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Election season taking shape

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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HOLYOKE – The deadline to turn in nomination papers for elected office is on the horizon and it is shaping up to be an exciting fall for the Holyoke City Council and the School Committee, which got its power back on July 1.

But one office that may not be “left up to the voters” is the top one.

As of press time, the City Clerk’s office has an updated list of candidates who have taken out nomination papers with several of whom have returned them. The due date to return nomination papers is Tuesday, July 29. Nomination papers can still be taken out until then.

As of press time, only incumbent Mayor Joshua Garcia has taken out papers for re-election to the city’s top elected office. His papers have not been certified as of press time, and no one else has taken out papers for mayor.

Another office that could be unopposed is that of City Clerk Brenna Murphy Leary. Her papers have been certified and she is a candidate for re-election. She is not currently being opposed.

Ward 1 City Councilor Jenna Rivera

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Enthusiastic Garden: Madison Ave. - Karen and Andy Fisk use their garden as a space to share plants, connect with neighbors, and highlight literary inspirations.

Garden Tour showcases nature, heritage, and heart

By Abigail McCoy
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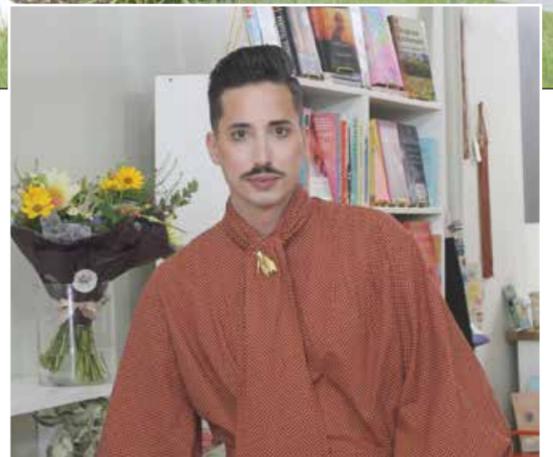
HOLYOKE—Sunshine and blossoms graced the streets and yards of Holyoke on Saturday, July 12, as more than a hundred residents and visitors strolled through an eclectic array of gardens for the city’s first-ever Holyoke Garden Tour, presented

by the Holyoke Historical Society (HHS).

Conceived and organized in just a few months, the tour was a vision realized by Joseph Charles, President of the HHS and co-owner of Paper City Fabrics, and supported by local businesses and community partners. Charles collaborated with The Leaf Loft, a vibrant

venue combining greenery, coffee, and books, to host the event’s check-in point. The Leaf Loft sources their coffee from Monsoon Coffee Roasters and books from Rumspringa Books, adding a creative local touch to the experience.

See GARDEN TOUR, page 6



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy
Joseph Charles, President of the Holyoke Historical Society, organizer of the inaugural Holyoke Garden Tours and a co-owner of Paper City Fabrics.

City streamlines community outreach efforts

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Holyoke has officially opened a new office in the War Memorial building in an effort to improve their community outreach initiatives.

This office includes three human services departments from the area. These are: Holyoke Police Department’s Street Outreach Program; the Hampden County Sheriff’s Department’s All Inclusive Support Services for formerly incarcerated individuals, and Holyoke’s Community Response Advocate.

The goal of this new office is to make these different programs and resources more easily accessible to Holyoke community members.

“What we are trying to build here is a community response division,” Mayor Joshua Garcia said. “It is a cross sector collaboration between organizations that are doing the incredible work that we need to help our most vulnerable people.”

The goal of this office is to allow community members who need support integrating back into society (including adjusting after incarceration, after deployment, or recovering from



Turley photo by Quinn Suomala
Members of the Holyoke community gathered in the new community outreach office in the War Memorial building.

addiction) to have easy access to the resources they need.

“Why is this building so important?” Sheriff Nick Cocchi said. “Because it has eliminated the transportation issues for people returning back to the city of Holyoke. They shouldn’t have to get on a bus or into a car to go to Springfield for services.”

“You don’t realize how important a drivers license is,” Holyoke Police Chief Brian Keenan said. “For a

guy getting out of state prison who lives on High Street who is told he’s got to go Springfield, he can’t think about getting a job, he can’t think about going to his kids’ basketball game, he can’t think about anything because he’s worried about punching a ticket to get on a bus.”

The hope is that by having these resources more accessible, the people of Holyoke who need them will utilize them.

“It’s about giving people

an avenue and an opportunity to walk through a door, put their hand up and say, ‘I need help,’” Cocchi said.

City Councilor Israel Rivera agreed with the importance of having these resources easily available. As a formerly incarcerated individual himself, he knows how crucial accessible resources are.

He also was proud to see the community coming together to make this project

See OFFICE, page 3

Summer Eats meals transitioned to ‘fast food’ during warmer days

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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HOLYOKE – Earlier this week, the heat index reached 100 on multiple days, prompting the Holyoke Public Schools to make a small shift in their Summer Eats meals program.

According to the Holyoke Public Schools website, regular meals were expected to resume on Friday, July 18.

Grab-N-Go meals include prepackaged chilled lunches that can be quickly picked up. Because of the extreme temperatures predicted for the next few days, there will be no hot foods available for pick-up at the district’s nine Summer Eats locations:

- Carlos Vega Park, Hamilton Street, 11–11:40 a.m.
- Community Field, Community Field Road, 11:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m.
- Holyoke Heritage State Park, 221 Appleton Street, behind the Merry-Go-Round, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

- Holyoke Hills, Tokeneke Road, near the community center, 11:55 a.m.–12:35 p.m.
- Holyoke Public Library, 250 Chestnut Street, near the front entrance, 11:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m.
- McMahon Field, 75 Kane Road, 11:30–12:30 p.m.
- Peck Field, 1916 Northampton Street, near the tennis courts, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.
- Pouliot Pool, 575 Maple Street, outside the pool area, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
- Springdale Park, 844 Main Street, near the splash pad, 11:55 a.m.–12:35 p.m.

All Summer Eats meals are available at no cost for kids and teens (ages 18 and under). Participants do not need to register and they do not need to provide any ID.

It is possible that extreme heat could necessitate the grab-and-go option at another point in the summer for those locations. Residents who get meals at those places should watch for announcements on the district website.

HCC awarded \$423K federal grant for TRIO student support program

HOLYOKE — The U.S. Department of Education has awarded Holyoke Community College a TRIO Student Support Services grant of \$423,190 to improve college retention and graduation rates among low-income, first-generation students, and students with disabilities.

This award, which runs through June 2026, marks the continuation of more than 30 years of TRIO SSS services at HCC. Since 1993, the program has served thousands of HCC students, helping them stay in school, earn degrees, and build meaningful careers.

SSS is one of eight federal TRIO programs funded under the Higher Education Act of 1965 to remove social, academic, and cultural barriers to higher education. Since its inception in 1968, TRIO SSS has helped millions of low-income, first-generation students graduate from college and contribute to their communities and the economy.

Through individualized services including academic tutoring, financial aid, scholarship guidance, career exploration, personal and academic counseling, and mentoring, TRIO SSS empowers students to overcome barriers to success. These comprehensive supports make it significantly more likely that students will complete their degrees or successfully transfer, with the lowest possible debt.

“The TRIO Student Support Services program at Holyoke Community College empowers students to achieve their academic goals through personalized academic support as they navigate both educational challenges and personal growth,” said Elsie Rodriguez-Garcia, director of TRIO programs at HCC. “Through mentorship, guidance, and valuable resources, TRIO inspires students to realize their full potential and thrive during their college journey. TRIO is more than just a support

service, it is a community that engages, encourages, and uplifts students – fostering resilience, persistence, and lasting success beyond college.”

Nationally, the TRIO SSS program has a proven track record. According to a 2019 evaluation by the U.S. Department of Education, students in TRIO SSS at two-year institutions were 48 percent more likely to earn an associate degree or transfer to a four-year school, and students at four-year institutions were 18 percent more likely to earn a bachelor’s degree compared to similar peers not in the program.

