

# the HOLYOKE Sun

Serving the city since 1995

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

August 15, 2025 ■ FREE

www.sun.turley.com

## Mayor responds to contract impasse with UFCW

By **Brendan Rooney**  
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – Currently, representatives of the UFCW union are in pursuit of seeking a new contract with the city of Holyoke due to the union’s most recent contract expiring last month on July 1.

Offering insight in an attempt to quell lingering concerns, while providing clarity on the running slew of

unfounded claims that started to manifest, from recent social media comments concerning the informational picket, was Holyoke Mayor Joshua A. Garcia, who sat down with the Holyoke Sun via phone interview earlier this week to smooth out the outlier of false facts being spread around while invoking clarity to the truth.

In the goal of ensuring all factual statements are being delivered to the gen-

eral public, while allowing both sides of the negotiation to have a point to speak. To start, Garcia explained his thought process when it

comes to commenting and utilizing social media to get his voice and message across to the public in times of necessity.

“Social media is very tricky,” Garcia said. “As you can see, the perception comes off very divided from the public, as it’s split between thoughts such as ‘wow, this isn’t professional from a mayor, and this could have been handled differently,’ but then you will also see posts say ‘thank you for the transparency; good job, and you will always get feedback from the negative posts due to a variety of reasons.’”

Before adding “I can tell you they are negative for a combination of reasons, such as those individuals never supported me in the first place, and the latter is that they probably lean toward the union, and they don’t like that at all.”

Following Garcia’s overall breakdown of how he utilizes all tools at his disposal for the betterment of

See UFCW page 8

*“You know this is information that Chris is sharing with the public and the guys, and if I were a DPW worker, I would be upset and outside picketing as well, but you have guys getting upset for reasons that don’t exist.”*

– Mayor Joshua Garcia



Michael Moriarty sporting the parade marshal sash he will wear for next year.



Michael Moriarty stands with the St. Patrick’s Day Committee after being named the 2026 Parade Marshal.

Turley photos by Brendan Rooney

## Committee names Moriarty next Parade Marshal

By **Brendan Rooney**  
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – Earlier this week, the Holyoke St. Patrick’s Day committee broke the news that respected community leader, lifelong Holyoke resident, and proud Irish American Attorney, Michael J. Moriarty, was named Grand Marshal of the 73rd Holyoke

St. Patrick’s Parade.

The reveal took place this past Tuesday night at the Elks Lodge in the Paper City, surrounded by family and friends. Once the moment passed, Moriarty took a moment to reflect



and confessed he didn’t know the title was being bestowed, but admitted it was a huge honor, and also noted that his reaction was ‘100% genuine’.

“It is an incredible honor, and the people I know who have been Marshals in

the past are just absolute pillars in our community, and to be considered among them is just a tremendous honor,” said Moriarty.

It’s well known and documented that Moriarty’s connection to the Parade spans nearly four decades. He has been a member of the Committee for 38 years, served as Parade President in 2017, and has held piv-

otal roles, including Chair of the Ambassador Award Selection Committee, Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee, and service on the Music and Marketing subcommittees as well as the Board of Directors.

However, his legacy in Holyoke goes well beyond the Parade, as it’s been

See MARSHAL, page 10

## Energy Coalition stops through city, recognizes advances

By **Brendan Rooney**  
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – On Aug. 8, a three-member delegation from the Northeast Renewable Energy Coalition (NREC) took a pitstop in Western Mass to help spotlight and showcase the energy revolution happening in the Paper City.

As a result of the effective transformation in process, the news broke in the fallout that Mayor Joshua A. Garcia was officially nominated as a finalist for the honor of ‘Mayor of the Year’ in the commonwealth.

It should also be noted that Mayor Garcia is the group’s first mayor in Massachusetts to ever be recognized; if selected, the award will be presented during Massachusetts Clean Energy Week, taking place from Sept. 29 to Oct. 4. Offering a bit more context into what this nomination encapsulates was Kristen Rode, the Executive Director of the NREC, who also confessed to what inspired the visit to Western Mass.

“Really, the Mayor of Holyoke, due to the incredible work (Garcia) is doing as he’s one of our finalists,” Rode admitted. “It’s a week of inspiration, innovation, showcase, everything the state has to offer, and his

work, most particularly his work and attention to care for business.”

Garcia could potentially join the coalition of past recipients from other parts of the New England Region, such as political energy trailblazers like Rhode Island’s U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse and Governor Dan McKee, and Connecticut’s U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal.

Garcia broke his initial thoughts about the nomination while touching base on the value of the city of Holyoke being ‘green’ and energy efficient.

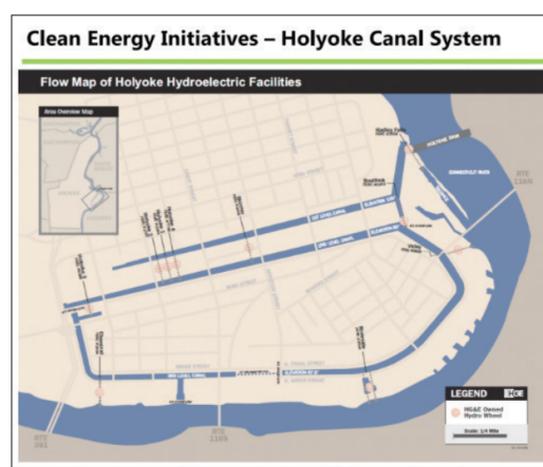
“It’s truly humbling, but here in the city of Holyoke, we contribute uniquely to the fabric of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and Holyoke has been doing green even since before it was considered a thing, and I’m lucky and honored to be able to sit here in this role as mayor, to continue to facilitate the very thing our forefathers facilitated when they helped make the first planned industrial city in the United States,” said Garcia.

And to offer a deeper inspection into what led to Garcia being nominated for the prestigious award, while highlighting the achievements and revolutionary breakthroughs happening in

the city. The Holyoke Sun has decided to break down each element and proverbial stop the NREC visited into an anthology feature series.

The first main staple holding up the foundation is the progress being made over Holyoke Gas and Electric (HG&E), which, according to statistics, HG&E has some of the lowest rates in the region, but rates vary based on the customer class, with the average consumer monthly payment being in the range of 81 dollars, which is significantly lower compared to other electrical service provid-

See ENERGY, page 10



Multiple advances in clean energy have been made in the canal system in the city.

Submitted photos



Solar panels are among the many energy initiatives the city was recently recognized for.

## Chamber alleges director theft

By **Gregory A. Scibelli**  
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – The Greater Holyoke Chamber of Commerce confirmed this week they are seeking criminal charges against their former executive director.

Jordan Hart, who was formerly employed in their top administrative role, was fired from the position in January.

The chamber’s leadership board discovered some discrepancies in their funds, and launched an investigation. The audit revealed what they are calling misappropriation of funds as well as misuse of grant funds.

The chamber believes that Hart was taking chamber funds and using them for her own personal use. She also is being accused of taking funding from various grants and reappropriating the funds for uses they were not intended for. Grant funding is often awarded for specific purposes and must only be used for that or risk being taken away from the grantors.

The chamber sent their findings to the Holyoke Police Department, which then moved the case to the Massachusetts Attorney General’s office for further review.

The chamber sent a statement to The Sun earlier this week. Here is the statement in its entirety:

“The Greater Holyoke Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) has filed a criminal complaint with the Holyoke Police Department and the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office against its former Executive Director, Jordan Hart, for the alleged theft and misappropriation of funds.

In November 2024, Chamber leadership identified financial irregularities and initiated an internal review, led by the Executive Committee, over the course of several months. The investigation determined that Chamber funds had been used for personal expenses by the Executive Director and that certain grant funds designated for specific programs were instead diverted to other purposes. Ms. Hart’s employment with the Chamber was terminated in January 2025.

Following this review, the Chamber submitted its complaint to the Holyoke

See CHAMBER, page 10

# “BREW-tiful careers event to help recruit new nurses

HOLYOKE – For nurses ready to stir in a new chapter to their careers, MiraVista Behavioral Health Center is brewing up something special. On Wednesday, Aug. 20 from 7 to 9 a.m., Registered Nurses (RNs) and Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) are invited to The Dam Café, 2014 Northampton Street, Holyoke to enjoy complimentary coffee, meet MiraVista’s nurse recruitment team, and learn about sign-on bonuses of up to \$15,000 for select positions.

The “BREW-tiful Careers” event offers nurses

a relaxed and welcoming space to explore meaningful work in behavioral health while connecting with a team passionate about recovery, compassion, and innovation. From inpatient psychiatric treatment for adolescents and adults to outpatient substance use recovery programs, MiraVista offers a wide range of opportunities for nursing professionals to build their careers while making a profound difference in the lives of others.

“We know that some of the best conversations happen over a good cup of coffee,”

said Coreen Lord, Director of Talent Acquisition at MiraVista Behavioral Health Center. “This event is about more than recruitment — it’s about taking our message into the community, meeting people where they are, and showing that we value connection, accessibility, and creativity in how we build our team and deliver care.”

By hosting a hiring event in a well-loved local café, MiraVista is not only making the job search more approachable but also demonstrating its commitment to thinking different-

ly about healthcare recruitment — a philosophy that also shapes its patient care model. MiraVista continually seeks out innovative ways to remove barriers, whether that means streamlining direct admissions to avoid long emergency department waits, offering programs that address both mental health and substance use recovery, or creating supportive environments where staff and patients alike can thrive.

Rachel Tillman, Director of Education at MiraVista and a Holyoke resident, says she is proud to help grow the

nursing team in her hometown — but adds that the impact extends far beyond city limits.

“As a resident of Holyoke, I know how much this community means to the people who live and work in it,” said Tillman. “At MiraVista, nurses have the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of patients and families — whether they live in Holyoke or not. For nurses seeking purpose, connection, and professional growth, this is a place where your skills truly matter and your work touch-

es lives every day.”

Nurses are encouraged to come in scrubs or as they are, and to bring a resume if they wish to apply on the spot.

In addition to competitive salaries and benefits, MiraVista offers extensive professional development, mentorship, and opportunities for career advancement — ensuring that its nurses have the tools and support to excel.

For more information about the event or to explore current openings, visit [www.miravistahc.care/careers](http://www.miravistahc.care/careers).

## Care Center holding event at Holyoke Rows

HOLYOKE – The Care Center’s 25th annual Rowing Strong, Rowing Together Young Parents Regatta will take place at the Holyoke Rows Boathouse, 25 Jones Ferry Rd. in Holyoke, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 23 (rain date Sunday, Aug. 24). All are invited to this family-friendly event. Come for the boat races, stay for the cotton candy and face painting.

Now in its 25th year, the Young Parents Regatta is the annual culminating event of Rowing Strong, Rowing Together — a transformative regional program designed by The Care Center and Mount Holyoke College. The program partners community boathouses with agencies supporting young mothers and has received national recognition for its

innovation and impact. This year participating teams include young mothers from Holyoke, Springfield, Chelsea, and Hartford, CT. More than 100 spectators and fans are anticipated.

