

the

Serving the city since 1995

HOLYOKE

Sun

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

October 23, 2026 ■ FREE

www.sun.turley.com

Holyoke Police Department honors 44 for service

By **Brendan Rooney**
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – A special night unfolded earlier this month inside the Holyoke City Hall Auditorium as the Holyoke Police Department honored 44 officers, civil-

ians, and public safety partners at its first awards ceremony since 2021 on Oct 6th, drawing a packed room of families, friends, and community members.

In addition, some notable guests who made the trip to the Paper City to show

their support included State Secretary of Public Safety and Security Gina Kwon, U.S. Rep. Richard Neal, state Sen. John Velis, state Rep. Patricia Duffy, Mayor Joshua Garcia, City Council President Tessa Murphy-Romboletti, At-Large City

Councilor Patricia Devine, and countless others who were on hand before the City Council meeting.

Chief Keenan reflects on service, sacrifice, and community

Before the ceremony unfolded, Holyoke Chief

Brian Keenan delivered opening remarks, summarizing the importance of the event, sharing, “The people we are honoring here tonight are Holyoke officers, our law enforcement partners, and civilians who have distinguished themselves in a spe-

cial way as they’ve worked to serve our community,” Keenan told the audience. “Tonight’s honorees are living proof that Holyoke is home to some extraordinary people who love this place and are willing to sacrifice for it, so let me be clear as your police chief, I can tell you this truthfully, I’m honored to have the ability and opportunity to work alongside all of you to protect and serve this amazing city.”

Mayor Garcia voices progress

Following Keenan, Mayor Garcia took to the podium to praise the department’s resilience, sharing: “Regardless of what my people might say and what’s being reported politically about policing or what the culture might feel like within the Holyoke Police Department, over the last couple of years, this department has accomplished a whole lot, and today we’re going to celebrate it.”

He then pivoted to reflecting on the heavy realities faced by the force; the



The 44 award recipients lie in wait, as the ceremony carries on.

Submitted photos

See **POLICE**, page 6

Hampden DA announces major fentanyl bust in city

HOLYOKE – Two men are facing drug trafficking charges following a coordinated investigation by the Hampden District Attorney’s Office’s Strategic Action and Focused Enforcement (SAFE) Task Force and Hampden County Narcotics Task Force. The investigation resulted in the seizure of more than 8,000 bags of fentanyl, cocaine, and approximately \$18,000 in cash.

On Oct. 1, at approximately 8:40 a.m., members of both task forces, along with assisting law enforcement agencies, executed seven court-authorized search warrants targeting four locations, two vehicles, and one cellphone as part of an investigation into suspected drug trafficking activity in the greater Holyoke area.

The investigation, led by the Hampden District Attorney’s Office State Police Detective Unit, resulted in the arrests of:

- Brian Marrero, 34, of Holyoke, charged with trafficking in 100 grams or more of cocaine.
- Herman Gomez, 26, of Holyoke, charged with trafficking in more than 200 grams of heroin and trafficking in more than 10 grams of fentanyl.

During the execution of the search warrants, investigators seized approximately 8,250 bags of fentanyl, weighing an estimated 231 grams, 121 grams of cocaine, and approximately \$18,474 in U.S. currency, pending an official count.

The search warrants were executed without incident at locations on Maple Street, Merkel Terrace, and St. James Avenue in Holyoke.

“The amount of fentanyl seized during this operation underscores the scale of the drug trafficking activity our law enforcement partners

See **BUST**, page 5

FALLING LEAVES



Turley photo by Kara Walsh-Vey

Beautiful autumnal foliage is on full display before all the leaves fall to the ground, transitioning New England into cooler temperatures.

Attendance rates discussed at school committee meeting

By **Quinn Suomala**
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke School Committee discussed attendance rates at Holyoke Public Schools during their Oct. 13 meeting.

Superintendent Jaqueline Glasheen wants to improve attendance at the schools.

“Students are at the center of everything we do and we know they can do those things when they attend,” Glasheen said.

Glasheen shared data from last school year. In elementary schools, E. N. White had the best daily attendance at 93.3%. They also had the best chronic absenteeism rate at 17.9%.

Kelly School was the elementary school with the lowest attendance rates. They had a daily attendance rate of 88.8% and a chronic absenteeism rate of 44.8%.

For secondary schools, Dean had the best attendance record with 89.9% daily attendance and a 34.8% chronic absenteeism (which was down from prior years).

Holyoke High School had the lowest daily attendance rate at 84%. They also had the highest chronic absenteeism rate, at 51.2%.

On top of this information, HPS also tracked attendance by grade level.

They noticed that attendance was lower in grades that faced transitions or large exams, such as tenth grade.