“TRIO programs generally and TRIO SSS in particular transform students from the least resourced backgrounds into college graduates,” said Kimberly Jones, president of the Council for Opportunity in Education in Washington, D.C. “This vital program makes all the difference for nearly a million students each year across the



Submitted photo
TRIO SSS student Danyelle Foster celebrates her graduation from Holyoke Community College at Commencement on May 31. She earned an associate degree in criminal justice.

country.”
Notable alumni of the TRIO Student Support Services program include

Michael Cashman, town supervisor of Plattsburgh, N.Y.; former NASA astronaut José Hernández;

and Cheryl Johnson, 36th Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Springfield Museums full of activity this season

SPRINGFIELD – Now open seven days a week, the Springfield Museums are ready to embrace the season with activities and highlights throughout the weeks of Summer at the Museums, happening through Aug. 15. Free with museum admission.

The Museums are elevating the 2025 summer experience with opportunities to gather, tinker, and jam as a community. Family-friendly exhibitions and hands-on explorations in the Cat’s Corner, Hasbro Games Art Discovery Center, and Spark!Lab are available daily for visitor enjoyment.

“Summer at the Museums is such a fun time of year! Explore four interactive special exhibits, become an inventor or artist in one of our hands-on educational spaces, and play out on the Quadrangle lawn” says Larissa Murray, Director of Education at the Springfield Museums.

Then, from Wednesday to Friday, visitors can participate in a variety of special program offerings. On Wednesdays, dance and jam to performances from a variety of local acts. On Thursdays, kids can get crafty with the Museum School for Tinker Thursdays, available at an additional charge. Lastly, on Fridays, welcome the weekend with bubbles, a performance by the Toe Jam Puppet Band, and other featured activities.

“We have so much happening this summer, from our Wednesday and Friday performances to our daily drop in spaces and exhibits. There are so many reasons to visit the Springfield Museums this summer,” exclaims Abby Garner, Family Engagement Coordinator.

All exhibits and activities are FREE with museum admission unless noted otherwise.

Stanley Park hosting dance sessions Aug. 18

WESTFIELD – Join us Aug. 18 on the Stanley Park Acre Lawn next to the Pavilion Annex from 6 to 7 p.m. for two Chakra Dance sessions led by Harlene Simmons from All Natural Reiki.

Chakra dance is rhythm for your soul, a movement-based practice that combines dance, music, and visualization to balance and activate the body’s seven energy centers, or chakras.

This dance is to balance your Chakras (energy centers) and discover a deepened connection to your true self and feeling of coming home.

Music for your Base Chakra: vibrational, connecting your body to earth

Music for your Sacral Chakra: sensual, connecting to your inner goddess or god

Music for your Solar Plexus Chakra: fiery & dynamic, strong defined movement.

Music for your Heart Chakra: uplifting, joyful softening of your heart.

Music for your Throat Chakra: more ethereal, chanting as you dance, expressing your inner truth.

Music for your Third Eye Chakra: High vibrations, opens up to intuitive guidance through dance.

Music for your Crown Chakra: opening to a feeling of oneness, connected to the divine.

Dress comfortably, easy, flowing clothes are recommended.

Donations to the Park of \$5 per person, per class, is suggested.

For more information on Chakra Dance classes and all other Stanley Park events, check online at: www.stanleypark.org.

COLLEGE NOTES

Talia Velez graduates from Tufts University

MEDFORD – Tufts University awarded more than 2,800 degrees across all schools during its ceremony commemorating the accomplishments of the Class of 2025.

Talia Velez of Holyoke graduated with a degree in Studio Art (BFA) from Tufts University.

Tykes Tuesday back in the summer

HOLYOKE – Summer is just around the corner and that means Tykes Tuesday is back for free family fun at Holyoke Mall Tuesday mornings through Aug. 19.

Tykes Tuesday, sponsored by The Care Center, features seven weeks of free family activities and exclusive discounts on Tuesdays starting at 11 a.m. on the lower level in Macy’s Court. The kids’ program is free, open to the public, and is best suited for children ages 12 and under. This year’s activities include live animal

ambassadors, a magic show, free trampoline park admission, and more.

Tykes Tuesday Schedule:

July 22: Celebrate Christmas in July with Mrs. Claus, Face Painting and More

July 29: Magic Show with Ed Popielarczyk

August 5: Meet and Greet with the Holyoke Fire Department and Belchertown PD Dog

August 12: Superhero Training Academy with

Face Painting and Balloon Art

August 19: Fantastic Forces with Mad Science

Families are encouraged to pre-register at www.holykemall.com/tykes-tuesday-2025/. Plus, families who come to all 7 weeks of Tykes Tuesday will be entered to win a Grand Raffle Prize of a Back-to-School gift pack. Those interested can get a loyalty punch card at the Holyoke Mall registration table on July 8.



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Multiple game events at Holyoke Library this July

HOLYOKE – In July, the Holyoke Public Library will be holding multiple game events for adults and children. On July 24, there will be an event featuring tabletop games in the first floor board room from 3

to 5:30 p.m. And then on July 29 from 2 to 5 p.m., Nintendo Switch games will be available to play in the community room. For more info, contact Abbey at 413-420-8101 or email abuendinger@holyokelibrary.org

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A month into summer, let's not forget about Adolescent Mental Health

By Shelley Zimmerman, MPA, MHM, BSN, RN, Hospital Administrator
MiraVista Behavioral Health Center

HOLYOKE – It's been a month since school let out for the summer. The daily grind of early alarms and packed lunches has been replaced by late mornings, camps, part-time jobs, and plenty of screen time. For many teens, summer brings a welcome break. But for others, especially those facing emotional or mental health challenges, these unstructured weeks can be anything but carefree.

We talk often about "learning loss" during summer break. But what about the loss of structure, connec-

tion, and routine that schools provide? For adolescents, these aren't just conveniences, they're lifelines. Teachers, counselors, and trusted adults offer stability, and their absence over the summer can leave vulnerable youth feeling isolated and unsupported.

Recent national data highlights what many parents and providers already know: youth mental health is in crisis. According to the CDC, more than 40% of high school students report persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness. And anxiety and depression diagnoses among adolescents have risen sharply in the past decade, with anxiety increasing by more than 60% and depression by nearly 45%.

At MiraVista Behavioral Health Center, we see the effects of this seasonal gap firsthand—and we're here to help fill it.

"We want families to know that help is available—and accessible," says Shelley Zimmerman, Hospital Administrator at MiraVista. "Our direct admission process allows adolescents in need of inpatient mental health care to be admitted without the delays and stress of an emergency department visit. It's a more compassionate, streamlined approach to care."

Our adolescent inpatient program, serving youth ages 13 and older, remains fully open and active throughout the summer months. Because we know that mental health



doesn't take a break—and neither do we.

Parents, caregivers, pediatricians, and community leaders: If you know a young person who's struggling emotionally, please don't wait. Early support can make all the difference.

To learn more about our services or to refer a teen for care, visit www.miravistabh.com.

Mental health matters in every season. A month into summer, it's worth remembering: when school is out, support must stay in.

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church to hold Greek Festival

HOLYOKE – A Greek Festival will be held on Saturday, Aug. 23 at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Grounds from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 410 Main Street, Holyoke. Greek food, pastries music, vendors and family-friendly features. We look forward to sharing another "Greek Day in Holyoke" with you. Admission is free; Ample parking. For more information, contact Sharon at 533-9880 or email holytrinityofholyokey@gmail.com.



Turley photos by Quinn Suomala
Sheriff Nick Cocchi shared the importance of this new office.



Mayor Joshua Garcia welcomed everyone to the new community outreach office.



Holyoke Police Chief Brian Keenan shared his hopes for how this office could benefit the Holyoke community.



City Councilor Israel Rivera added his perspective on why the new community outreach office will be crucial for anyone who wants to be reintegrated into society.



Holyoke Community Development Director Alicia Zoeller explained how she believes this office will benefit the Holyoke community.

OFFICE, from page 1

possible. "It's important that we come together as a community, not just the sheriff's department, not just the police department, but also all the other service providers in the region to work together and build a unit of one stop shop in the region

that actually allows people to come in and get all the services they need from this particular spot," Rivera said.

Cocchi also took the time to thank the many other people who have been working to make this office and the other efforts of the police department possible.