Knowing that young mothers are subject to stigma and isolation, this program fosters a sense of belonging and provides an opportunity to showcase their collective strength and power. The Care Center’s Coach, Halley Glier, reflected on the impact this program has had over the past two and a half decades: “This program has been a container for young moms across New England to take risks, experience the benefits of teamwork, and connect with our waterways. Women leave with confidence and support, which ripples out to their kids,

families, and communities. It’s about more than just rowing. It’s about learning to overcome obstacles, leaning on each other’s strengths, and inspiring others in the process.”

Located in Holyoke, MA, The Care Center is a comprehensive and transformative educational program for young mothers and all women facing systemic barriers to success. The Care Center offers individualized instruction to prepare students for their high school equivalency exam; college preparatory classes and coursework; an on-site associate degree program through Bard College; as well as transportation, meals, childcare, counseling, and the skills and support needed to achieve their goals. The Care Center has received

national recognition for its innovative approach including a Presidential Award in 2011. Additional information can be found at [www.carecenterholyokey.org](http://www.carecenterholyokey.org).



## Wistariahurst featuring ‘COA artists’ in upcoming exhibit

HOLYOKE – Wistariahurst Museum is excited to welcome senior artists into the gallery for “Creating COA Artists” this August 2025. This exhibition features artists involved in Holyoke’s senior center and Council on Aging. Participating artists have anywhere from months to decades of experience, and this exhibition celebrates artists at all stages. A variety of mediums are featured in this exhibition from watercolor, to acrylic, to ceramics and textiles. This diverse selection of artwork shows both a range of experience and mediums, coming together to form a truly unique exhibit.

The Holyoke Council on Aging and Senior Center has hosted a variety of art classes, encouraging their visitors to continue or begin creating. Many members of the senior center have used these classes to embrace their passion

for the visual arts. Some of the artwork on view in the exhibit at Wistariahurst has been created in these classes.

The opening reception of “Creating COA Artists” will be held Thursday, Aug. 21 from 5 to 7 p.m. Wistariahurst is an artist-friendly space that encourages creativity and supports the growth of this region’s artists. Open Gallery Hours will be held on Mondays (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) and Tuesdays (4:30 to 6:30 p.m.) through Sept. 23, which will also be free and open to the public. We hope that you stop by and explore “Creating COA Artists.”

Visit the link below to register for the opening reception. Registration is not required, but encouraged: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/opening-reception-creating-coa-artists-tickets-1505175413179?aff=oddtcreator>.

## Hibernians holding annual summer picnic

HOLYOKE – The Hibernians of Hampden/Hampshire Counties invites the public to attend the Annual Traditional Summer Picnic featuring The Healy’s at Hamel’s Summit View Pavilion 555 Northampton St Holyoke on Sunday, Aug. 24 from 1 to 5 p.m., rain or shine.

Tickets are \$30 per person for adults and 16-and-over, kids 10-15 are \$15.

For reservations by Tuesday, Aug. 19 call Joe O’Connor at 413-627-7148 or Fran Hennessey at 413-785-5687 [aoh-holyoke.com](http://aoh-holyoke.com)

The Maurice A. Donahue Memorial Scholarship will be pre-

sented. There will be Irish-American Music; dancing; A Super BBQ-hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad, tossed salad, dessert; coffee. Also, included is a cash bar; kid’s games; giant raffle.

The event will benefit the Maurice A. Donahue Memorial Scholarship.

## City seeks community input for signage project

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke, its Office of Planning and Economic Development (OPED), and the city’s consulting group, Stantec, are asking for the public input on the next phase of Holyoke’s “Wayfinding Project.”

Working with stakeholders and the Wayfinding Advisory Group, the city has produced initial concepts and design aspects that need community input.

Updating Wayfinding in the city — signage that directs residents and visitors to key locations, points of interest and key assets in

the city — is long overdue, said OPED Director Aaron Vega. “Ideas for updates to our wayfinding signage seek to balance Holyoke’s past with our future as a city,” he said.

Posterboards highlighting some of the design aspects will be placed at six locations during the first two weeks of August: the Holyoke Senior Center, Holyoke Public Library, Holyoke YMCA, Holyoke Boys & Girls Club, City Hall and the Beyond Amour Yard Monday Night events. (See [www.explore-holyoke.com](http://www.explore-holyoke.com) for more information on Monday nights at

the Amour Yard.) Residents are asked to use the simple “sticky dot” method to indicate which ideas, designs, and designations they favor. Dots will be located with the posters at each location.

OPED secured funds through the Mass Gaming Mitigation Fund and directed the team at Stantec to develop and design Holyoke’s updated wayfinding signage. Final wayfinding designs will be presented this fall and implementation will start by the Spring of 2026.

Please direct questions to Aaron Vega at [vegaa@holyoke.org](mailto:vegaa@holyoke.org).

### Donovan's Irish Pub

Live Music Every Weekend!

<b>Friday, August 15th</b> <b>Sean Griffin</b>	<b>Saturday, August 16th</b> <b>The Healys</b>	<b>Sunday, August 17th</b> <b>Jimmy McArdle</b>
<b>Friday, August 22nd</b> <b>Kilashandra</b>	<b>Saturday, August 23rd</b> <b>Paul Pender</b>	<b>Sunday, August 24th</b> <b>Jack &amp; His Guitar</b>

80 Jarvis Avenue, Holyoke  
413-543-0791 • [donovanspub.com](http://donovanspub.com)  
Sun. 12pm - 8pm; Mon.-Thurs. 11:30am-9:30pm; Fri. & Sat. 11:30am - 11:30pm

### 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.

ASK ABOUT CATERING •

## Comfort Food & Ice Cream

Come In!

BREAKFAST - LUNCH - DINNERS

Soups • Salads • Burgers • Dogs • Desserts  
Sandwiches • Breakfast All Day • Dinners

Call Ahead 413-300-9883

Order online: [www.choochoos-ma.com](http://www.choochoos-ma.com)

ENJOY OUR PICNIC TABLES • **2 Bowers St., Holyoke**  
at the Historic Richardson Station • 7AM-7PM DAILY •

USE DOORDASH

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET!

## INFLATION

PRICE BUSTERS

PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN COUNTRY STYLE PORK RIBS <b>\$2.33</b> lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF STRIPLOIN <b>\$6.99</b> lb CUT FREE WHOLE OR HALF	USDA INSP. FRESH BEEF SKIRT STEAK <b>\$8.88</b> lb
USDA INSP. FROZEN BONE-IN CENTER CUT PORK LOIN CHOPS <b>\$2.49</b> lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP ROUND LONDON BROIL <b>\$6.67</b> lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 10 LB BAG <b>77¢</b> lb
USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS <b>\$2.44</b> lb	USDA INSP. DIMITRIA DELIGHTS STICKY BUNS W/NUTS OR NO NUTS 18 OZ. <b>\$1.99</b> ea	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN WINGS 10 LB BAG <b>\$2.39</b> lb
USDA INSP. TURKEY BREAD <b>\$4.99</b> lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN HEAD ON RAW SHRIMP SHELL ON 15/20 CT 1.5 LB BAG <b>\$6.99</b> ea	
USDA INSP. SWISS CHEESE <b>\$4.44</b> lb		
USDA INSP. STOREMADE BONELESS CAROLINA GOLD MARINATED CHICKEN THIGHS <b>\$3.69</b> lb		
USDA INSP. BEEF BACK RIBS <b>\$2.99</b> lb		

SALE DATES: 8/14/25-8/20/25

**90 Meat Outlet**  
 HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4  
 Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3

**90 Avocado St. Springfield**  
**413-737-1288**  
[www.90meat.com](http://www.90meat.com)  
We reserve the right to limit quantities.

## EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of LABOR DAY, there will be an EARLY AD DEADLINE

To advertise, place your ad no later than NOON

### Thursday, August 28

— Thank you!

A TURLEY PUBLICATION  
[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

## Learn to balance your 'chakra'

HOLYOKE – Come to the Holyoke Public Library on Tuesday, Aug. 19 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the community room. Julia Nadolny will teach you how to balance your chakras and to clear blockages through your chakras. If you enjoyed the sound healing classes last winter, please come try this out as well. Registration is required to participate in this program. For more information, please email Abbey at [abuedinger@holyoke-library.org](mailto:abuedinger@holyoke-library.org).



## Bloom artwork featured at Wistariahurst

HOLYOKE – During the month of September Wistariahurst Museum's great hall will be filled with florals as we welcome in "Blooms", an art exhibit by painter Lora Barrett. This exhibit will feature 99 vibrant paintings of flowers of varying sizes. An avid gardener, Lora Barrett maintains her gardens as a reference and muse for her highly colored paintings, pushing the vibrancy of the flowers to the limit. Wistariahurst Museum will be hosting a solo show of 99 of her floral paintings from September 2-25.

Barrett's artistic journey began with a childhood marked by curiosity and a passion for art. This passion was fueled by supportive parents and teachers. She

carried her passion for the arts into her adulthood as she majored in Art at The College of Our Lady of the Elms and began teaching Art in Holyoke upon graduation. While teaching in Holyoke, she continued her studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where she earned a Doctorate in Education and later taught Art Education at the University. Barrett has received several awards throughout her life for her artwork and for her work in arts education. She has continued her education at Cape Cod School of Art, the Chatham Creative Arts Center, the En Plein Air Art School in France, and Snow Farm, among others.

Barrett's work has been shown in several gal-

eries across the region, and Wistariahurst is excited to have her work in our halls once more. Her paintings are in personal collections in France, Canada, Mexico, Italy, England, and Ireland and in the permanent collection of the United States Federal Reserve in Washington, DC.

The opening reception of "Blooms" will be held Tuesday, Sept. 2 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Open Gallery Hours will be held on Mondays (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) and Tuesdays (4:30 to 6:30 p.m.) through Sept. 25 which will also be free and open to the public. The exhibit will also be on view during Continued on next page Wistariahurst's Sunday Fundays and other public events through Sept. 25.

Barrett will be hosting some events corresponding with her exhibit at Wistariahurst. Saturday, Sept. 6 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. will be Painting in the Garden with Lora Barrett. Paint in the Wisty Gardens with Lora, or just come to watch as she demonstrates her craft. Some easels will be provided, but artists should bring their own art supplies. There will also be an artists talk on Tuesday, Sept. 9, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. where Lora will discuss the making of Blooms. We hope that you stop by and explore Lora Barrett's Blooms.

This program is funded in part by a grant from the Holyoke Local Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

## HPL hosting Genealogy Labs Aug. 27

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke History Room, located at Holyoke Public Library, is inviting the public to come research in company, and seek advice from two professional genealogists. The history room is hosting Genealogy Labs on the fourth Wednesday of the month. The next one will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 27 from 2:30 to 5 p.m.



## HCC names Katherine Douglas as interim VP of academic and student affairs

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College recently welcomed Katherine P. Douglas of South Hadley as interim vice president of academic and student affairs.

