.

Following another walk, Northampton (2-1) scored a pair of runs on back-to-back fielding errors by the first baseman. Then DH James Lavalley, who graduated from Smith Voc-Tech in 2025, belted a two-run triple to right field giving the visiting team an early 4-0 lead. Northampton's fifth run crossed the plate on a throwing error by the third baseman.

Aldenville starting centerfielder Justin Rivera, who recently graduated from Holyoke High School, led off the bottom of the first inning with an infield base hit against lefthander Andrew Gagne, who was a senior on the Pope Francis baseball team.

After stealing second base, Rivera advanced to third base on a groundout by DH Lincoln Belsky, who's one of the South Hadley players, before scoring on a wild pitch.

Northampton retook a five run lead in the second inning when second baseman Matt Vassallo (Hopkins Academy) hit a sacrifice fly to right field.

The home team answered back an unearned run in the second inning.

Alex Savlick (Minnechaug Regional) reached first base leading off the inning on a throwing error

by the third baseman. A wild pitch moved him to second and he went to third on a balk. Another balk by Gagne scored Savlick, who played three different positions in the game. He started at third baseman before moving to left field. Savlick finished the contest on the mound.

Sutton gave up two more runs in the third, which gave Northampton an 8-2 advantage.

Savlick took over on the mound at the start of the fourth inning. He struck out the first two batters before issuing back-to-back walks. Both baserunners scored on a triple by centerfielder Carter Styspeck (Hopkins).

Trailing 10-2, Aldenville shortstop Brandon Carillon drew a walk with one out in the bottom of the fifth inning. After stealing second and third, Carillon scored on Gagne's third balk of the game.

Gagne, who was replaced by righty Thomas Moore at the start of the sixth inning, had more balks than base hits (one) in the first five innings.

Aldenville loaded the bases in the sixth inning, but they failed to score.

Savlick finished his outing by striking out the side looking in the top of the seventh inning.

Rivera (2-for-4) smacked a double to the gap in left center against Vassallo, who's a righty, leading off the bottom of the seventh. Vassallo retired the next three batters ending the ballgame, which almost took almost three hours to complete.

## SCORES, from page 7

and the third inning became an exercise in patience and plate coverage. Ray Toth hit a sacrifice fly, Willie Landman singled to center, Griggs singled to right, Kagan grounded into a fielder's choice, Ty Evans doubled to center, Rosemond singled down the right-field line, and Ryan Magni singled down the left-field line — each driving in a run. Seven different players contributed to that inning. Kagan finished the night with four RBI on a single hit, the most efficient line on the card.

Nate Kelleher-Mochak was untouchable on the mound. The starter worked five innings without allowing a run, giving up just two hits, striking out four, and walking one. It was the kind of outing that makes a winning pitcher's night feel almost anticlimactic — he threw strikes, got outs, and watched his offense do the rest.

Jackson Lavalley absorbed the loss for PeoplesBank, lasting just one inning and allowing one run on one hit. The final score reflected a difficult evening for the visitors, who managed only two hits on the night — one apiece from Hogan G and Macdonald.

Teddy Bear collected 10 hits as a club, with Magni, Rosemond, and Maldonado each going 2-for-the-night.

Equally notable was the team's discipline at the plate: eight walks drawn, with Griggs and Gochinski each earning two. Teddy Bear also played a clean game in the field — no errors, with Evans handling the most chances at five. On this Monday, everything worked.

Mason Barcomb sends a throw to first for Teddy Bear Pools.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Cam MacDonald makes a strong throw to first.

Left, Bailey Griggs slings a throw to first base for an out.

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**HEALTH** from page 5

lime or cucumber to plain water.

- Make it part of your morning routine. After six or eight hours of sleep, most of us are a little dehydrated. After you brush your teeth, treat yourself to a big drink of water to start the day.
- Make a reminder. Ask your smartphone to remind you once an hour to drink something.
- But don't drink just anything.
- Alcohol and caffeine act as diuretics, causing your body to release water. Minimize your intake of caffeinated soft drinks, coffee, tea and booze to help your body retain fluid.
- Juices are good hydrators, but they are also laden with sugar and calories.
- Gatorade and other beverages that replenish electrolytes are generally unnecessary unless you've been perspiring heavily.