This included Garcia and his staff, probation chief Sewan

McBride and his staff and all the other police officers who work each day in Holyoke.

"It is their everyday compassion, professionalism and respect that yield forth to the people of the great county of Hampden, Massachusetts," Cocchi said. "Because of today, people in the city of Holyoke...we have 23% less fatal overdoses in the county

since last year, because of the work everybody in this building does."

Using this office, Cocchi and the other members of the police department and of the Holyoke city staff hope to continue to see this number, and many others improve.

"We hope to continue to build, continue to expand and continue to strengthen our local partnerships with our local organizations that

are, again, doing the important work out there in our community," Garcia said.

"Let's be back here in a year and let's watch the crime rate go down in the city of Holyoke, but most importantly, let's watch the quality of life rise here in the city of Holyoke," Keenan said.

ELECTION, from page 1

has definite competition as she and challengers Victory Machado and Jose Candelario are certified.

At-Large Councilors Kevin Jourdain, Michael Sullivan, Tessa Murphy-Romboletti, Patricia Devine, Howard Greaney, Jr., and Israel Rivera are all certified for the election.

Ward Councilors to be certified include Ward 5's Linda Vacon, Ward 6 Councilor Juan Anderson-Burgos, and Ward 7 Councilor Meg Magrath-Smith.

For the school committee, which are back in power

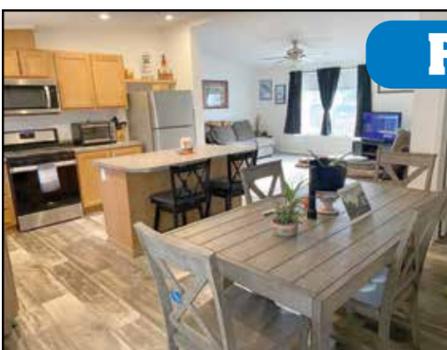
following the end of state receivership, are chaired by the mayor, and At-Large member Devin Sheehan has had his papers certified. Patrick Beaudry is certified for election for Ward 6.

Candidates who have taken out papers include Jennifer Keitt, Peter Diaz, Kocayne Givner, Anne Thalheimer, John Rivera, Mimi Panitch, Christopher Dunay, Ricard Purcell, Ramona Mulro, Nicole Maisonet, Disodado Lopez, and David Bartley for city council. School committee nomination papers have been taken out by Gladys Lebron-Martinez, Luis Orlando Isaza, Mildred Lefebvre, Yadiette Rivera-Colon, Eleanor Wilson, Jessica

Cruz-Morales, and Rosalee Tensley Williams.

With three candidates certified for the Ward 1 City Council seat, there is definitely a need for a primary to narrow the field to two candidates for that seat. That primary would be held on Tuesday, Sept. 16. Multiple candidates pulled papers for City Council Wards 2 and 4, and primaries could be held for those seats as well if the papers are returned and certified.

The general municipal election is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 4. The city is need of poll workers for the upcoming elections. Please call the city clerk's office at (413) 322-5520 for more information.



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SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor



Why can't I get my Social Security payment plus my Railroad Pension from my ex-spouse?

Dear Rusty:

I have a question. I now get a Railroad Pension from my ex-husband. I did not know it was from the Social Security Administration. I want to collect my SS benefits and my Railroad pension. Can I do that? I do not understand why I cannot collect both. Please advise.

Thank you. Signed: Railroad Ex-spouse

Dear Railroad Ex-spouse:

Railroad pension benefits and Social Security benefits are fully coordinated – that is, your Railroad pension payment from your ex-spouse already includes your earned Social Security retirement benefit. That's because the two government agencies, Railroad Retirement Board and Social Security Administration work together and pay your benefits in one single payment, usually managed by the RRB if some of your benefit includes a railroad pension component. The RRB and SSA are two separate government agencies, but they fully coordinate benefits for beneficiaries.

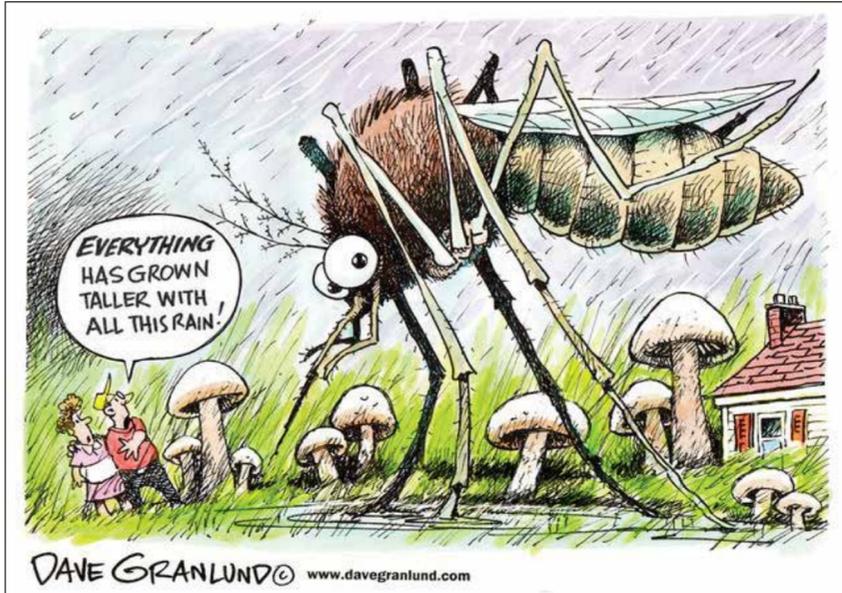
This is exactly the same as if you were collecting regular SS ex-spouse benefits instead of RR benefits from your ex-husband; your personal SS retirement benefit is always paid first, and you receive an additional amount (a spousal boost) from your ex-husband. In your case, your "spousal boost" is the difference between your personally earned SS retirement benefit at your Full Retirement Age and half of your ex-husband's Tier I Railroad retirement benefit amount at his full retirement age. A railroad pension usually consists of two

pieces – a Tier I benefit and a Tier II benefit, with Tier I benefits being the equivalent of the pensioner's Social Security.

Your ex-spouse benefits under the RRB are handled the same way. The two agencies fully coordinate with each other, evaluate your SS entitlement, and then reduce the amount of your RRB Tier I ex-spouse benefit by your SS retirement amount and pay both amounts together. In this way, you only get one payment, consisting of both your earned SSA component and the RRB component. And whenever there is a railroad component, the RRB is usually responsible for making pension payments.

You may find the information at this RRB website helpful: https://rrb.gov/RRB-9/Social_Security_Benefits and you can also contact your local RRB field office by accessing this link: <https://www.rrb.gov/Field-Office-Locator>.

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



Cooper's hawk

Guest Column

in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

jelly to hummingbirds from a Granby resident. The link said, "Bird experts are raising the alarm that a common practice done to attract some birds is actually killing hummingbirds. Raptor Education Group, Inc. said just this week they had three adult ruby-throated hummingbirds brought in covered in grape jelly. One had already died. The others are alive, but struggling."

The central Wisconsin nonprofit shared photos to raise awareness that grape jelly is a sticky danger for the delicate birds. They said, "It has become common practice for people to put out jelly for orioles. However, when it is this warm, the jelly melts and sticks in other bird's feathers and feet." The group recommends buying bird-safer jelly from a specialty store or feeding orange halves.

Brimfield bird report

I received an email recently from a Brimfield resident. He said, "It's been a different spring/summer in the yard this year. I didn't see the first Baltimore oriole until June when a male showed up at the bird bath and a few days later a female showed at the bird bath. In previous years we have had a couple of pairs in the yard. I offer jelly and oranges

during migration and then just oranges later in the year. I've only seen catbirds at the oranges, no orioles."

He saw a juvenile red-bellied woodpecker following an adult male around and begging for food recently. The catbirds are seen frequently and use the birdbath regularly. He has a couple pairs of rose-breasted grosbeaks as well. Several years ago, he saw 11 rose-breasted grosbeaks in the yard at the same time. He has not seen an indigo bunting this year. Although he saw great crested flycatchers and house wren earlier in the spring, they did not stay and use the nest boxes in his yard as they did last year.