Douglas brings a distinguished record of leadership in higher education, with more than four decades of experience as an educator, administrator, and advocate for student success.

Her career has included executive roles such as interim president of SUNY Monroe Community College and president of SUNY Corning Community College in New York State, vice president of academic affairs at Sussex Community College in New Jersey, and

associate dean of behavioral sciences at Greenfield Community College.

Her HCC appointment marks a meaningful homecoming, as Douglas previously served as dean of the division of social sciences from 2005 to 2008. From 2023 to July 2025, she also served on the HCC Foundation Board of Directors, stepping down to take the interim position as vice president.

Douglas is a three-time graduate of the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where she earned a bachelor's degree, master's degree, and doctorate in education.

This is her second inter-

im posting since retiring from Corning Community College in 2019.

Her first day back at HCC was Aug. 4.

"Her longstanding commitment to the community college mission, deep understanding of academic affairs, and focus on equity and access align closely with our core values," said President George Timmons. "We are thrilled to have Dr. Douglas return to the HCC community, and we look forward to her leadership as we continue to serve and empower our students."

Douglas will serve as interim until the permanent vice president's position is filled.

## Fabrics company offering free 'fiber arts' classes for youth

HOLYOKE – When Paper City Fabrics announced its first group of free fiber arts classes this summer, shop owner Joseph Charles wasn't sure how many preteens and teens would sign up. After all, gone are the days when students learned to sew and crochet in home economics class. But every spot filled in the first day registration opened, signaling that fiber arts hobbies may be making a comeback.

Three classes were offered: Two open to the public and one held in partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke.

Class offerings include:

- **Beginner Crochet** – Students learn the basics of amigurumi by creating a cute crocheted chick. The class covers essential techniques like working in the round, increasing and decreasing stitches, and assembling a finished plush.

- **Beginner Sewing** – Students gain confidence using a sewing machine while creating projects like fabric bookmarks, scrunchies, and tote bags. The course emphasizes safety, skill-building, and self-expression.

"Our goal is to teach young people a life skill that's creative, hands-on, and empowering," said Joseph

Charles, owner of Paper City Fabrics. "We're proud to make these classes accessible to all, and grateful to our supporters for helping us bring them to life."

The free classes are funded in part by a grant from the Holyoke Local Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. Additional funds come from Paper City Fabrics customers who participate in the Sponsor a Class initiative.

For more information about upcoming classes and community programming, visit [www.papercityfabrics.com](http://www.papercityfabrics.com).

## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH GRECIAN FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2025  
11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.



## GREEK FOOD FESTIVAL



Lamb Gyros \* Moussaka \* Chicken Souvlaki  
Greek Salad \* Spanakopita \* Cheese Pie  
Greek Coffee/Frappe \* Assorted Greek Pastries!

Greek Music \* Raffles  
Greek Vendors \* Unique Gifts  
Church Tour at 1:30 p.m.

**NEW THIS YEAR!!!**  
**FAMILY FRIENDLY FEATURES!!**  
**Hot Dogs, Snacks, Games and More!!**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
Rain or Shine, Free Entry,  
Free Parking!!



410 Main Street  
Holyoke, MA  
01040

## WIN 17 DAYS AT THE BIG E!

The BlazeXpress  
"Big E Blaze to Win" Sweepstakes!

# BlazeXpress



### THE GRAND PRIZE

Two (2) 17-Day Adult Value Passes for the 2025 Big E fair! Experience all 17 days of New England's greatest tradition.



Scan to Order

### GET A \$1 PRE-ROLL & ENTER TO WIN!

Place any delivery order at [blazexpress.com](http://blazexpress.com) and use code BIGE at checkout. You'll get a pre-selected 1g Pre-Roll for just \$1 and be automatically entered to win!

Or Call to Order:  
**(413) 412-8525**

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN.

### Enter with a Delivery Order

1. Visit our website at [BlazeXpress.com](http://BlazeXpress.com) to browse our menu of premium, lab-tested cannabis products.
2. Place an order for delivery to your home.
3. At checkout, use the promo code **BIGE** to receive a pre-selected 1g Pre-Roll for just \$1.
4. Each completed delivery using the promo code **BIGE** between now and Sept. 9, 2025, will automatically earn you one (1) entry into the sweepstakes. Limit one entry via this method per person, per day.

### Free Mail-in Entry NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN

BlazeXpress "Big E Blaze to Win" Sweepstakes, PO Box 6403, Holyoke, MA 01041. Mail-in entries must be postmarked by Sept. 9, 2025, and received by September 10th, 2025. Limit one mail-in entry per person.

Guest Column

## SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor



# Can my wife get her full spousal benefit at 62 or must she wait?

Dear Rusty:

I'm 64 and my wife is 62. If my wife starts her own benefit now, she will get about \$700 on her own at 62. I will retire next year and claim Social Security when I am 65. SSA says my wife can draw \$1,100 under spousal benefits, so if she claims now will they give her spousal benefits of \$1,100 or does she need to wait until I claim at age 65 to get the \$1,100?

except for normal Cost of Living Adjustments awarded annually thereafter.

Having said all of that, deciding when each of you should claim your Social Security benefit is a matter of financial need, while also considering your life expectancy. If your life expectancy is short and/or you need the money, then claiming early is likely the right decision. But if your life expectancy is longer and you don't urgently need the money, then you might both consider waiting longer to claim a higher monthly amount and get more in cumulative lifetime benefits.

Signed:  
Trying to Understand

Dear Trying:

If your wife is now 62, then her Full Retirement Age for Social Security purposes is age 67 and if she claims any SS benefit before reaching her FRA, the amount will be reduced for early claiming. If your wife were to claim now (before you), she would get only her own SS retirement amount (the \$700 amount), and that would be a reduction of about 30% from what she would get if she waited until her FRA to claim.

Your wife cannot get a "spousal boost" (an additional amount as your spouse) until you claim your SS retirement benefit (at age 65?). And her benefit as your spouse at that time will also be reduced because she will not have yet reached her FRA. If your wife is already collecting her own SS retirement benefit when you later claim, she will be given her "spousal boost" to make her benefit equal what she is entitled to as your spouse. But her total monthly benefit as your spouse will also be reduced because it will be awarded before her FRA. The only way your wife can get her full spousal benefit from you is to wait until she is 67 to claim Social Security. If she claims any earlier, her monthly amount will be permanently reduced.

FYI, if you plan to claim at age 65, you should also be aware that your full retirement age (FRA) is also age 67 and claiming at age 65 will mean that you will get about 87% of the amount you would get if you waited until age 67 to claim. Again, these reductions are permanent,

Finally, please remember that whenever SS is claimed before full retirement age, Social Security has an annual earnings test which limits how much can be earned by working while collecting early SS benefits. The earnings limit for 2025 is \$23,400 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take back \$1 in benefits for every \$2 over the limit (they take back by withholding future SS payments). FYI, the earnings limit for those who claim SS early changes (increases a bit) yearly and goes away entirely once full retirement age is reached. So, if either or both of you are working, you should evaluate whether claiming your Social Security benefit early (before your respective FRA) is a prudent choice.

*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.*



Guest Column

## This summer try freezing the harvest

Freezing fruits and vegetables is an easy way to preserve the harvest. More nutrients are retained by this method of food preservation than any other, and the color, flavor and texture are as close to fresh as you can get.



by Roberta McQuaid



Freezing works by curbing the growth of organisms that cause food to spoil. The key to longevity is to use packaging that will keep out air and moisture. Thick plastic freezer bags, tight-fitting plastic containers (square make better use of freezer space than round), or boilable bags that are made for vacuum sealers are all great options for that purpose.

Fresh berries are easily frozen whole. I've been doing my share of that lately. Any blackberries we don't eat get popped on an aluminum pie tin to freeze, once frozen they are moved into freezer containers where I can easily take out just what I need.

Many people also freeze tomatoes whole, figuring that it's too hot to make sauce now, but it won't be in a couple of months. Thawing frozen whole tomatoes makes for easy skin removal.

Vegetables such as peas, yellow and green beans, broccoli and more are all easily frozen once you know the method.

Here is how you do it: Grab a pot from your cupboard to blanch your produce – this part of the process will help to retain the desirable characteristics that I mentioned above. You can blanch by steaming or boiling.

Reportedly, steaming is superior for nutrient preservation. While you wash and chop your veggies to bite-size pieces, bring a few inches of water to a boil in a covered pot equipped with a steamer basket. When the water begins to boil hard insert a

somewhere that it should stay in the bath for about as long as it took to blanch it. Once cooling is complete, drain the veggies and allow them to air-dry on a clean towel.

This next step is a must if you are freezing in big bags rather than exact dinner-sized portions: Line a cookie sheet with freezer or waxed paper. Arrange your dry produce in a single layer and pre-freeze for an hour or two, then fill your bag.

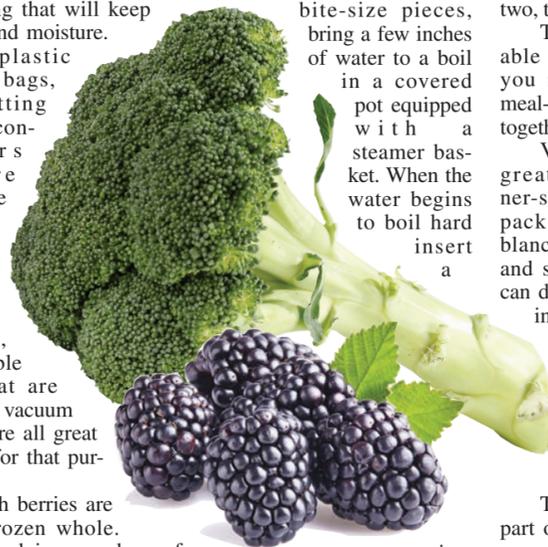
This way you will be able to grab exactly what you need when making a meal – pieces won't be frozen together in a big block.

Vacuum packers are great for freezing dinner-sized portions. Simply pack the bags with your blanched, air-dried veggies and seal. Without one you can do a good job of removing air from your freezer bags by simply squeezing out as you can manually then inserting a straw into an unsealed corner and inhaling to draw out what remains.

The kids will find this part of the preservation process to be a lot of fun! Be sure to label the contents with the date – most produce will keep for at least a year at zero degrees.

For a more detailed look at freezing and other types of food preservation consult these great books by Storey Publishing: "The Beginner's Guide to Preserving Food at Home" by Janet Chadwick and "The Big Book of Preserving the Harvest" by Carol W. Costenbader.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 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.*



single layer of veggies into the basket and replace the lid (this part is critical). Blanch for 3-6 minutes, depending on thickness, for broccoli and 4 minutes for green or yellow beans.

Don't have a steamer pot? Try boil blanching instead. Bring a pot of water to a rapid boil then carefully immerse your vegetables to avoid splattering. When the water returns to a boil begin timing.

Broccoli will take 2-3 minutes using this method; beans need 3.