Glasheen and the other administrators looked closely at this data to create a plan to improve attendance across the district.

They came up with five action steps: develop district protocol around attendance entry, review schools with best practices and identify any shifts as expected practice, continue to redistribute tier 1 support to all staff, identify success stories to share from parent perspective, and implement transition orientation in sixth and ninth grade.

HPS has a three tiered attendance support plan which increases support as a student misses more days of classes.

Tier one is applied to all students and includes calls

sent home when a student misses classes as well as weekly emails to all families about their kids’ schools’ attendance rates.

Tier two is applied to students who miss five or more days of classes. Students and their families will get absence notice letters, home visits if needed, an attendance contract and more support as needed.

Finally, tier three was created to support chronically absent students. The school will go over the retention process with families and provide support to help students and their families as they are able.

Glasheen and her team know that attendance issues can be a result of sickness, lack of resources, school perception, transportation difficulties and weather.

They want to ensure that families receive support no matter what the obstacle is to a students’ attendance.

Already under the attendance plan, HPS has seen improvement in attendance this school year.

See **SCHOOL**, page 5

Neal and Milleron face off in race for congressional seat

By **Brendan Rooney**
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – The race for Massachusetts’ 1st Congressional District seat features a 2024 rematch between U.S. Rep. Richard Neal, seeking his 20th term in Congress, and independent candidate Nadia Milleron, who is mounting her second bid for the U.S. House.

If reelected, Neal could become chair of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee if Democrats regain control of the House, giving him significant influence over tax policy, tariffs, and the future of Social

Security.

Neal provided a legislative outline to Turley Publications, highlighting a primary focus on economic recovery and committee oversight.

“Divided government will present challenges, but I see a Democratic majority built around three priorities: lowering costs, fighting back against Republicans’ health care crisis, and conducting comprehensive oversight of this lawless administration,” Neal outlined to Turley Publications. “On the Ways



Richard Neal



Nadia Milleron

and Means Committee, we can quickly start lowering costs by reclaiming Congress’s authority over trade. Rolling back Trump’s tariffs and limiting his trade authority will lower costs and put money back in workers’ wallets.”

Milleron countered by

standing on the prospect of aiming to break the grip of the long-standing two-party system as the first independent woman elected to the House. “If I was elected as the first woman independent ever elected to Congress, then I would give hope to so many other districts who are trying to get free of this duopoly that doesn’t address their crucial needs,” Milleron said. Pointing to the unique nature of the race—featuring no other major party challengers—she added, “It’s an incredible chance to get a change and to get somebody who’s not in the system. That chance is not going to come

again because it’s likely that Richard Neal will retire, and then the field will be full of Democrats, and we’ll have a uniparty again.”

When challenged on longevity and institutional policies, Neal pointed to his position of seniority as a critical engine for federal investment, citing his work on the Affordable Care Act, pension protections, and repealing the Windfall Elimination Provision.

“I’ve fought to get health insurance to millions of Americans through the Affordable Care Act, save the pension plans of

See **RACE**, page 8

For more information about the Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade and Parade Week events, visit holyokestpatricksparade.com or follow the Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade on social media.

Submitted photo

Offered as part of HCC's Business & Workforce Development division, the line cook course is free to qualifying applicants.

allows families who may typically avoid crowded or stimulating environments to come and join in on the fun. For more information, call the museum at (413) 536-7048.

2 • OCTOBER 23, 2026 • The Holyoke Sun

Garcia to present new comprehensive plan to residents

HOLYOKE – Mayor Joshua A. Garcia, in partnership with OneHolyoke CDC, Enlace de Familias, and the Holyoke Taxpayers Association, invites residents to a community meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 28, to learn about Holyoke’s new Comprehensive Plan and help shape how its vision for the city’s future becomes reality. The meeting will take place from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Holyoke Senior Center, located at 291 Pine Street. Mayor Garcia and city department leaders will share an overview of the plan and engage residents in roundtable discussions about priorities including public safety,

housing, roads and sidewalks, public schools, parks, and other issues that affect daily life in Holyoke. The Comprehensive Plan establishes a long-term vision for Holyoke’s growth and development over the next 20 years, providing a roadmap for decisions about housing, transportation, economic development, land use, public services, and more. The plan represents the city’s first comprehensive update since 1999 and reflects more than a year of planning and community engagement. “This plan is the beginning of an ongoing commitment to thoughtful planning and shared accountability,” said Mayor Joshua A. Garcia. “Its success will depend on continued collaboration between residents, city government, businesses, institutions, and community partners. Together, Holyoke will continue building a city that is more vibrant, equitable, resilient, and prepared for the future, because you get what you plan for!” Developed by the city’s Office of Planning and Economic Development (OPED) and the Holyoke Planning Board under