Nesting osprey

He also said in his email, "In Warren last week I saw one osprey nestling in the nest on South Street, but on a visit today there was no sighting of the chick, but an adult was perched on the nest."

Alarming statistic

He also said, "Unfortunately the reports that there are billions of fewer birds in the country now than there were in the 1970s is very evident to any-

See BACKYARD, page 5

In the eye (or nose) of the beholder

In the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



So many things in life are a matter of preference, and there is no exception when it comes to likes and dislikes in the garden.

Take, for example, the hydrangea in my front yard that is truly a kaleidoscope of blues, purples and magenta. My husband prefers all blue hydrangea flowers, and would love if I would give the bush a watering of

"Miracid" so that it will conform more to his liking.

But alas, I tend to enjoy the circusy feel, and will probably continue to let it do its thing without any help from me.

Likewise, if you prefer the pink shades instead, you can use lime to make the soil more alkaline.

Do you ever wonder how this process works? It's a matter of making aluminum ions more readily available or not, and that process is pH dependent.

Another area where he and I tend to disagree is whether or not Bugbane, *Actaea* (formerly *Cimifuga*)

racemosa, deserves a place in our perennial border. The plant is really unique, in that it sends up loads of four-five foot tall white flower spikes, even in the shade.

It's a beefy plant once full grown. I consider it a "specimen" like the Peony or Baptisia, where one will do the trick.

The flowers are blooming now and will continue to put on a show for a good few weeks.

So, you ask, what is the problem? Simply put, it's the smell. The plant reeks. It's all for good, though, since the acrid smell lures flies to pollinate it!

My husband loathes the smell and has given it the not so nice nickname of "stinky



flesh plant." I am not sure how he came up with that, but each year he is always pretty vocal about the stench when it is in bloom.

As a sidebar, the flies are doing their job, in turn making viable seeds. I know

this for certain, since a few of them have sprouted over the years. Welcome volunteers, at least as far as I am concerned!

What is the consensus

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. 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*.

TEAM



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ADVERTISING SALES
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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. Mailed letters can be sent to *The Sun*, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.



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Baystate Medical Center earns Magnet® Recognition for Nursing Excellence

SPRINGFIELD - Baystate Medical Center is proud to announce that it has once again been recognized with Magnet Recognition® by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)-marking its fifth consecutive designation. This rare and prestigious honor is shared by less than one percent of hospitals nationwide, underscoring the exceptional level of nursing care and organizational commitment to excellence at Baystate.

Magnet® Recognition is considered the gold standard for nursing excellence, reflecting not only the quality of patient care but also the strength of nursing leadership, the support for professional development, and the culture of collaboration that defines outstanding health-

care organizations. Achieving this honor five times in a row (20 consecutive years) is a testament to Baystate's consistent focus on delivering high-quality, patient-centered care.

"This recognition affirms what we already know to be true-our nurses are extraordinary," said Joanne Miller, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, Senior Vice President and Chief Nurse Executive, Baystate Health. "This fifth Magnet® designation is a profound recognition of the extraordinary care, professionalism, and heart that our nurses bring to every patient, every day. It reflects 20 years of sustained nursing excellence and a deep-rooted culture of collaboration across our organization. I could not be prouder



of the nursing team and every individual who supports their success."

"This honor is a reflection of our entire Baystate Medical Center family-all team members who work with and support our nurses. It speaks to our collective commitment to excellence

nursing practices, outcomes, and culture of care. The ANCC highlighted Baystate Medical Center for exemplary performance in several key areas, reflecting not only strong clinical outcomes but also a deep commitment to continuous learning, shared decision-making, and inter-professional teamwork.

"This designation is a tribute to the unwavering dedication of our nurses and the interdisciplinary teams who stand beside them," said Brenda Rocha, DNP, MBA, RN, Chief Nursing Officer, Baystate Medical Center. "It validates the quality, compassion, and innovation that define care at Baystate Medical Center and the powerful impact we have when we work as one team with one purpose."

Since first achieving Magnet® status in 2005, Baystate Medical Center has remained dedicated to the principles that define Magnet® organizations: excellence in nursing practice, strong interdisciplinary collaboration, and a culture that supports innovation and resiliency. This recognition reaffirms that commitment and highlights the critical role nurses play in shaping the future of healthcare.

"This is a proud moment for all of us," said Miller. "I want to thank every nurse, every leader, and every colleague who contributed to this incredible accomplishment. Your commitment to excellence doesn't just meet expectations-it transforms lives."

Pickleball tournament July 20 to benefit Greater Springfield Habitat

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

From 12 to 4 p.m., seasoned players and rookies

alike, will play a "King of the Court" three-person style play. Tickets are \$40 each, which includes prizes, snacks and refreshments, swag bags, and ridiculous amounts of fun. All are welcome to participate or spectate. To purchase tickets, visit habitatsspringfield.org

"We are excited to be

hosting this event. The staff at The Picklr has been educating us on all things pickleball and helping us to ensure a fun and lively event while raising awareness and supporting our construction programs," said Aimee Giroux, GSHFH executive director.

Greater Springfield Habitat is also looking

for sponsors for the event. Sponsorships range from \$500 to \$1,500. For more information, see attached flyer.

GSHFH is dedicated to strengthening communities by empowering low-income families to change their lives and the lives of future generations through homeowner-

ship and home preservation opportunities. Since 1987, Greater Springfield Habitat has built or repaired 129 homes in Hampden County.

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

Therapy dog to visit library

HOLYOKE - Holyoke Public Library will host a visit from Maki the Therapy Dog. He will appear on July 21 and 28, Aug. 18 and 25 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. on the fourth floor. Call for a 15-minute time slot.

GARDEN, from page 4

on Hosta flowers? Should they stay or go? I used to be of the "go" camp until earlier this morning, in fact, when I saw a hummingbird frequenting the blossoms! That changed my mind in a hurry.

While it's true that Hostas are better known for their foliage which is often beautifully variegated, the

light lilac flowers are pretty in their own right. A handful of pendulous bells hang from the tips of the stems that seem to float above the foliage.

Hostas are not very demanding and are best known for their use in a shady border. Most will burn if planted in the sun, although golden leaved varieties seem to fair better in

sunnier locales. In general, most varieties look great paired with Astilbe and Ferns.

I've mentioned the "take it or leave it" attitude in prior columns towards the smell of Marigolds. I am definitely a "take it" girl on this one. In fact, the fragrance, in and of itself, transports me back to the Grange Hall of my youth and their annual summer fair

where I would, and still do enter the flowers in the "Cut Flower" category.

Both the larger doubled petal African and the smaller French types are represented. Besides looking good in the vase, Marigolds are said to repel aphids and other insects from neighboring plants, and

supposedly even able to keep underground nematodes at bay.

Maybe they are worth the odor. Or maybe the fragrance? You be the judge.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the

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

BACKYARD, from page 4

one who has watched birds since then. Very sad what we humans have done to the planet." He said, "On another depressing note, there are way fewer butterflies in the

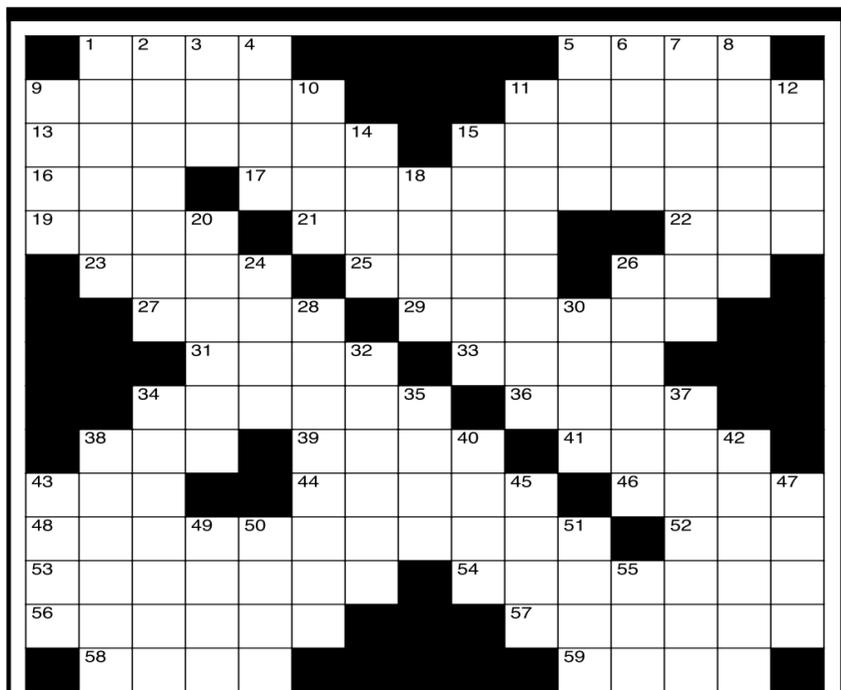
yard this year."