Once blanching is complete, you must cool down the produce as quickly as possible to stop the cooking process from going any further. This is accomplished by plunging the food into a waiting bath of ice water.

I remember reading

### NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for The Sun, please email [thesun@turley.com](mailto:thesun@turley.com).

A TURLEY PUBLICATION  
[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

## 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

## TEAM



EDITOR/SPORTS  
Greg Scibelli  
[thesun@turley.com](mailto:thesun@turley.com)



ADVERTISING SALES  
Wendy Delcamp  
[wdelcamp@turley.com](mailto:wdelcamp@turley.com)

The Holyoke Sun is published every Friday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.



@ The Holyoke Sun

WEB

[www.sun.turley.com](http://www.sun.turley.com)

PATRICK H. TURLEY  
CEO

KEITH TURLEY  
President



[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.



## Digital Photos

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS, INC.

Purchase a photo that recently ran in one of our publications. Go to [newspapers.turley.com/photo-request](http://newspapers.turley.com/photo-request)

## 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.



PHONE

413.283.8393  
Fax: 413.283.7017  
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL

Advertising Sales  
Wendy Delcamp  
[wdelcamp@turley.com](mailto:wdelcamp@turley.com)

Editor

Gregory Scibelli  
[thesun@turley.com](mailto:thesun@turley.com)

WEB

[www.sun.turley.com](http://www.sun.turley.com)



@ The Holyoke Sun

The Holyoke Sun is published by Turley Publications, Inc. • [www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

# Dakin Humane Society receives grant for plate program

SPRINGFIELD – Dakin Humane Society is happy to announce that they are a recipient of a 2025 grant in the amount of \$14,500 from the Massachusetts “I’m Animal Friendly” license plate program. The grant will support low-cost spay/neuter services offered at Dakin’s Community Spay/Neuter Clinic, one of the largest in New England, which has conducted more than 134,000 surgeries since its 2009 opening.

Jinx, a 2-year-old tabby who lives in Holyoke, recent-

ly benefited from the MAC grant. His person Alisha turned to Dakin for help with his neuter surgery at the recommendation of her friends. “My son first brought Jinx to us from Illinois, and now we’re all very attached to him,” she stated. “Jinx is doing great, and he’s still a bit feisty, as always. We really appreciate the support we got in helping our boy.”

“We’re incredibly grateful for our long-standing partnership with the Massachusetts Animal Coalition,” said Meg Talbert,

executive director at Dakin. “Thanks to their continued generosity, pets like Jinx are able to receive high-quality care at our Community Spay/Neuter

Clinic. It means they can return home to their families healthier and happier, without the risk of unplanned litters or preventable health issues. The ‘I’m Animal Friendly’ license plate pro-

gram doesn’t just support our mission to deliver effective, innovative services that improve the lives of animals

in need and the people who care about them - it truly saves lives.”

The “I’m Animal Friendly” license plates are a program of the Massachusetts Animal Coalition. Funds are grant-

ed annually to organizations that demonstrate a need for funding and provide low-cost spay/neuter services. Through this year MAC has awarded almost \$3,300,000 to many deserving organizations.

About the Massachusetts Animal Coalition and the “I’m Animal Friendly” License Plate Program: The Massachusetts Animal Coalition (MAC) is a state-wide, non-profit organization comprised of animal welfare professionals and individual volunteers. The

organization is dedicated to providing the Massachusetts animal welfare community with informational and financial resources, opportunities for professional growth, collaboration, and networking to improve the welfare of companion animals in our state. MAC’s “I’m Animal Friendly” license plate program helps fund spay and neuter programs across the state. These charitable plates are available through the Massachusetts RMV and are tax deductible. [www.pet-plate.org](http://www.pet-plate.org).



## Park announces fundraiser

AGAWAM – Stanley Park is pleased to invite the community to its Annual Fundraiser on Saturday, Sept. 13 at 5 p.m. in the Beveridge Pavilion. This cherished event helps sustain the Park’s natural beauty, facilities, and free public programs.

The evening will feature hors d’oeuvres, a buffet dinner, dessert, a cash bar, and show-stopping entertainment from How2Go Dueling Pianos—a high-energy, interactive, request-driven musical experience where two pianists battle it out with your favorite songs and a healthy dose of humor.

Returning this year is an exciting online auction with an added raffle, filled with

must-have prizes you won’t want to miss out on, including an hour-long scenic plane ride for three, a week-long Cape Cod vacation, gift certificates to your favorite local businesses, museum passes, and much more.

Follow Stanley Park on Facebook for exclusive previews of auction and raffle items leading up to the event.

Seats are limited, so don’t wait—reserve yours now at <https://auctria.events/ivorykeysandmelodies> and enjoy a memorable night while making a lasting difference for Stanley Park.

Please call the Development Office at 413-568-9312 x108 or email [development@stanleypark.org](mailto:development@stanleypark.org) with any questions.

## St. Peter’s hosts lunch

SPRINGFIELD – St. Peter’s Episcopal Church is delighted to announce its’ 120th Anniversary Luncheon with a special live performance by Connie Fredericks-Malone, singer of blues, jazz, soul and the sister of the great bluesman Taj Mahal.

This is set to take place on Sunday, Oct. 12 at 52 Sumner located at 52 Sumner Avenue in Springfield. The time of the event is 1 to 6 p.m., cost per adult is \$100, RSVP by September 30. For more information contact Debbie (413)782-7050. Tickets also available at [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com).

## Quabbin Days: Celebrating the beauty and heritage of the Quabbin region

BELCHERTOWN – This fall, the Friends of the Quabbin invite residents and visitors alike to discover the beauty, history, and importance of the Quabbin Reservoir during Quabbin Days ([www.quabbindays.org](http://www.quabbindays.org)), a celebration of the region’s role as both a critical drinking water supply and one of New England’s most scenic outdoor destinations. Quabbin Days will be held the holiday weekend of Oct. 10 to 13.

Taking place in the Quabbin Region ([www.quabbindays.org/quabbin-region](http://www.quabbindays.org/quabbin-region)), which is made up of the dozen towns in the Quabbin Watershed, Quabbin Days is a community-driven initiative designed to raise awareness about the Quabbin as the primary water source for 2.7 million Massachusetts residents, and a breathtaking landscape that offers world-class hiking, fishing, bird-

watching, and photography opportunities.

“Most people don’t realize that one of the most pristine and carefully protected water supplies in the country is also an incredible place to explore,” said Ed Comeau of the Friends of the Quabbin. “Quabbin Days is about encouraging people to connect with this resource as a place of remarkable natural beauty and cultural history by exploring the Quabbin Trail ([www.quabbindays.org/quabbintrail](http://www.quabbindays.org/quabbintrail)) that connects these towns.”

Held during the peak of fall foliage season, October 10 to 13, Quabbin Days encourages towns, businesses, and organizations within the Quabbin Region to host events, walks, tours, and open houses that spotlight what this area has to offer. Participation is informal and flexible: anyone can contribute an event, and visitors

can plan their own adventures through [www.QuabbinDays.org](http://www.QuabbinDays.org), which offers a growing calendar and interactive map of the region.

The Quabbin Reservoir, created in the 1930s, is one of the largest man-made public water supplies in the United States. Managed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), the reservoir and surrounding lands form a protected ecosystem that supports wildlife and clean water while offering miles of trails and stunning vistas.

Whether you’re a hiker, angler, nature photographer, or history enthusiast, Quabbin Days is your invitation to rediscover, or discover for the first time, this extraordinary region.

To learn more, plan your visit, or submit an event, visit [www.QuabbinDays.org](http://www.QuabbinDays.org).

FIVE ISLANDS



Georgetown, Maine

2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathroom  
Washer/Dryer, Fully Equipped

- Walk to Five Islands Wharf and LedgeWood Preserve Beach
- Close to Reid State Park

\$1200/week

207-607-9333



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10			11			12		
13	14		15			16		17 18
19			20		21 22			
23					24			
		25			26			
27 28 29					30		31 32 33	
34							35	
36		37 38 39 40			41 42 43 44			
		45			46			
47 48 49					50		51 52 53	
54					55			
56				57 58		59		
	60			61		62		
	63			64		65		

<p><b>CLUES ACROSS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Auto manufacturer</li> <li>4. The 23rd letter of the Greek alphabet</li> <li>7. Two-year-old sheep</li> <li>10. Member of indigenous people in Asia</li> <li>11. Airborne (abbr.)</li> <li>12. Actress de Armas</li> <li>13. Not moving</li> <li>15. Cool!</li> <li>16. Plants of the arum family</li> <li>19. Perceptible by touch</li> <li>21. Rorschach test</li> <li>23. Monetary units</li> <li>24. Art</li> <li>25. Cardinal number</li> <li>26. Dueling sword</li> <li>27. Hates</li> <li>30. Fixed in one place</li> <li>34. Pie ___ mode</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>35. Moved on foot</li> <li>36. Passenger’s spot on a motorcycle</li> <li>41. A way through</li> <li>45. “Rule, Britannia” composer</li> <li>46. Leader</li> <li>47. Flowing</li> <li>50. Common greetings in Arabic countries</li> <li>54. Solution for all difficulties</li> <li>55. Soft clothing fabric</li> <li>56. Building material</li> <li>57. Sea bream</li> <li>59. A way to cause to be swollen</li> <li>60. One and only</li> <li>61. Skin color</li> <li>62. Wreath</li> <li>63. Nevertheless</li> <li>64. They ___</li> <li>65. Sea eagle</li> </ol>	<p><b>CLUES DOWN</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Policemen (French)</li> <li>2. Toy dog</li> <li>3. Inflamed colon disease</li> <li>4. Muscular weaknesses</li> <li>5. Helps little firms</li> <li>6. References</li> <li>7. Takes down</li> <li>8. Facilitates</li> <li>9. One-time empress of the Roman Empire</li> <li>13. Engine additive</li> <li>14. Chemistry solution</li> <li>17. Written account</li> <li>18. Consumed</li> <li>20. Coming after all others</li> <li>22. No (slang)</li> <li>27. Government lawyers</li> <li>28. Super Bowl winner Manning</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>29. Small amount</li> <li>31. A way to save for your future</li> <li>32. A way to travel behind</li> <li>33. Midway between northeast and east</li> <li>37. Head pain</li> <li>38. Loud lawn insect</li> <li>39. Actress Hathaway</li> <li>40. Boat race</li> <li>41. About fish</li> <li>42. Nursemaid in India</li> <li>43. Marketable</li> <li>44. Tinier</li> <li>47. Parts per billion (abbr.)</li> <li>48. Paddle</li> <li>49. Oneness</li> <li>51. Bitter compound</li> <li>52. Not around</li> <li>53. Very fast airplane</li> <li>58. Swiss river</li> </ol>
---	---	---	--

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

**CHURCH DIRECTORY**



Your Community Church

**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)

**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://facebook.com/stpetershollyoke)  
 OFFICE HOURS:  
 Monday - Wednesday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.,  
 Thursday 2 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. (Call first)  
 WORSHIP:  
 Sundays at 9:30 a.m. (also on Facebook Live) & Thursdays at 7 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://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)

# SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com

## Volleyball Hall hosts Grass Open

HOLYOKE – Holyoke, aka Volleyball City, is the birthplace of volleyball and home to the International Volleyball Hall of Fame. Last weekend, the hall celebrated the heritage with a fun filled event for players of all ages and skill levels competing for bragging rights and amazing prizes.