Some days you may forget to drink enough. If that happens, don't try to make up for it all at once. Drinking too much will just cause you to have to go to the bathroom, and you won't retain the benefits of fluid. Rather, sip water through the evening, and then start the next day with eight or 10 ounces of water.

Too much water can be as bad as too little. "Overhydration" occurs when you drink so much water that your kidneys can't process it, throwing off the balance of water and electrolytes in your blood.

You can have your water and eat it, too. Many fruits and vegetables are 80% or more water, and they become more plentiful in summer, when we need it most. One of the best is watermelon — which makes sense, right? One cup contains more than a half cup of water, plus you're getting fiber, vitamins C and A and magnesium. All melons, in fact, are high in water content, including honeydew and cantaloupe.

With the arrival of hot summer weather, it's a good time to recommit ourselves to making sure we get enough fluids every day to avoid dehydration.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, R.N., a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of [www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com](http://www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com), which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. A Monson, MA resident, she is the author of "How to Be a Healthcare Advocate for Yourself & Your Loved Ones" and her new book, "Advocating Well: Strategies for Finding Strength and Understanding in Health Care," available at Amazon.com. Contact her at [Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com](mailto:Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com) to set up a free phone consultation.

The Holyoke Sun

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## In The News

### PROTEST, from page 1

Burnham then added that Holyoke's water is currently clean, but that could change, something Rochester Institute of Technology student and Holyoke native Rosa Goncalves touched upon by citing that a closed-loop cooling system can bring its own issues.

"A closed-loop system still has to be dumped and recirculated at some point, and if you follow the footprint of it, it puts ... significantly more stress on power, because you can't keep circulating the same water for cooling purposes - it's going to be heated up after the first time... you have to cool it before it goes back in," she said. "And not to mention that also makes the data center overall internal temperature higher, which can cause issues outside of it."

Others told the Holyoke Sun during the protest that they are worried about the future for their children, such as city resident and parent Jessica Montagna.

"I am concerned by a recent pattern from the city pursuing these kinds of large-scale projects before there's a clear community-supported vision for how they fit into the future," Montagna said. "We should be planning for the city we want decades from now and not reacting to these short-sighted opportunities in the moment like the data center, when decisions are made without fully considering environmental infrastructure and public health impacts, because it's the residents and taxpayers who end up bearing the costs of this, and it's clear that data centers are not good for the environment."

And the momentum from the rally carried into the evening as the conversation pivoted into the City Council Chamber as more than 30 individuals offered perspective and input during the public comment period of Tuesday's meeting; for example, William "Billy" Myers, a Ward 7

resident, who shared he has lived in Holyoke for 30 years, along with being a conservator and an enrolled member of the Mohawk community while also serving on the Haudenosaunee environmental task force in New York.

"I can tell folk stories about cows drowned in oil," he said. "I really know what goes on with PFAS, and we can't even eat fish out of any of the rivers in New York City because of power plants. We also have a mantra in my community and most of the Mohawk community that what we do now will affect the next seven generations," Myers said. He then added his work is centered on children and the stability of long-term community health, as he urged leaders to "look within" themselves and put profit aside.

Additional testimony came from Ward 6 resident Richard Kornitsky, an electrical power engineer, who offered a cautionary tale about the proposed project at the former Hampden Papers facility.

Kornitsky drew ire to reports noting that the new data center would use up to 20 MW, by bringing attention to the realization that Holyoke Gas & Electric's (HG&E) all-time summer peak load is 75 megawatts.

"This is not a small data center for Holyoke," he said. "This is a 26.7% increase in our peak load that energy has to come from somewhere." He also noted that the added demand could raise costs and increase reliance on backup diesel generation, which produces harmful air pollutants.

"That means that if they are to be using some sort of peak shaving methodology," Kornitsky said. "And more likely they won't have natural gas."

#### To Ban or Not to Ban

In the wake of the public comment fallout, Ordinance Committee Chair and City Council Vice President Meg Magrath-Smith opened with a report to the full council, describing what she called a "complicated path" that would

be taken, which eventually led to the council's decision to ban.