Phoebes

Every year Eastern phoebes return to nest in my yard. Recently, I saw a fledgling following an adult around begging for food.

People may report a bird

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



CLUES ACROSS

1. Resorts
5. One point south of southwest
9. Musical performances
11. Matched
13. Four-footed animal part
15. Express severe disapproval of
16. Type of leaf
17. Preparatory
19. Walk heavily
21. Succulent plants
22. Rectangle of grass
23. Lump in yarn
25. Too
26. Foot (Latin)
27. Afflicts
29. Smoothed
31. Mind (Greek)

33. Tampa ballclub
34. Semitic language
36. Sheltered sides
38. Ocean
39. Electronic point of sale
41. Thrust a knife into
43. 12th month (abbr.)
44. Ringworm
46. Father of Aoris (Greek myth.)
48. Fighting back
52. Cease to exist
53. Insects in adult stage
54. Freestanding sculpture
56. Caps
57. Repents
58. Brown and Wallace are two
59. Moved quickly

CLUES DOWN

1. Goes bad
2. Yard structure
3. They ___
4. Marine invertebrate
5. European river
6. Office supplies firm
7. Physically abused
8. Service stations in Australia
9. Kills
10. Liquid body substances
11. Particular to a given individual
12. Brave or noble act
14. Sicilian city
15. Conqueror
18. Elected officials
20. Type of 'pig'

24. Drop of viscous substance
26. Monetary unit of Spain
28. Guarantees
30. Coloring materials
32. Reddish browns
34. Square measure
35. Will not
37. Canned fish
38. Appeared
40. Six (Spanish)
42. Took off
43. Negligible amount
45. Posts in a Greek temple
47. Witnesses
49. Phil ___, former CIA
50. Places to park
51. Guns
55. Dance to pop music

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 8

Blessed Sacrament Parish

Rev. Duy Le
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
 Facebook: @bspholyokema

First Baptist Church

Pastor Theresa Temple
 1976 Northampton St., Holyoke
 (413) 533-7728
firstbaptistchurchholyokey@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
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 Parish Offices are located at: 15 Maple Street, Holyoke (413) 532-5661
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
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 Divine Mercy Chaplet - 7:50 a.m.
 ROSARY 8:05 a.m.
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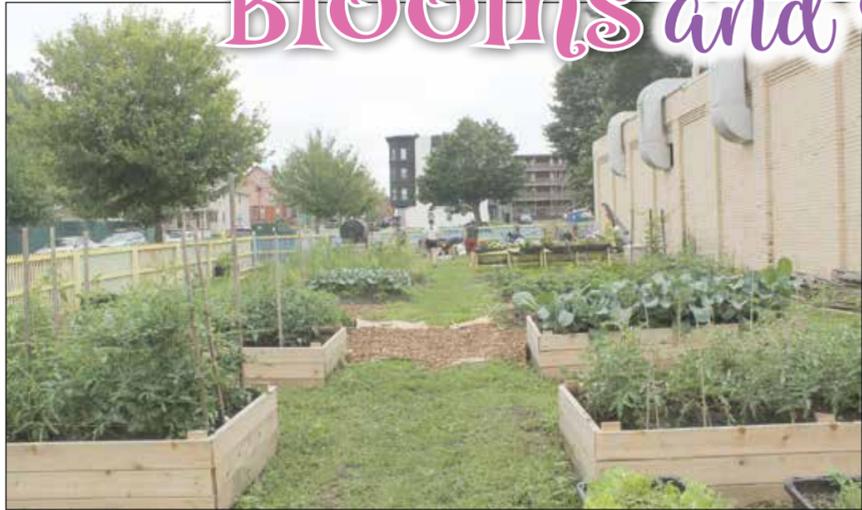
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 Office: stpetersholyokey@gmail.com
 Pastor: revdebma@gmail.com
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 Social media:
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 Other: Prayers with Pastor - Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. - on Facebook Live.

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 Days and Hours of Services:
 Sunday: 8 a.m.
 Sunday: 10 a.m.
 Sunday: 5 p.m. (Spanish)

Blooms and Community



SEE MORE GARDEN TOUR PHOTOS ON PAGE 10.

Dwight Street Garden: 772 Dwight St. - Gabbi Perry of Neighbor 2 Neighbor oversees this open-access community garden focused on food equity and education.

Wistariahurst Museum Gardens: 238 Cabot St.- Restored by community volunteers and the Western Mass Master Gardeners Association, these historic gardens reflect the original Skinner estate design.

Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

GARDEN TOUR, from page 1

The idea, Charles said, was “to celebrate the green spaces tucked across Holyoke: backyards, orchards, public spaces, and highlight not just the plants but the people behind them.” With more than 100 presale tickets sold and steady foot traffic throughout the day, the event exceeded expectations and hinted at a promising new annual tradition.

The tour featured eleven stops, selected from open applications submitted via postcards and emails. These spaces ranged from lovingly tended private retreats to community-powered hubs of urban agriculture, each rooted in a shared commitment to creativity, sustainability, and civic pride.

Dwight Street Garden

At 772 Dwight St. visitors were welcomed into a thriving urban plot stewarded by Gabbi Perry of Neighbor 2 Neighbor. Launched in 2021, the garden operates with a radical sense of openness: “Anyone can garden here. Anyone can harvest. Anyone can join the planning committee,” Perry explained. With beds of squash, peppers, tomatoes, and kale, the space is both an urban farm and a social classroom. Composting efforts are supported by the Holyoke Food and Equity Collective, turning this patch of land into

what Perry calls “a place full of community resiliency... a unique space where anyone can join, grow, and lead.”

Urban Orchard at Sacred Heart

In the former Sacred Heart Church grounds at 435 Maple Street, Kaleb McCubbins stood under the shade of young fruit trees. Representing Wollaston Investments, McCubbins explained their mission: “We saved it because it was going to be pushed over... now we want to let the community guide what it becomes.” The group has preserved the church’s existing orchard and plans to create an event space that respects the site’s history while opening doors for community-led use.

Wistariahurst Museum Gardens

Behind Holyoke’s grand historic museum, volunteers have been restoring the two-acre garden layout since 2003. Though the lead volunteer preferred to remain unnamed, her passion was unmistakable. “You can teach anyone to garden. You can’t teach someone to volunteer... it’s just in them or not,” she said. Visitors admired knockout roses, lush hydrangea trees, and curated borders maintained by Western Mass Master Gardeners Association and community helpers. Monthly plant sales support the irrigation system,



Oakdale Oasis: Bay State Rd.- Liz O’Dair’s garden includes fruit trees, perennial beds, and a water feature designed to support local wildlife.

and floral arrangements are contributed by Finch Flower Co., with textile decor by Paper City Fabrics.

An Imperfect Garden

At her Ridgewood Avenue home, Sally Carlton turned once-problematic terrain into a sanctuary of sculpture, slope-defying beds, and heirloom peonies. Her favorite, the ‘Festiva Maxima’, was passed down from her mother’s garden over a century ago. “When I die, I told my kids, dig this peony up. That’s the only thing I care about,” Carlton said. Her garden also features a heron sculpture

and handmade arch, products of a local metalworking class she took led by Artist Pat Bennett.

Oakdale Oasis

Liz O’Dair’s garden on Bay State Road embraced a casual, lived-in beauty, guided more by nature’s will than human hands. “Nature decides what likes to grow here. I just try to create a retreat,” she said. With Carolina wrens, fireflies, and a central water feature, the garden is a refuge for both people and pollinators.