The IVHF Volleyball City hosted the Grass Open last weekend Aug. 9 and 10, at the scenic Wyckoff Country Club in Holyoke, Massachusetts. Different divisions each day – Whether it was a seasoned competitor or new to the game, there was a division for you, from elite Open-level competition to fun recreational play. Junior players were also encouraged to participate, and teams can include both youth and adults.

Spectators were welcomed to attend for free and enjoy the full tournament atmosphere, including Center Court matches with music. On Saturday, August 9, the event featured men's and women's triples in Open (cash prize), BB, and Legends divisions. Sunday, August 10, highlighted juniors (16U and 18U) and reverse co-ed doubles for both Open (cash prize) and BB players. All participants received free parking and passes to visit the International Volleyball Hall of Fame Museum.

Adding to the fun, was live music both days presented by Wyckoff Country Club. Food, drinks, and prizes will rounded out this festive weekend.

## Kendall wins Mini 40, Leary tops Mods at Monadnock

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Defending track 604 Modified champion Tyler Leary wired the night's main event Saturday, blasting to his second win of the summer on the high banks of Monadnock Speedway.

On the same card, Julia Kendall, she of the famed Bernardston, Mass. Raymond racing family, roared to victory in a special 40-lap Mini Stock feature. Points leader Dylan Zullo won a thriller in the Super Streets, four-holer ace Gordon Farnum stormed to victory in the Pure Stocks, and 15-year-old Hunter Duquette won his fifth Young Guns event of the summer.

The New England Dwarf Car Series was in town, and Andrew Harmon had a huge night, dominating both ends of a 25-lap twinbill to earn two victory laps around the high banks, but also picking up a cool \$250 SERVRO bonus for sweeping the feature event pair.

Leary and Joey Jarvis sat up front as the Allstates

See KENDALL, page 7

## West Side wins PVSSL Championship

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – Back in the middle of July, Olivia Crespo and her New England Mutiny teammates lost in the United Women's Soccer League finals for the second year in a row.

On Friday, Aug. 2, Crespo guided the third-seeded Westside Sport Shop to a 5-0 shutout victory over top-seeded Here for Beer in the women's finals of the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow.

"It was a little bit frustrating coming up a little bit short in the National Finals once again this year," said Crespo, who graduated from Ludlow High School. "I had a lot of confidence coming into tonight's championship match and I knew that we would be able to do it."

Crespo, who scored four goals and had an assist against Here for Beer, was selected as the M.V.P. following the match.

"My teammates deserve a lot of credit," Crespo said. "They helped set up my goals. I wouldn't have been able to do it without them."

Last fall, Crespo was a member of the women's soccer team at Franklin Pierce University, which captured the NE 10 conference championship title. Her college soccer team played in the NCAA Division 2 Final Four.

"It was a really special season," she said. "We're looking forward to having another successful season this fall."

Westside Sport Shop (9-2-1) won the championship title for the third time since Crespo has been a member of the team. They beat sixth-seeded Heat, 2-1 in overtime in the quarter-finals before squeaking out a 3-2 win over the second seeded Monson Mustangs in the semifinals.

Here For Beer, who defeated Westside Sport Shop in last year's finals, won the regular season match-up between the two squads. They entered the 2025 playoffs with an 11-1-0 record and earned a quarterfinal bye. They advanced



West Side Sports Shop won the Women's Title this year in the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League.

Turley photos by David Henry



Sara Avery, of South Hadley, corrals the ball.



Kenzie Pastreck of Wilbraham minds the goal for Here for Beer.

into the finals after defeating the fourth-seeded Lusitano Women, 2-1, in the semifinals.

"Westside is a very good team this year," said Here for Beer player/coach Cassie Ashwell. "If we were going to lose to anyone, I'm okay losing to them."

Longtime Minnechaug Regional girls' varsity soccer coach Nundi Goncalves attended the championship

match. Several of his former players were playing on both sides.

The former Lady Falcons players wearing Westside uniforms were Emily Howard, Rhiani Ryan, Claire Poindexter, Gaby Williams, Lylah Jeannotte, and Chapin Jeannotte.

The Jeannotte sisters weren't teammates when they were in high school.

"We missed playing on the same soccer team at Minnechaug by only one year, but we've been playing together on this team for the past couple of years, which has been a lot of fun," said Lylah Jeannotte, who was a starting defender. "It feels awesome winning a championship together."

Here For Beer goalie Kenzie Pastreck also played soccer at Minnechaug

Regional. The other players listed on the Westside roster from the Turley Publications coverage area are Reese Carey (South Hadley), Gabriella Fiahlo, Sydney Mercier (South Hadley), and Maya Tellier (Belchertown).

Here For Beer also had several players from the Turley Publications cov-

See WINS, page 7

## HCC releases schedules for men's, women's soccer

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Community College Cougars will have men's and women's soccer teams once again this fall. The Cougars men's soccer team is scheduled to get their season kicked off on Saturday, Sept. 6 against Hudson Valley Community College at home.

Their first road game is on Thursday, Sept. 11 against STCC. Their schedule includes matchups with New Hampshire Tech, Bristol, Northern Essex, Mass Bay, Community College of Rhode Island, Bunker Hill, Massasoit, Roxbury, and Quinsigamond.

HCC's first match-up with STCC will be a

non-region, but a second matchup in October will count.

The Women's Soccer team will hold the Cougar Classic, hosting a few teams at HCC. On Saturday, the Cougars will face off with the Fashion Institute of Technology on Saturday, Aug. 30 and then face Central Maine Community College on Sunday, Aug. 31 at 1:30 p.m.

From there, the regular season opener will take place against Hudson Valley ahead of the men's game. The women will start the day at 1:30 p.m.

HCC's road schedule starts on Wednesday,

See HCC, page 7

## HoopHall announces enshrinement presenters

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame has announced the list of Hall of Famers who will present the Class of 2025 at the Enshrinement Ceremony on Saturday, Sept. 6, at Symphony Hall in Springfield, Massachusetts, the "Birthplace of Basketball." Over 50 Hall of Famers are expected to be in attendance for the ceremony.

Each member of the Class of 2025 was asked to select previously inducted Hall of Famers to serve as their presenter. The decision is made solely by the incoming Hall of Famers or, in the case of posthumous honorees, by their family.

The 2008 USA Men's National Team will be presented by members of the team who have been previ-



ously inducted into the Hall of Fame.

The 2025 Hall of Fame Inductees and Presenters:

- Carmelo Anthony** - Allen Iverson (Class of 2016), Dwyane Wade ('23)
- Micky Arison** - Alonzo Mourning ('14), Pat Riley ('08), Dwyane Wade ('23)
- Sue Bird** - Geno Auriemma ('06), Swin

Cash ('22)

**Danny Crawford** - Tim Hardaway ('22), Isaiah Thomas ('00)

**Billy Donovan** - Maurice Cheeks ('18), Rick Pitino ('13)

**Sylvia Fowles** - Katie Smith ('18), Lindsay Whalen ('22)

**Dwight Howard** - Patrick Ewing ('08), Robert Parish ('03), Dennis Rodman ('11), Dominique Wilkins ('06)

**Maya Moore** - Simone Augustus ('24), Geno Auriemma ('06), Swin Cash ('22), Tamika Catchings ('20), Lindsay Whalen ('22)

**2008 USA Men's National Team** - Jim Boeheim ('05), Chris Bosh ('21), Jerry Colangelo ('04), Jason Kidd ('18), Mike Krzyzewski ('01), Dwyane Wade ('23)

**KENDALL, from page 6**

Materials Group 604 Modifieds went into battle. Leary, whose earlier victory was scored on July 5, would never look back.

Veteran ace Todd Patnode, of Swanzy, who'd won a week earlier, blasted into second on lap nine and would then run the rest of the race in Leary's shadow, settling for his second strong outing in as many weeks as he tries to claw his way to the top of the 2025 leaderboard.

The best battle in this one was for third. Back from a pit side engine change a week earlier, Trevor Bleau was up to third early but soon had divisional points leader draped all over him. Robie, though, frantically trying high and low, could never find a path to the three spot, as Bleau joined Leary and Patnode in trophy row.

It is said that a full moon over a race track spells pure chaos. If that's true, what do you get with a half moon on a clear August night? On this one, you got three ultra-focused Twin

State Truck Services Super Streets frantically dicing through a wall of noncooperative lapped cars, with a large crowd at the edge of its seats from green to checkers.

JD Stockwell got to the front first, with his buddy Zach Zilinski riding in his shadow. Top points man Dylan Zullo was quickly up to second and closing fast, and the sea of lappers was getting closer and closer.

Zilinski took the top spot in heavy traffic on lap eight, bringing Zullo with him. On lap 16, it was Zullo to the point, Stockwell following forward and looking for a path to the lead. But the final 14 laps would belong to Zullo, as the potent trio made its way to victory lane. Zullo hit the stripe four lengths quicker than Stockwell, with Zilinski in tow too, Wesley Stedt fourth. Hillary Renaud rounded the top five.

Hot shoe Louie Maher led early in the Fabian Fuels Mini Stock 40-lap main event, pulling away easily. Julia Kendall, blasting from row four, was up to second on lap six but still way behind Maher.

A lap-19 caution, though, brought both Kendall and high-flying John Fultz to Maher's bumper, with the trio then racing under a blanket until Fultz took the top spot on lap 28. Kendall wasn't done though, rocketing into the lead on lap 32 and then soaring off to win by a comfortable eight lengths, Tim Paquette impressed with a season-best third, just ahead of Cameron Sontag and Maher.

Kyle Begos led early in the Brattleboro Towing and Recovery Pure Stock feature. Four-holer super star Gordon Farnum - he of the double-digit-victory Mini Stock champ seasons - was on a mission though. Dirt tracking most of the way a week ago, Farnum had the Patnode ride dialed in perfectly Saturday.

Taking charge on lap 13, Farnum sailed off to his first win of the season, five lengths ahead of Dominick Stafford, who rocketed from scratch on the starting grid after struggling woefully in his earlier heat race. Pure Stock points leader Kyle Kenny, victorious the night before at Claremont, fin-

ished at Stafford's bumper in third. In a post race inspection, fifth place finisher, Jimmy Zellman was penalized for a camber rule infraction.

Doug's Auto Body Young Gun top gun Hunter Duquette took the lead from Ella Grabowski on lap three of the youth division feature and dashed off to his fifth win of the summer. Maya Bell was strong in second, and Grabowski came home third.