The first to voice opposition was Ward 5 City Councilor Linda Vacon, who argued that the concept of transparency needed to take priority.

"How we do things matters - we're having a lot of issues in the city, with things happening in the back [and] coming out in the front,



used, which was highlighted during public comment.

and nobody knew what happened: that needs to stop," Vacon said. "And agree with me, disagree with me... I'm not saying I'm always right, because I'm not: I'm human, I make my mistakes... but on this principle, I will stand."

At-Large City Councilor Mike Sullivan pushed back on the debate as he cited the overarching narrative and concern of misinformation being provided, particularly about water use, noting that the current data shows the system has capacity.

"I've done my homework, and I want it to be known 30 years ago Holyoke used 11 million gallons per day. Today we use 4 million; the current data center at its highest peak uses 1.2% of our water, so this would have no effect at all on, and this is coming from the Holyoke Water Department," Sullivan said. He just pointed out the range of water that the newly proposed center would have



Turley photos by Brendan Rooney

Signs and protesters waited outside city hall during Tuesday's meeting.

level of risk. Before noting no formal application for a new facility has been filed.

At-Large City Councilor Howard Greany confessed he wasn't ready to decide, citing, "I need more information," he said, sharing that a moratorium would allow time to research both sides, "which is my obligation to the people of Holyoke."

Ward 4 Councilor Richard Purcell argued the debate should center on environmental justice, arguing lower-income neighborhoods have long borne the burden of industrial development.

"Wards 1, 2&4 are high-density areas of poverty, and that's one of the reasons they want to put this data center in an area because they know they can dump on us," he said. And I want to add, Silicon Valley in California doesn't give a damn about Holyoke, not one bit. They are only in this for additional wealth, and the acquisition of our natural resources." He then followed up, citing, "This will lead to pollution, noise complaints, and water contamination." Purcell led his exchange by weaving his thoughts around the experience he witnessed and felt during the Mount Tom era when a coal-fired power plant operated until 2014, saying industries accepted pollu-

tion for tax revenue but paid health costs, including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, which led to his decision to vote in favor of the ban.

Ward 6 City Councilor Juan Anderson-Burgos kicked off his thoughts, citing public health concerns, discussing national backlash and other concerns linked to the trend of data centers, and the council needs to listen to the public, and acknowledged the current frustration and worries.

"They're all warning us, so please do not sit in these chairs and just assume that a business came to our city is our friend," he said. "I don't know how anyone has the heart to not support its community - for the life of me, I don't understand why somebody won't stand up and say 'Not in Holyoke.'" He then added, "I did not get elected to be someone's buddy at some business. I do not care how much money you throw in my face because that only shows desperation," Anderson-Burgos added.

Lastly, At-Large City Councilor Mimi Pantich and Ward 3 City Councilor Anne Thalheimer both agreed the framework currently isn't present for a moratorium and called for action to be taken, ushering in the roll-call vote, to which it transpired quickly, resulting in the official ban of future data centers.

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### CHURCH, from page 1

by Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians.

More than 250 people attended the event, with over \$6,000 being raised for the church. Alan was grateful for how many community members came together.

"It went so, so well," Alan said. "So many people came from all over Holyoke. They came together, they danced and they ate. To see all the people there was just the most outstanding thing."

Alan gave his thanks to the various organizations who donated and helped to get the word out about this fundraiser.

On top of that, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Amedeo's Pizza, and the Elk's Lodge, the Holyoke Chamber of Commerce, the Holyoke Taxpayer Association and Bank ESB all donated and helped the fundraiser come together.

"So many people promoted the event and helped it become successful," Alan said. "Hopefully that made the people at St. Paul's Church and the veterans feel that even though something terrible took place, people support them."

Additionally, Nick's Nest has promised to do a fundraiser of their own on June 21 to help continue this wave of support for the church. They will be donating 5% of the day's sales to the church.

The whole fundraiser came together in a matter of days, and without community support Alan knows it would not have been half as successful.

"The takeaway is that Holyoke comes together for a good cause," Alan said. "There are many things that may divide us, but in Holyoke, our superpower is that when there is a tragedy we come together as a community."

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