Victorian Orchard

At the historic Grace Weeks House on Howard Street, Brianna and Steve Fournier are replacing a driveway with fruit-bearing trees and shrubs. Their edible landscape now features pawpaws, plums, figs, and a towering elderberry. “It’s still evolving,” Steve said. “Some years are good, some are bad and we’re definitely fighting a lot of invasives and things like that, but we love it”

An Enthusiastic Garden

On Madison Avenue, Karen and Andy Fisk created a garden as exuberant as its name. Drawing inspiration from authors and characters, such as: Emily Dickinson primroses, Harriet Beecher Stowe’s chaotic gardens, and even coral berries for Dr. Seuss helps fill the garden

with metaphor and memory. “It’s a way to meet your neighbors... gardens build community,” Karen said, noting the active perennial swap among nearby gardeners.

The Connected Gardens

Next door to one another on Dartmouth Street, Lora and Tom Barrett and Patricia and Bill Ryan cultivated seamlessly flowing gardens that feature 87 hosta varieties and hand-me-down irises from Lora’s mother. The Ryan’s love the look of a beautiful garden but don’t enjoy gardening much, luckily their neighbor Lora Barrett has a large appreciation for gardens and cultivates both of the gardens in the yards to be a beautiful cohesive jungle of plants and flowers. “Every plant here is a baby of something else, it’s like watching a legacy bloom,” Lora said. Her oil paintings, inspired by the garden, will be on view in “Blooms,” opening at Wistariahurst Museum from Sept. 2 to Sept. 25.

The Flower Truck

Nina and Nick Stoddard transformed their Stanford Street yard into a flower paradise that can feed their cut-flower business Finch Flower Co.; they do arrangements, events, and other services you can find on their website. Nina planted 90% of the blooms herself over 14 years. The business uses their

mobile flower stand: Birdie, their vintage 1957 Ford truck they renovated to hold flowers in the bed.

“I’ve always grown flowers to cut, even before the business started,” she said, standing underneath the shade of old large black willow, cedar, and pine trees planted by the original owners Albert & Blanche Sampson.

The Baker & The Botanist

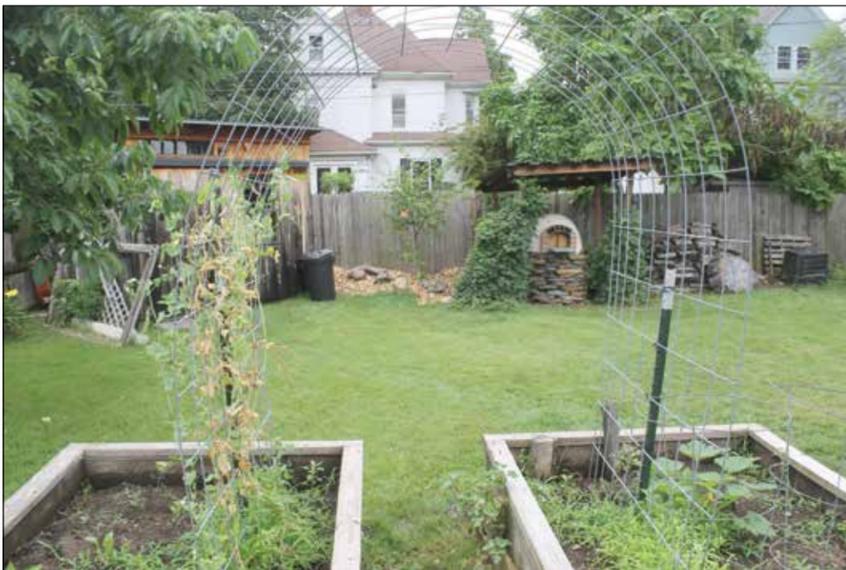
Tucked on Wyckoff Avenue, Angie and Nina Tissi-Gassoway created a wide open garden with a brick patio, a commemorative dogwood for when Nina graduated, and even a greenhouse shed. During the tour, Dr. Kim Skyrn from the MA Apiary Program offered live bee demos and honey tastings. “This garden is our labor of love... hidden under Holyoke’s old hemlocks,” said Angie.

Riverview Oasis

On Northampton Street near Smith’s Ferry, Liz Washer’s multi-zoned landscape with: terraced stonework, shaded beds, and river views was born during the pandemic. “It was my big COVID project... now it’s a place of calm, full of bees and blooms,” she said. Her favorite additions were the Daylilies sourced from the Wistariahurst garden sales. Across the gardens, several themes echoed: a devotion to pollinator-friendly practices, a reverence for history, and an urge to share; whether it be knowledge, cuttings, or simply joy. From a composting education hub on Dwight Street to the gentle hum of bees in Wyckoff, the tour wasn’t just about gardens. It was about connections.

As Charles noted at the beginning of the day, “We want people to see that gardening in Holyoke is not just about plants; it’s about people, community, and the places that bind us together.”

With such a strong debut, it seems the Holyoke Garden Tour has already taken root as a new seasonal tradition, and it’s blooming beautifully.



Victorian Orchard: Howard St.- Brianna and Steve Fournier have created an edible landscape with native fruits and herbs at the historic Grace Weeks House.

Send Us Your Community Autumn Events

Turley Publications will print your Autumn event FREE OF CHARGE in our Autumn Fest Supplement which will be published September 10, 2025.

Total circulation of 85,000 which reaches over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley. Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

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

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____



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

SPORTS

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SEND US YOUR SUBMISSIONS

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Here for Beer hands Mustangs first loss

SOUTH HADLEY – Last Thursday evening in the Women’s Division of the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League, Here for Beer edged the Monson Mustangs 3-2 on the turf of South Hadley High School. Both teams are now 7-1 on the season with Monson suffering its first loss. They are both tied for first place in the division. The game was a possible preview of the PVSSL finals.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Joanna Mull, of Belchertown, sends a free kick away.



Taryn Carriveau, a recent Chicopee Comp graduate, makes a stop on the ball.



Devin Slattery, of Ware, makes the stop

Saints keep first place in Tri-County

PALMER – Following the Fourth of July, Tri-County Baseball League action resumed with a full week of action. Teddy Bear Pools and St. Joseph’s were among the several games that took place. Both teams had a few games during the week. With a couple of weeks remaining in the season, St. Joseph’s holds first place with 20 points and a 10-6 record. PeoplesBank is second with 16 points and an 8-2 record and several games to make up. BankESB is third with 11 points, and Teddy Bear Pools holds fourth with nine points and a 4-7-1 record.

Mason Barcomb slings a throw to first.



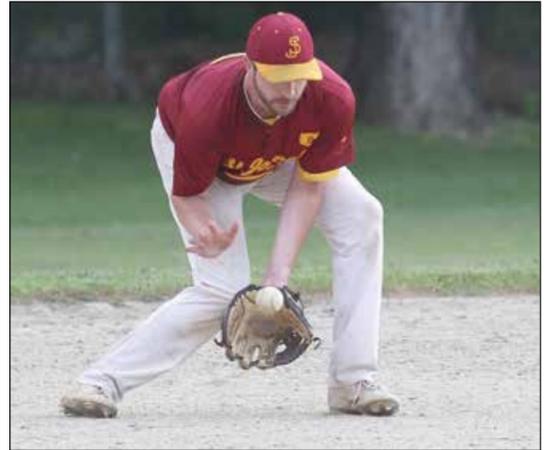
Katie Gilhooly, a 2025 Comp graduate, fights for the ball.



Cassie Ashwell heads up the field.



Macie Bolton tries to keep possession of the ball.



Brandon Magni fields a grounder to third.



ABOVE: Breddan Fournier cuts across the diamond and gets the out.

Colby Harrington delivers a pitch for St. Joe’s.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Jake Delaney picks the ball out of the dirt.

Extra time goals hurt Pioneers in draw

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—The task wasn’t a very difficult one for the Western Mass. Pioneers entering the regular season finale against rival Vermont Green FC.

The Pioneers needed a victory to clinch the top spot in the USL League Two Northeast Division table for the first time since 2021.