Andrew Harmon twice took the lead on lap three in the two New England Dwarf Car 25-lap features, and each time he rocketed off into a different time zone to win easily and pocket the \$250 SERVPRO bonus cash.

Top Dwarf Car points man Tom Harwood sent a scare through the stands during qualifying, when contact with another car launched him into a violent up-and-over multiple flip in turn one. Uninjured, he returned for the features aboard a loner but finished out of the money. Cody Hodgdon was second in each of the 25-lappers, and Chris Sullivan third.

**Quabbin Valley set to host second over-28 fall league**

Following up on the resounding success of its inaugural campaign, the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, an over-28 adult baseball league will hold its second Fall League this September and October.

Seeking to create a similar competition environment to its spring/summer league, Quabbin Valley, with contributions from the Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League, created a four-team fall league last year featuring the Braves, Dodgers, Cardinals, and Twins.

Those same four teams are set to return and each team tends to have openings on them. Additionally, the league is open to welcoming more teams in to the league if it finds enough interest.

While the fall league schedule is still under construction, it will mostly feature Sunday morning games played with wood-bat only, which is customary for fall baseball. There could be some Saturday games added to the schedule depending on

the completion of the spring/summer season as well as to makeup rainouts, potentially. Games are nine-innings long and there is a small playoff and championship held at the end of the season. Last year's fall season was eight games and that is the goal for this year. Free and low-cost fields are used as well as just one umpire in an effort to keep the costs lower for players. The cost to play will likely range from \$40 to \$60 for the eight-game schedule. Players from outside the Quabbin League may also pay a small fee for insurance as well.

An interest/registration form, will be forthcoming soon, but until then, to express interest in the league, you can email the coordinators of the league at either GScibelli22@yahoo.com or ikhandfield@gmail.com.

Scheduled and team placement for unaffiliated players will be finalized in mid-to-late August. Please join in the fun this fall.

**HCC, from page 6**

Sept. 10 at Bristol Community College. The women's scheduled features several opponents that HCC will meet twice,

including Quinsigamond, Bunker Hill, Roxbury, and Massasoit.

The regional playoffs begin around Oct. 30.

For more information, go to [www.hcccougars.com](http://www.hcccougars.com)

**WINS, from page 6**

erage area. They are Macie Bolton (Belchertown), Taryn Carriveau (Chicopee), Katie Gilhooly (Chicopee), Gwen Duggan (Palmer), and Lauren Marjanski (South Hadley), who didn't play in the finals.

Westside Sport Shop scored a pair of goals during the first ten minutes of the match.

Crespo, who's entering her senior season at Franklin Pierce, gave her team a 1-0 lead in the fourth minute after firing a low shot into the back of the net.

A couple of minutes later, Crespo delivered a

crossing pass from the right side of the box to Natalie Matz, who poked a shot into the net past Pastreck.

Westside had several shots on goal during the final 30 minutes of the first half, but the score was still 2-0 at the break.

Crespo scored three more goals during the second half.

Crespo's first goal after halftime was unassisted, while Matz and Julianna Beaulieu were given the assists on her final two goals.

Sara Avery, who was Westside's starting goalie, and Chloe Laizer, who also played for the Mutiny, combined to post the shutout.



Turley photos by David Henry [www.sweetdogphotos.com](http://www.sweetdogphotos.com)

Rachel McKenna of Granby heads up the field.



Makenzie Shean, a recent Agawam graduate, winds up for a shot.



West Side's Emily Howard, of Wilbraham, navigates through traffic.



Gwen Duggan, of Palmer, looks to pass.



Lylah Jeannotte, of Wilbraham gets a quick touch on the ball.



Cassie Ashwell, of Agawam, looks to clear the ball.

**How to contact The Holyoke Sun's Sports Editor**

Have the scoop on a local sports story? Want to submit a team photo, pass along

a potential story idea, or just find out how to get a copy of that great photo of your young athlete?

Please send all sports-related photos, press releases and information to Sports Editor

Greg Scibelli at: [sports@turley.com](mailto:sports@turley.com) or call, 1-413-283-8393.

# In The News

## UFCW, from page 1

Holyoke, he made a note in regards to the overall dissatisfaction of UFCW V.P. Chris Adams, who publicly commented on camera about the ongoing contract negotiations between the city and the union, which in the fall-out spilled over to a social media thread that was set up Garcia to provide a closer and prominent perspective from POV of the city, as he felt Adams offering misinformation in terms of a variety of topics such as the inaccuracies of pay rates, as Adams commented "Holyoke DPW workers are the lowest in the region", Garcia quickly refuted the claim that eventually lent way to initial fire-works as Adams responded with allegations of Garcia attacking his 'character,' in response.

Garcia responded to those claims by putting a focus on the data attached, proving Adams's comments to be invalid. Garcia noted via social media that Holyoke Laborer Pay: \$20.93 - \$22.53, compared to Chicopee Pay: \$17.70 - \$20.37, citing Springfield \$20.60, and other local communities such as West Springfield: \$20.28, Westfield: \$20.59 - \$25.08, to offer ample comparison.

He also discussed how the latest contract, which is currently being proposed to be a step in the right direction to making the Paper City competitive in wages.

"The 3-year contract, which recently expired, we(the city) intentionally came to an agreement on a contract that would allow the union to catch up, and be on par, more or less, in this case a little bit more, than other communities," said Garcia. "That was in the first one, but in this latest draft, I'm trying to be a little bit more aggressive, ahead of everybody, in

the hopes that will then turn around into."

One major confession from Adams was that the Chicopee DPW has more employees than Holyoke, something Garcia agreed with, but noted that the reason for high vacancies is due to the interest in positions currently open is not considered 'appealing' enough to drive applications.

"The reason people aren't applying is possibly due to us not being competitive in the past," Garcia noted. "But now that we are getting into a more competitive advantage, I'm hoping that it's going to change the course for Holyoke, but Chris isn't talking about that, as (Adams) is saying 'Holyoke is not paying their employees well' and makes it seem like there was never an attempt to be better."

Garcia also raised the inaccuracies that Adam's continues to invoke by bringing focus to a lingering rumor about the minuscule raise rate, which Garcia quickly confirmed is 'not true.'

"That is not true, and that is far from the truth," he said about the storm of misinformation that continues to manifest from not all parts of the whole story being passed along in pieces, leaving the community to their own devices about who to trust. "You know this is information that Chris is sharing with the public and the guys, and if I were a DPW worker, I would be upset and outside picketing as well, but you have guys getting upset for reasons that don't exist."

Garcia then explained that the whole situation has been 'frustrating,' calling notice to the claims that Adams has a close tie to the public's dissatisfaction, clarifying, "I deal with it, I deal with the angry workers, angry public, cause their services are now being impacted, and I have to be tagged on

*"Anytime you take advantage of vulnerable people, to make a point, or take advantage in relation to people's lack of understanding, that's when I'm out, and in this case, Chris (Adams), the system is not working."*

— Mayor Joshua Garcia

social media for things that aren't true," Garcia said.

It is true that the general public of Holyoke, as cited before, and talking to community residents, are furious and upset about the lack of DPW services being utilized, as trash pickups continue to be a main staple of outrage, as the frequency of pickup has been sporadic, due to the lack of employees able to facilitate daily operations, brought into focus by past social media posts and public input.

"I'm a little confused, and I want to make it clear we have 10 different unions, and each have their own culture, and I want to add I work with the different unions, and help navigate the different cultures even if it's not in my palatable sense, but never had I ever dealt with a union that was so blatantly irresponsible, in how Chris(Adams) filters and provides information the public, and let me make it clear that's not how we want to operate here," said Garcia.

Before noting that even though the city employees do belong to unions, and that comes with a variety of protections and ongoing improvements, Garcia stressed that these are his employees, and he reiterated that he's trying to take care of his workers.

"If Chris wants to join me in taking care of my employees, then great, fantastic," he said. "But if he wants to hide behind the union card and use it for situations that are just irresponsible, then I'm not going to play that game, and I didn't do that when the PVTA union was in

the same spot."

"Anytime you take advantage of vulnerable people, to make a point, or take advantage in relation to people's lack of understanding, that's when I'm out, and in this case, Chris (Adams), the system is not working, Garcia added.

Garcia also put out the open call for debate, as he cited that he has the data to back up all of his proposed claims, to offer a clearer layout of all initial facts, as the consensus, as of late, he admitted, was that the public did not understand everything being shown or told.

"I will always be a straight shooter, and that means I'm happy to share any information if it's negative or positive," Garcia said. "There is no hiding under the rug, or being cute in how to answer something, as I'm not trying to look good, I am trying to facilitate the public's work, and the tricky thing about a union is that we can't

be sharing outside the table, but at local government, it puts us in a disadvantage.

Garcia also proposed claims that Adams and the UFCW didn't want to sign ground rules, and Adams went on camera, which forced Garcia's hand to initiate a rebuttal, validating his response via social media, and the data put forth.

"In areas where the law allows me to share information, I'm going to share," Garcia admitted.

"If the public is curious and wants to know what's going on, I will share it."

Before bringing focus to the error of Adams' ways.

"In this case, Chris is wrong, and he doesn't have a leg to stand on; the guy is wrong, he knows he's wrong, and I defend (Adams) on this because he's trying to kick dirt up on statewide issues," Garcia said.

Garcia also made his thoughts clear that he was glad to see the informational picket occurring and called an ode of gratitude to the workers fighting for their rights.

"Advocating for fair contracts, there is nothing wrong with that," he said. "Advocating for more wages, nothing wrong with that as well, and my response to see-

ing them outside was 'great', they are union, and they have always been undervalued in this city (Holyoke) for a very long time."

The final thing Garcia admitted was offering disappointment in the leadership of Adams, and that the latest contract was put forth solely by his administration's involvement, with no tether to Adams being supportive in getting the deal done.

"So this first contract that recently expired, the 3-year one, I gave them an aggressive contract, so specifically by the third year, they would be on par as noted before, and I want it known I did that," Garcia said. "Chris (Adams) didn't make the offer I did, and it was so good that his other union buddies were setting meetings with me, so I could help them. But Adams never helped not one bit, and instead, he was more of a problem than he has ever helped, and I think that video and my counterpoints prove this guy is ineffective and is not a responsible leader for his union's leadership."

The Sun reached out to Adams but he did not comment by press time. If he does respond, *The Holyoke Sun* will follow up with those comments.



The protest was in response a lack of a new contract after theirs expired on July 1.