Mayor Joshua Garcia’s direction, the Comprehensive Plan incorporates input from residents, community stakeholders, and a committee representing a cross-section of Holyoke’s community, business, and cultural leaders. The plan addresses a broad range of priorities, including housing needs, economic development, transportation, zoning and land use, public services, and the preservation of cultural, historic, and natural resources. It



Mayor Joshua Garcia

lishes a vision for the next two decades, city leaders emphasize that implementation will require ongoing public participation, transparency, and accountability. The Oct. 28 meeting is an opportunity for residents to better understand the plan, identify priorities for action, and help guide the city’s next steps. The meeting will focus on translating the plan’s vision into meaningful improvements that residents can see and experience, while continuing to build a Holyoke that is livable and welcoming, sustainable and connected, safe and compassionate, and ready for business.

While the Comprehensive Plan estab-

lishes a vision for the next two decades, city leaders emphasize that implementation will require ongoing public participation, transparency, and accountability. The Oct. 28 meeting is an opportunity for residents to better understand the plan, identify priorities for action, and help guide the city’s next steps. The meeting will focus on translating the plan’s vision into meaningful improvements that residents can see and experience, while continuing to build a Holyoke that is livable and welcoming, sustainable and connected, safe and compassionate, and ready for business.

Museum to host Ofrenda

HOLYOKE – Get ready for another amazing Dia de Los Muertos celebration with Attack Bear Press and Wistariahurst Museum with a special calaveras (skull) painting activity during the museum’s Sensory Friendly Trick or Treat event. Guests are welcome to relax and paint outside or inside Wistariahurst’s Carriage House if the weather is poor. Dia de Los Muertos is a special tradition that allows people to celebrate and remember deceased loved ones by decorating an ofrenda, a communal altar dedicated to those dearly departed. On Oct. 25, we invite you to paint your clay calaveras to add to the annual ofrenda hosted at the Wistariahurst Museum. Attack Bear Press will

provide all painting materials and calaveras will be provided at the event. You may also bring a photograph of your departed loved ones to not only add a personal touch to your artwork, but also so the community can honor and remember them. Don’t miss this unique chance to connect with the rich tapestry of Dia de Los Muertos and contribute to a vibrant, communal ofrenda. Viewing for the 9th Annual Holyoke Community Ofrenda will be available for special open hours on Oct. 31, 12 to 2 p.m., Nov. 1 from 12 to 2 p.m., and Nov. 2 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.. We can’t wait to see the collective beauty and heartfelt tributes created by our very own community and celebrate this important holiday.

Fall fun at Holyoke Mall

HOLYOKE – On Monday, Oct. 12, Fall-a-Palooza! will take place at the Café Square in the Holyoke Mall from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and all ages are welcome. Enjoy crafts; face painting, balloons, and glitter tattoos from Clowntique; and visit with everyone’s favorite *snap snap* Gothic Teen from Something Royal Party Company. On Thursday, Oct. 29, ghosts and goblins return for our annual Mall-oween! Bring the whole boo crew for a safe, family-friendly evening of trick-or-treating at participating businesses throughout the center from 5 to 7 p.m., while supplies last.

Velis presents state funding for foundation

HOLYOKE – Senator John C. Velis attended the Magic for Maddie 5K and Carnival on Saturday, an annual event that draws more than 2,000 attendees and honors children who have survived cancer, are currently fighting the disease, or have passed away. During the ceremony, Senator Velis also presented \$20,000 in state funding to support the Magic for Maddie Foundation and its mission of assisting families facing childhood cancer diagnoses. “No family should have to worry about paying their bills while their child is fighting cancer,” shared Senator Velis. “This funding will help Magic for Maddie continue providing critical support to families who need it most while contributing to the fight against pediatric cancer. I am grateful to Maddie’s family for turning an unimaginable loss into meaningful action and making a difference in

our community.” Magic for Maddie was established in memory of Maddie Schmidt, who passed away at age eight from an aggressive form of pediatric brain cancer. The nonprofit supports families facing the emotional and financial challenges of childhood cancer while funding research to advance the fight against the disease. In 2025 alone, Magic for Maddie donated more than \$80,000 to 32 Western Massachusetts families to help cover essential expenses, including housing, groceries, utilities, transportation to treatment, and medical costs. In fewer than five years, the foundation has raised nearly \$1.8 million to support its mission. “We are grateful to Senator Velis for his support and for recognizing the meaningful work Magic for Maddie is doing to make a difference in our communities,” said Nora Schmidt,

Maddie’s mother. “Through Magic for Maddie, we are committed to keeping Maddie’s sparkle and memory alive by supporting local families whose children are fighting cancer. Our goal is to alleviate the financial burden so families can focus on their child’s health. Maddie was a true hero, and we miss her every single day. We know she would be proud of the work we are doing in her honor.” The \$20,000 in state funding will help Magic for Maddie continue providing financial assistance to local families navigating childhood cancer diagnoses and expand its impact throughout Western Massachusetts. The state funding was included secured by Senator Velis in the recent FY’27 state budget that was passed by the Senate and House, and signed into law in July. For more information, visit the Magic for Maddie Foundation website.