The home team held a 2-0 lead in the 90th minute before referee Stephanie MacFarland decided to add 10 minutes of stoppage time. That’s when everything fell apart for the Pioneers like a house of cards.

The Green managed to score two goals during extra time and last Friday night’s match, which was played in front of the largest crowd of the regular season at historic Lusitano Stadium, ended in a 2-2 draw.

“I’ve never been involved in a soccer game before where the referee added ten minutes of stoppage time,” said Pioneers captain Aidan Kelly. “We just crumpled under the pressure, but it’s something that we’re going to learn from. It’s very disappointing, but we’re looking forward to the playoffs now.”

Longtime Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari was upset with how the home match ended.

“I have no words to describe tonight’s game,” Molinari said. “We played very well until extra time. There isn’t anything we can do about it now.”

The scoreboard clock was stopped when the match reached the 90th minute. MacFarland kept the rest of the time. Soccer is the only sport that uses a clock where the players and fans have no idea when the match is going to end.

While it was a heart-breaking way to end the regular season, the Pioneers (10-1-3), who lost, 2-0, to the Green on June 17, were scheduled to host the Long Island Rough Riders in an Eastern Conference play-in match on Tuesday night.

“We’ve qualified for the playoffs again,” Molinari said. “We just have to prepare for Tuesday’s playoff match now.”

The Pioneers qualified for the playoffs for the sixth time since 2019. They’ve also finished in second place in the Northeast Conference standings in each of the past four seasons.

Vermont (12-0-2) captured the League title for the first time since joining USL League Two in 2022.

When the Green made their annual visit to Lusitano Stadium a year ago, they clinched a playoff berth with a 3-1 victory over the Pioneers. The first meeting of the 2024 regular season ended in a scoreless draw.

The overall series record between the two squads is now tied 3-3-2.

The Pioneers posted a pair of 1-0 victories against Vermont during the 2023 regular season.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Juan Hermoso chases after a loose ball.



Jaiden Williems gets the quick touch.

See PIONEERS, page 8

Blue Sox suffer loss to Ocean State

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox were the away team for the first game in the doubleheader at Mackenzie Stadium against the Ocean State Waves last Friday. Valley's third baseman Wyatt Hunt had himself an incredible day at the plate. Hunt went four for four with three singles, a double, two runs scored and one RBI. Blue Sox's Bryan Matuschat relief pitcher led the team in strikeouts with three in two innings pitched.

This game did not disappoint as scoring started early on for the Waves (14-15) in the top of the second. Waves' Gavin Greger hit a single and stole second. Coen Niclai's single advanced Greger to third. Niclai seized his opportunity and stole second base quickly. Kayle Pisano ripped a sac-fly to center field, scoring Greger and advancing Niclai to third. Ocean State's second baseman, Jack LaRose knocked a single to score Niclai to make it 2-0 after two innings.

Valley found their footing in the top of the third. Hunt doubled into left field

off of the diving catch attempt by left fielder Kolton Reynolds. Hunt stole third on a wild pickoff attempt by Ocean State starting pitcher Rhys Bowie. Nicholas Spaventa cracked a single right up the middle, scoring Hunt to cut the lead to one.

The Blue Sox found more momentum in top of the fifth thanks to Hunt's single and steal that was followed up by Michael Elko's line drive ball to left field that scored the speedster Hunt to tie the game at two apiece before the inning ended.

The Waves punched back in the bottom of the inning. With two outs and no runners on base, Brandon DeGoti demolished a triple into right field to put a runner into scoring position. Ryan Gerety then doubled

off the right field wall and scored DeGoti to make it 3-2. Reynolds followed suit with a single into the outfield to score Gerety to extend the lead even further. Greger doubled into right field, advancing Reynolds to third. Niclai singled to score Reynolds but Gerety got out at home due to an incredible throw by right fielder Rees Kozar for out No.3. The score was now 5-2.

Valley's Mike Lucarelli walked to start the top of the sixth. Lucarelli stole second, third and home on a wild throw by Waves' catcher Brandyn Durand. Andrew Loikits singled into left field. Sean Darnell crushed the ball deep into left for a double to advance Loikits to third. Gavin Schrader came into the game to pinch hit for Hayden Perry. He hit a sac-

fly to center field, scoring Loikits to make it 5-4. Hunt came back up to the plate and hit a clutch single to score Darnell. The game was now tied 5-5.

In doubleheaders in the New England Collegiate Baseball League, games are only seven innings with the exception of two extra innings. No runs were scored until the bottom of the ninth inning. Ocean State and Valley were on the cusp of having the first tie in the NECBL this season.

Justin Hackett started as the ghost runner for the Waves. LaRose hit a sac-bunt to advance Hackett to third. Ocean State was 90 feet away from scoring the game winning run. Greg Pettay has been out since June 26 due to a knee injury and ripped a game winning single to score Hackett to walk it off in style against the Blue Sox.

Game two of the doubleheader got canceled due to rain against the Ocean State Waves, but the Blue Sox were up 2-0 before it got canceled.



T-Birds reveal schedule for upcoming season

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds, the proud American Hockey League affiliate of the St. Louis Blues, released their full schedule for their 2025-26 regular season on Thursday in conjunction with the AHL. The T-Birds will be celebrating their 10th year as an AHL member club during the upcoming campaign, as well as their fifth playing season in affiliation with the Blues. Springfield has qualified for the Calder Cup Playoffs in three of its past four seasons.

The Thunderbirds will begin their regular season on home ice for a sixth consecutive season when they play host to the defending Eastern Conference champion Charlotte Checkers on Saturday, Oct. 11 at 6:05 p.m. inside the MassMutual Center for Opening Night.

Fans are advised that all Saturday games at the MassMutual Center will now start one hour earlier at 6:05 p.m. for the 2025-

26 season. The Thunderbirds will face every Eastern Conference team at least twice during the 2025-26 regular season, except for the Cleveland Monsters. Once again, the AHL season will consist of all 32 clubs playing 72 games (36 home, 36 away).

Springfield will play 54 games against Atlantic Division opponents, including 27 at the MassMutual Center. Their most frequent opponents are the Providence Bruins, who will visit the Thunderdome six times, including 6:05 p.m. puck drops on Saturday, Dec. 6, Saturday, Dec. 27, Saturday, Feb. 21, and Wednesday, March 11. The two teams will also square off on New Year's Eve for a 3:05 p.m. matinee on Wednesday, December 31, as well as a 7:05 p.m. puck drop on Wednesday, March 25.

The home-ice portion of the I-91 rivalry series

See SCHEDULE, page 9

PIONEERS, from page 7

Since suffering the shut-out loss at Vermont back in June, the Pioneers had gone 5-0-0 and outscored their opponents, 18-1 during that span.

The start of last Friday's contest was delayed about 30 minutes due to a thunderstorm.

The Pioneers starting goalie was Trey Sheppard, who started a home match for the first time this season.

"We decided to go with him (Sheppard) tonight," Molinari said. "He's been training with us the whole season and he deserved a chance to play."

Sheppard, who'll be a sophomore on the Amherst

College men's soccer team in the fall, started his first match of the season for the Pioneers on the road against New England FC, which was a 3-1 victory on July 7.

During the third minute, Sheppard made an outstanding save on a shot taken by Arnaud Tattevin resulting in a corner kick.

The Western Mass. squad took a 1-0 lead following a free kick goal during the 41st minute.

Gustavo Barbosa boot-ed the ball into the box with his left foot from the right sideline near the Pioneers bench. Juan Hermoso, who's a defender, headed the ball into the right corner of the net past Vermont goalie Niklas Herceg. It was Hermoso's third goal of the season.

"It was very important for us to score the first goal of the match," Hermoso said. "I saw the ball heading towards me, and I was able to head it into the net. It was a great feeling."

A year ago, Hermoso was a senior on the University of Charleston men's soccer team, which lost to Lynn University, 3-2, in the NCAA Division 2 finals.

It was the first time that Vermont, who only needed a tie to finish in first place, had trailed in a match this season.

The Pioneers had a couple of other scoring chances early in the second half before Israel Neto blasted a shot into the back of the net in the 64th minute. Barbosa was credited with his second assist.