Submitted photo

# Public Notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Hampden Division**  
**Docket No.**  
**HD25P1541EA**  
**Estate of:**  
**Luna Betancourt-Torres**  
**Date of Death: 03/04/2024**  
**INFORMAL PROBATE**  
**PUBLICATION NOTICE**  
 To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Rosadilya Torres of Wilbraham, MA**  
 Petitioner **Joshua Betancourt of Wilbraham, MA.**  
**Rosadilya Torres of Wilbraham, MA**

**Joshua Betancourt of Wilbraham, MA**  
 has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.  
 The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts 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.  
 08/15/2025

**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.**  
**HD25P1522EA**  
**Estate of:**  
**Carol Sally Dryzgula**  
**Date of Death: 04/24/2025**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
 To all interested persons:  
 A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Karen R Cieccko of Chicopee, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.  
 The Petitioner requests that: **Karen R Cieccko of Chicopee,**

**MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
 You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/05/2025.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.  
**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
 A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the ad-

ministration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
 WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
 Date: August 08, 2025  
**Rosemary A Saccomani,**  
 Register of Probate  
 08/15/2025

**CITY OF HOLYOKE**  
**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**  
 The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, August 26, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.com** ID: 836 3939 8493; Call in \*67 646 558 8656 to hear a Special Permit to exceed fence height (Sec 4.6.3.2) for Florence Bank submitted by Holyoke Retail, LLC located at 1504 Northampton Street. (105-00-012, -013, -059) (2025-24)  
 For a complete copy of the application and site plan, contact the Planning Department at (413) 322-5575.  
**APPLICANT:**  
 Holyoke Retail, LLC  
**PLANNING BOARD:**  
 Mimi Panitch, Chairperson  
 08/08, 08/15/2025

**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.**  
**HD25C0249CA**  
**In the matter of:**  
**Sijfredo Rodrigues**  
**CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**  
 A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Sijfredo Rodrigues of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:  
**Sigfredo Rodriguez**  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
 Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/03/2025.**  
 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: August 06, 2025  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
 Register of Probate  
 08/15/2025

## EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of LABOR DAY,  
**PUBLIC NOTICES**  
 EARLY AD DEADLINE  
 Place your public notice  
 no later than NOON  
**Thursday, August 28**  
 — Thank you!

*The Holyoke Sun*

## OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.



## PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to [notices@turley.com](mailto:notices@turley.com)
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 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](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)

# Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

## FOR SALE

### FIREWOOD

**FIREWOOD**  
Fresh cut & split \$225.00  
Seasoned cut & split \$325.00  
All hardwood.  
Tree length available  
\*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!** New England Forest Products (413)477-0083

**MORE HEAT LESS WOOD.** Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. \$2K Tax Credit. Call (508)882-0178

## MISCELLANEOUS

**PREMIUM SCREENED TOPSOIL** from 2 to 100 yards. \$20/yd. plus delivery. 413-267-3827.

## TAG SALE

**MULTI-FAMILY TAG SALE. Aug. 15-16-17, 8:30am-5pm. 25 Shore Drive, Wales.** Households, appliances, collectibles & more.

**TAG SALE: AUG. 16TH, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 162 Breckenridge St., Palmer.**

## WANTED

### WANTED TO BUY

#### ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

**BUYING** Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more.  
Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

## JUNK REMOVAL

### ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL

Full house cleanouts, attics, basements, garages, pools, hot tubs, sheds, decks. Same day service. 8am-9pm. Credit cards accepted. Free estimates on phone.  
Fully insured.  
Call Pete 413-433-0356.

## CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

FRIDAY AT NOON

## JUNK REMOVAL

### A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL

Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.  
We load it & take it.  
413-531-1936  
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

## SERVICES



### 2\*\*\*\*\*A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE\*\*\*\*\*

Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. (413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868.

**DRYWALL, PAINTING AND CEILINGS,** plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. (413)563-0487

## ELECTRICIAN

### LICENSED ELECTRICIAN

I offer good quality electrical work, no project too small. Mini-splits, upgrades, pools, trustworthy & dependable. Luis Arroyo #20773A. Text or call 413-218-3301.

**ZEN ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC**  
Fully licensed and insured; Master Electrician on staff. Call for all your electrical needs. No job too small. Senior citizen and Veteran Discount. A veteran owned company. MA License #8101A1. Call John at (413)206-6509

## EXCAVATING

### ELIOT STARBARD EXCAVATION

35+ yrs of happy customers.  
508-882-0140

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

Handyman Services

**Walker**  
Home Improvement

Finish Carpentry • Framing • Drywall • Painting • & more!

(413) 687-5552

Licensed & Insured

## SERVICES

**HOME IMPROVEMENTS. REMODELING** Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. (413)246-2783 Ron.

### CHAMELEON PAINTING & REMODELING

INTERIOR/EXTERIOR  
**Remodeling & Deck Specialists**  
Residential/Commercial  
Fully Insured • Free Estimates  
413-351-1147

## LANDSCAPING

### A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE

Excavator Services  
Overgrown property?  
Extreme Brush Cutting!  
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal  
Lawn/Arborvitae Installed  
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand  
Storm Clean-up  
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal  
Insured  
Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

**\*\*ALL SEASON\*\*** Specializing in shrub trimming, pruning, design, deliveries, loader, backhoe, insured. Professional. Please call Bob (413)537-5789 (413)538-7954.

### MATT GUERTIN LANDSCAPING

Weekly Mowing  
Landscape design and installation  
Paver Patios, Walkways  
For more services visit  
mattguertinlandscaping.com  
Call or text 413-266-9975  
Insured - Commercial - Residential

## LAWN & GARDEN

\*COMPOSTED LOAM\* 3/8" screened, \$40/yd. deliv., 10 yd min.; No additives, fillers or by-products. Local deliv. to Oakham and surrounding towns only. Eliot Starbard 508-882-0140.

## SERVICES

### MASONRY

#### STOP WET BASEMENTS

**ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING**  
All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call (413)569-1611, (413)374-5377

## PLUMBING

**GREG LAFOUNTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING** Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg (413)592-1505

## TREE WORK

**AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE.** Residential removal of trees. Free estimates. Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call 413-283-6374.

**AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING**  
Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack 413-436-9821, Cell 413-537-7994

**DL & G TREE SERVICE.** Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate (413)478-4212.

## TUNE-UPS

### LAWN TRACTOR & MOWER TUNE UP & REPAIR

**A&M TUNE-UPS**  
Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers and Small Engine Repair.  
Work done at your home.  
**STUMP GRINDING**  
FREE PICKUP OF UNWANTED LAWN EQUIPMENT  
Call Mike (413) 348-7967

## STUMP GRINDING

**DL & G STUMP GRINDING** Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave 413-478-4212

**AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING**  
Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack 413-436-9821, Cell 413-537-7994

## SERVICES



**SAW Stump Grinding**  
Call for a Free Estimate,  
Veteran Owned, Fully Insured  
WWW.SAWSTUMPGRINDING.COM  
413-213-5470

## AUTO

### CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS

FREE TOWING  
FAST SERVICE  
CASH PAID AS IS  
CALL OR TEXT  
413-219-6839

## HELP WANTED

**CUSTODIAN POSITION AVAILABLE**  
cleaning with our team. Experience preferred but will train. Retirees welcome. Call Pride Cleaning Contractors, 413-283-7087.

**NEIGHBORLY CLEANING & CARE** is looking for mature, responsible adults with own transportation, experience and references for a housekeeping position. Hours 7:30- 2:30. Call Nancy today (413)267-4297 or (413) 544-0864.

### SERVERS WANTED

Inquire at **Girly's Grill**,  
1315 Park St., Palmer, MA 01069  
or call 413-284-0005.

The Town of North Brookfield is looking for a **PART-TIME OUTREACH COORDINATOR** for the Senior Center. Please submit a resume with a letter of interest to the **Selectmen's Office, 215 Main St., North Brookfield, MA 01535;** or by email to **selectmen@northbrookfield.net.**

### Town of Blandford

Town of Blandford is hiring a **PART-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** to the Assessors. Duties include administrative support for daily operations of the Assessors' office. Pay: \$18-\$20/hr, based on experience. Communication, customer service, organizational, and tech skills required. Send cover letter and resume to: **dhopson@townofblandford.com.**

## HELP WANTED

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WILBRAHAM HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Wilbraham Housing Authority seeks highly qualified applicants for the position of Executive Director. Responsibilities include the administration of 69 Chapter 667 Elderly housing units and 9 Chapter 705 Family housing units. The Executive Director reports to a five-member Board of Commissioners. Work schedule shall be a minimum of 22 hours per week during normal business hours, flexible as needed. The estimated salary range \$46,177.00 To \$54,326.00 is based on the Executive Office of Housing & Livable Communities' Executive Director Salary Schedule. The ideal candidate must have two years' experience in a housing, community development, public administration or a closely related field. Knowledge of the principles and practices of housing management, finances and maintenance systems in public or private housing. Excellent written and verbal communication skills required. Willingness to work with people of various socio-economic backgrounds. Must be bondable. Certification as a Public Housing Manager from an approved organization desired, and may be substituted as a property manager or similar classification by a nationally recognized housing or real estate organization such as an EOHLC-approved Massachusetts Public Housing Administrator Certification Program or HUD. Two-year full time post-secondary education in a related field may substitute for up to one year of experience. Applications will be accepted until 12pm, August 29, 2025. Please submit cover letter, resume and contact information for 3 references to: **Mr. Peter Manolakis, Chairman Executive Director Search Committee, Wilbraham Housing Authority, 88 Stony Hill Road, Wilbraham, MA 01095. Contact: Peter Manolakis (413) 519-8195**  
Wilbraham Housing Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer

### Town of Blandford

is seeking a fulltime **ASSISTANT TREASURER/COLLECTOR.**  
Pay range \$29.50-\$37.50/hour.  
Please visit our website for full job description.  
Submit resume to **Administrator@townofblandford.com**

### TOWN OF WILBRAHAM EMERGENCY DISPATCHER PT & FT FIREFIGHTER/EMT POLICE OFFICER

The Town of Wilbraham is looking to fill several **FIRST RESPONDER** positions. For application and more information please visit **www.wilbraham-ma.gov.** Review of applications begins immediately. Open until filled. EOE

## REAL ESTATE

### FOR RENT



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.