Twenty minutes later,

Neto had another shot on goal, but Herceg was able to make the save.

The visitors cut the deficit in half following a goal from Zach Zengue.

A couple of minutes later, Owen O'Malley, who had entered the match in the 69th minute, lined a shot from the top of the box over Sheppard that landed in the right corner tying the match.

Then the Vermont players raced across the field and celebrated with their many supporters, who made the three hour trek to Ludlow from Burlington.

It wasn't the way the Pioneers players wanted the regular season to finish, but they had a clean slate entering Tuesday's home playoff match.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Goalie Rees Sheppard punts the ball away.

Public Notices

City of Holyoke

Notice of Public Hearing

The DGR Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing to hear a Special Permit Application for Home

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

Occupation of Ella Sussman and Tyrone Obanner at 1-9 Martin Street (122-00-018) for a psychotherapy/psychiatric outpatient mental health practice per sec 4.8.2. Hearing will take place on **Monday, August 4th, 2025 at 6:30 pm** at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via www.zoom.us Meeting ID 875 5615 2100 Meeting Passcode 333169 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For a copy of the application or to provide comments, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.

DGR Chair, Kocayne Givner 07/18, 07/25/2025

City of Holyoke

Notice of Public Hearing

The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday August 6th, 2025 at 6:30pm** to hear a special permit application of Sixan MA LLC at

15 Main Street (033-06-022) a recreational marijuana retail establishment per sec 7.10. Meeting will take place at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via www.zoom.us Meeting ID 812 7823 3053 Meeting Passcode 964670 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For an electronic copy of the application or to submit a comment for this public hearing, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.

Ordinance Chair, Israel Rivera 07/18, 07/25/2025

City of Holyoke

Notice of Public Hearing

The DGR Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing to hear a special permit application of LN Berneche, Inc. for a motor vehicle repair garage in the IG zone at 37 Appleton Street (036-01-002) per sec 7.2.13 (a). Hearing will take place on **Monday, August**

4th, 2025 at 6:30 pm at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via www.zoom.us Meeting ID 875 5615 2100 Meeting Passcode 333169 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For a copy of the application or to provide comments, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.

DGR Chair, Kocayne Givner 07/18, 07/25/2025

City of Holyoke

Notice of Public Hearing

The DGR Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing to hear a Special Permit Application for Home Occupation of Robert Rose at 414 Hillside Ave Suite 167 (124-00-108) for a custom fabrication shop per sec 4.8.2. Hearing will take place on **Monday, August 4th, 2025 at 6:30 pm** at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via

www.zoom.us Meeting ID 875 5615 2100 Meeting Passcode 333169 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For a copy of the application or to provide comments, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.

DGR Chair, Kocayne Givner 07/18, 07/25/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD25C0219CA**

**In the matter of:
Julie Karen Ann Disco
CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Julie**

Karen Ann Disco of Holyoke, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Brenda Blossom Fontaine
IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/05/2025.**

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

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

Date: July 08, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate

07/18/2025



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- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

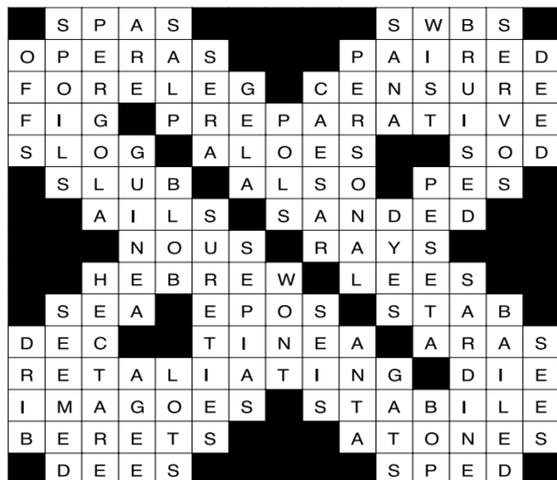
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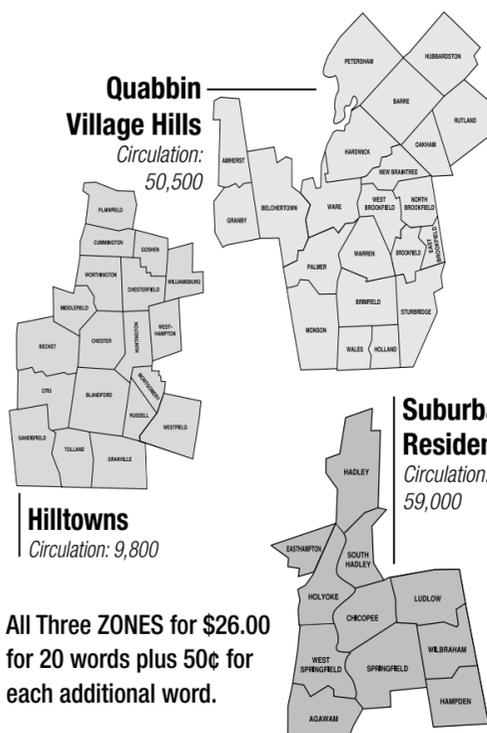
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SCHEDULE, from page 8

against the Hartford Wolf Pack begins on Saturday, Oct. 25 at 6:05 p.m., and the two foes will square off five times in each building during the 2025-26 season. Other I-91 game dates include Friday, Jan. 9 (7:05 p.m.) and 6:05 p.m. puck drops on Saturday, Jan. 31, Saturday, April 11, and Saturday, April 18.

The Bridgeport Islanders will also make five appearances in Springfield against the T-Birds, starting with a 7:05 p.m. contest on Friday, Nov. 7, followed by meetings on Saturday, Nov. 29 (6:05 p.m.), Sunday, Dec. 28 (3:05 p.m.), Friday, Jan. 2 (7:05 p.m.), and Friday, Feb. 20 (7:05 p.m.).

The most frequent visitor from Pennsylvania is the Lehigh Valley Phantoms, who visit the Thunderdome on Saturday, Jan. 10 (6:05 p.m.), Friday, Jan. 30 (7:05 p.m.), and Wednesday, April 15 (7:05 p.m.). Springfield will also host two games each against the Hershey Bears and Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins.

The Thunderbirds will also play 18 games (9 home, 9 away) against North and Central Division opponents. The Iowa Wild are the lone Western Conference team on the T-Birds' schedule, visiting Springfield on Friday, March 6 (7:05 p.m.) and Saturday, March 7 (6:05 p.m.).

Holyoke GARDEN TOUR



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

The Imperfect Garden: Ridgewood Ave.- Sally Carlton's longtime garden features heirloom peonies, pollinator-friendly plants, and her own hand-welded metalwork.



The Flower Truck: Stanford St.- Nina and Nick Stoddard grow seasonal cut flowers at home for their business, Finch Flower Co., featuring their 1957 Ford truck, Birdie.



The Connected Gardens: Dartmouth St.- Lora and Tom Barrett and Patricia and Bill Ryan maintain adjoining gardens featuring 87 hosta varieties and multigenerational plantings.



The driveway used to extend all the way to the backyard but when the Fournier's moved in they tore it up and added trees.



Sally Carlton learned metalwork during a class taught by local metal artist, Pat Bennett.



Lora Barrett's artistic Tie-In: the gardens inspire her oil paintings. Lora Barrett will be displaying some of her pieces at the show "Blooms" at Wistariahurst Museum, Sept 2 to Sept 25.



The Baker & The Botanist: Wyckoff Ave.- Angie and Nina Tissi-Gassaway have created a backyard garden with dogwoods, a greenhouse, and native bee demonstrations.



The Stoddard's have gardens surrounding their front and side yards with large, old black willow cedar and pine trees shading the backyard.



Carlton has two sections to her garden, one in the back of her house that can be found through the metal arch, and the other taking up her entire side yard.



Dr. Kim Skyrn, MA Apiary Program, shows off bee house demos, native bee education, local honey tasting, and how someone can help the local bee population through planting various native pollinators.



Karen Fisk credits Harriet Beecher Stowe's manner of chaotic gardening for inspiring her planting style.