**STAY ON TOP OF IT ALL!**  
Subscribe Today!

**Turley**  
Publications, Inc.  
12 HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS  
413.283.8393  
www.turley.com  
24 Water Street  
Palmer, MA 01069

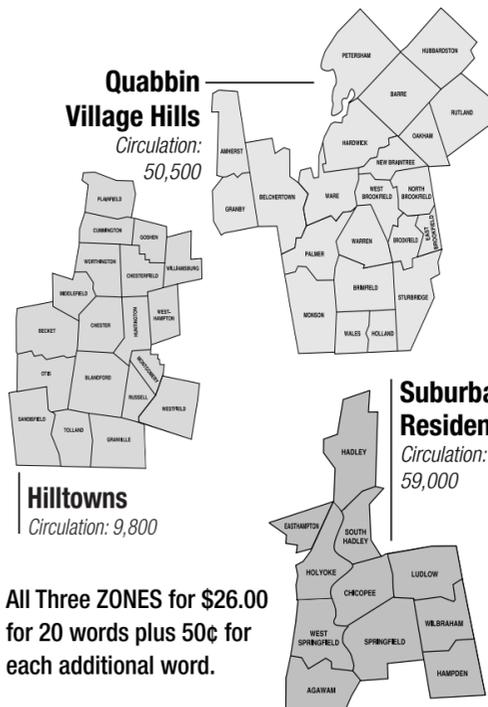
## FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: **FRIDAY AT NOON**  
or call: 413-283-8393

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.00
23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
25	Base Price \$28.50	26	Base Price \$29.00
27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
35	Base Price \$33.50	36	Base Price \$34.00
37	Base Price \$34.50	38	Base Price \$35.00
39	Base Price \$35.50	40	Base Price \$36.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card:  MasterCard  VISA  Discover  Cash  Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount of charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!**



All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

**GREAT VALUE!**  
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

Make checks payable to Turley Publications

**THE BEST FRESH LOCALLY GROWN!**  
**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL FARMERS!**  
**Local Field Grown TOMATOES!**  
*Red, Ripe & Delicious*

**Locally Grown BUTTER & SUGAR SWEET CORN!**

*From Nearby Farms*  
**FRESH BLUEBERRIES**  
 Green Peppers, Eggplant, Cucumbers, Yellow & Green Beans, Yellow & Green Squash, Red Raspberries & MORE

**PACK A PICNIC FROM RANDALL'S**  
 GOURMET SANDWICHES & SUMMER SALADS  
 Fresh Baked Cookies, Pies & Muffins  
*Randall's Blueberry Sour Cream Pie!*

*Boar's Head*  
 Sweet B's BBQ Chicken .....\$12.99/lb  
*Boar's Head*  
 American Cheese.....\$6.99/lb  
*Boar's Head*  
 Cracked Pepper Turkey .... \$12.99/lb  
*Boar's Head*  
 Chipotle Gouda Cheese.....\$8.99/lb

**Perennial of the Week**  
**"Black Eyed Susan"**  
**Rudbeckia**  
**\$9.99** One Gallon Pot  
*(Reg \$12.99)*  
 Little Gold Star, American Gold Rush,  
 Native Fulgida Goldsturm Varieties  
*Sun Loving, Deer Resistant, Pollinator Friendly*

**August Is Family Fun Month**  
**STAY-CATION PLANTING KITS**  
**Venus Fly Trap Terrariums \$19.99**  
*Kit Includes: Terrarium Bowl, Venus Fly Trap Plant, Moss & Instructions*  
**Air Plant Sculpture \$14.99**  
*Kit Includes: Two Air Plants, Rock Base, Sculpting Wire & Instructions*

**August Wines Of The Month**  
**Noble Vines 337 Cabernet Sauvignon**  
**Schmitt Söhne Riesling**  
**\$2.00 OFF Reg Price**

**Elsie's Creamery**  
**The Best Homemade Ice Cream**  
 MADE IN SMALL BATCHES AT THE CREAMERY  
 Limited Edition ~ Now Available!  
**"CHUCK'S" MADAGASCAR VANILLA ICE CREAM**  
**ALWAYS FRESH AT**

**RANDALL'S FARM & GREENHOUSE**

631 CENTER ST., Route 21, Mass Tpke Exit 54  
 LUDLOW • 589-7071 • www.randallsfarm.net  
**OPEN EVERY DAY 7AM – 8PM**  
 Find us on [facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

## In The News

# Community Preservation Act seeks input from residents on upcoming project funding

HOLYOKE – The Community Preservation Act (CPA) provides funding that preserves and enhances the city, based on local need as determined by its residents. Funding is available for projects in the following categories: Housing, Historic Preservation, Outdoor Recreation, and Open Space Acquisition.

To make your voice heard, please complete the survey, available in both English and Spanish. Submissions will be accepted up until Oct. 15.

Recent CPA-funded projects include the restoration of the Lady Liberty statue in Veterans Park, construction of the all-abilities Miracle League Playground,

and the on-going development of 88 affordable housing units at Appleton Mills and 41 at Essex Village near the Holyoke Public Library. The iconic stirrups on the Holyoke Merry-Go-Round have been restored to their original design, and the stained-glass windows in City Hall are being meticulously brought back to life. Gloutak Park

in Rock Valley will have a brand-new playground built this summer and public pickleball courts are coming to the YMCA. And that's just a few of the total xx projects funded so far as part of the CPA program.

To learn more about these and other funded projects, visit: [holyokeepac.org](http://holyokeepac.org)

Since its adoption, Holyoke's CPA has delivered over \$4.5 million dollars in community improvements at a modest cost to residents. In 2024 the average CPA surcharge for a single-family home was \$48, while the city received a match of over \$100,000 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The CPAC is composed of representatives from the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, Housing Authority, and Historical Commission, along with appointed community members.



CPA money has also been used for the redesign at Jones Point Park. Playground improvements have been made using CPA funds.



Submitted photos

## MARSHAL, from page 1

noted that Moriarty has led OneHolyoke CDC since 2013, driving initiatives to revitalize distressed neighborhoods and expand access to dignified, affordable housing in the city's most underserved areas. While also being a passionate advocate for education, Moriarty has also remained steadfast and laser-focused much of his career, closing achievement gaps in Gateway Cities across the Commonwealth, and being an advocate of early literacy.

His service to the Paper City also includes his time as a former Holyoke School Committee member; he later served on the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, completing two terms before Governor Maura Healey appointed him as a state commissioner to the National Education Commission of the States.

Moriarty also holds a B.A. from The Catholic University of America ('85) and a J.D. from Western New England University School of Law ('93), and his community involvement includes serving as Past President of the Holyoke Rotary Club while also being a member of the Parish Council at St. Jerome Church in Holyoke.

He also confessed that his lifelong attachment to the Parade was one he still remembers. "I have been tied to the Parade since I was one year old, and I remember being in my mother's arms as we watched from my father's office on High Street, and I have missed no Parades ever since, maybe one or two



The St. Patrick's Day Committee met on Tuesday, Aug. 12 to announce their next parade marshal.

Turley photos by Brendan Rooney

since college, he said."

One of his greatest achievements was during his tenure as the Committee liaison to the Consulate General of Ireland, where he strengthened Holyoke's ties to the Republic of Ireland by welcoming dignitaries, fostering cultural exchange, and ensuring that the Parade reflects the richness of both traditional and contemporary Irish life.

"It's an incredible asset for the city of Holyoke to possess to understand that the community is held in high regard in the eyes of the Republic of Ireland, as the current prime minister of Ireland marched in our Parade in recent years," Moriarty said. "Also, I want to add the ambassador to the United States came to recognize the man who created our ambassador award, and that let it be known there are not a lot of Irish organizations of any kind that have that kind of recognition and relationship, on the level Holyoke does, but it does a ton of good for our city and our entire region."

Moriarty also admitted he credits his Irish heritage

with shaping his values of community service, hospitality, and perseverance, while acknowledging and offering insight into the origin of the Paper City and the Irish community's achievements that are always felt.

"The Irish connection is a deep part of Holyoke's history, and my family history, and it's truly a wonderful thing to be," Moriarty said. "From our very earliest beginnings, the dam and canals were dug by Irish immigrants, who came here with absolutely nothing, and they built an entire city that became the greatest paper-making city in the world, and we are the generations that get all the benefits from their tremendous sacrifice at work."

Breaking down the selection process was current Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade President Jim Wildman confessed that this year it was a board of 11 individuals in total, 6 past Grand Marshals and 5 current committee members, with qualifications solely predicated on a merit system, based on contributions to the committee to decide who would be the

lucky recipient.

When weighing options, Wildman revealed that Moriarty was considered a 'perfect candidate,' citing values of respect and his deep ties to the Irish community, which led to his appointment via a unanimous decision from the board.

"Mike has been involved with this parade for a long, long time," Wildman said. "He (Moriarty) chairs the ambassador award, and he also has close ties to the Irish government; he brings an assortment of notoriety to Holyoke, and through Mike and the awardees he's presented to the committee, solidifies a sense of integrity and value to the Parade, and we feel he's the perfect choice to lead us in 2026."

Moriarty will be honored at the Grand Marshal's Reception on Friday, Jan. 16, 2026, at the Log Cabin in Holyoke.

Two months later, Parade season will be in full effect as the 49th Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race on Saturday, Mar. 21, 2026, and the 73rd Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade caps off the weekend on Sunday, Mar. 22, 2026.

## ENERGY, from page 1

ers such as Eversource and National Grid.

Garcia also noted that the company is the 'golden goose of Holyoke' as the key to success, and keeping rates cost-efficient for their customers is the balance between the application of hydro power and solar initiatives.

First, the element of Hydro can generate up to 50 MW between their main location at the dam at Hadley Falls Units 1 and 2 (33 MW), and the Canal System, which is comprised of 11 Stations (17 MW), which equates to about possessing enough to power up to 60% of Holyoke yearly. In terms of solar power, building on the equation of renewable and clean energy alternatives, HG&E has 17 stations that generate up to 17.8 MW, more than enough to power 3,500 homes per year supplies

13% of the overall annual load.

In addition, HG&E also has an ample assortment of resources related to clean energy, such as Battery Storage in transformers that hold up to about 8 MW and carbon-free nuclear energy from two nuclear plants in Connecticut across the state border. And all pieces of the puzzle combine to withstand the Average Max Demand in both the Spring/Fall, generating about 45 MW, and during peak demand, which is the Summer 65 MW and the Winter 60 MW.

And because of these industry-wide changes and improvements, Holyoke has seen an upward increase in clean and renewable energy compared to the turn of the 21st century, when Fossil fuels still played a prominent role in energy consumption. Resulting in Holyoke being Total: 87% Carbon-free according to

various data statistics.

Another big reveal was that HG&E has received over \$27 million in grant funding to support local energy goals, and the company has invested approximately \$20 million in collaborative clean energy projects that provide renewable energy to the community and enable future clean energy development.

After being given a first-hand experience of the work being implemented, Mayor Garcia confessed that Holyoke has the potential to grow.

"Let me be clear on Holyoke is an industry city, built to accommodate, and currently we are at the margin, just a little below 40,000, but I feel people need some room to grow and expand," Garcia said. "Governor Maura Healey has also been a solid partner in what's going on in the Paper City, and that is huge to have that kind of support in your corner."

## CHAMBER, from page 1

Police Department, which has since been referred to the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office. The Chamber will continue to cooperate fully with both agencies throughout the investigation.

In response to this incident, the Chamber has implemented new financial oversight protocols and will continue to strengthen procedures to ensure the highest standards of fiscal accountability.

The Chamber deeply regrets that this situation occurred and takes the matter with the utmost seriousness. As this is now an active criminal investigation, we will make no further comment until the judicial process is complete."

Following Hart's dismissal from the chamber, she was hired as an Office and Marketing Manager at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

**EARLY DEADLINES**

In observance of LABOR DAY, the Classifieds have an **EARLY AD DEADLINE.**

To advertise, place your ad no later than **NOON**

**Thursday, August 28**

Thank you!

A TURLEY PUBLICATION  
[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)