OCTOBER IS Breast Cancer Awareness Month





On average, every 2 minutes a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer in the United States. **Join Holyoke Medical Center oncologist and hematologist Dr. Renuka Dulala** as she discusses the importance of breast cancer screening, early detection, and new treatments available.

Date: Tuesday, October 27, 2026

Time: 10am

Location: Chicopee Council on Aging, 5 West Main Street, Chicopee, MA 01020

Please register by calling (413) 534-2789.



Holyoke Medical Center



Holyoke Pizza named ‘Best Pizza Restaurant in Holyoke for 2026’

Dear Holyoke Pizza Team,

We are pleased to inform you that Holyoke Pizza has been officially recognized as the **BEST of 2026 Holyoke Award Winner in the Pizza Restaurant category** - an honor based on verified data from Google Reviews as analyzed and certified by Business rate provides intelligent ranking solutions and comprehensive review, management services to help local businesses thrive in competitive markets through data-driven insights and proven strategies.

This recognition is part of the BusinessRate BEST of 2026 Awards, which identify local leaders in customer satisfaction, brand reputation, and service excellence. Your BusinessRate Score is a complete performance metric that combines all factors with a simple, easy-to-understand score. This comprehensive rating shows how your business ranks against local competitors.

Congratulations again on this outstanding achievement; earned not by application or nomination, but by the authentic feedback of your own customers.

Warm regards,
Kyle Pittman
BEST of 2026 Holyoke Awards



GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE!!!

Holyoke Pizza

213 South Street, Holyoke

WE DELIVER!

413.532.6666

#1 Two Large Pizzas, 1 Topping Each & 2 Liter Soda \$33.50 +Tax

#11 Ten Wings with French Fries \$17.99 +Tax

#13 Two 16" Grinders with Bag of Chips & Can of Soda \$25.99 +Tax

FOOTBALL SEASON IS BACK!!!

#2 One Large 1 Topping Pizza, 10 Buffalo Wings & 2 Liter Soda \$32.99 +Tax

#4 One Party Size Cheese Pizza, 20 Buffalo Wings & 2 Liter Soda \$44.50 +Tax

#3 One Party Size Pizza w/ 3 Toppings \$29.99 +Tax



EXPRESS DELIVERY: Holyoke, Chicopee, South Hadley & West Springfield

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE COUPONS & TO ORDER ONLINE

www.holyokepizza.com

The Holyoke Sun • OCTOBER 23, 2026 • 3



Did I understand you right - I won't get all my SS benefits immediately?

Dear Rusty:

I was a little confused with one of your past articles.

This September I hit my full retirement age and for every month I continue to delay, my SS benefit goes up a little more. But reading your article sounds like the extra benefits are only added at the end of the year.

For example, let's say that at my full retirement age in September I get \$3,524, and in January 2027 I would get \$3,619.

According to the Ask Rusty article I read, if I start my benefits in June of 2027, I will have earned \$3,735, but it sounds like I would only get \$3,619 up until the end of the year, and then they would adjust it.

If this is the case, would I get retroactive money back for the 6 months I did not get the correct amount?

Signed: Seeking Clarification

Dear Seeking:

Thanks for your inquiry. Your understanding of the previous Ask Rusty article is correct.

If you start your benefits in June 2027 (10 months after your Full Retirement Age or your FRA, in September 2026), you will initially only get the Delayed Retirement Credits you earned through the end of 2026.

The DRCs you earned from January 2027 to June 2027 would not be credited until January 2028 and you would not get any retroactive benefits for the DRCs earned during the January – June 2027 timeframe.

SSA's reasoning for this is somewhat confusing but has to do with your ability to claim retroactive benefits when you claim after reaching your full retirement age.

When claiming after reaching your FRA you have the ability to claim benefits retroactively for up to six months. So, to avoid potentially overlapping benefit payments, SSA defers applying your current year's DRCs until January of the following year.

Thus, you essentially lose the extra 2027 DRC money for the remainder

of 2027. And, FYI, the one exception to this rule is that when benefits are claimed mid-year at age 70, all DRCs are immediately paid.

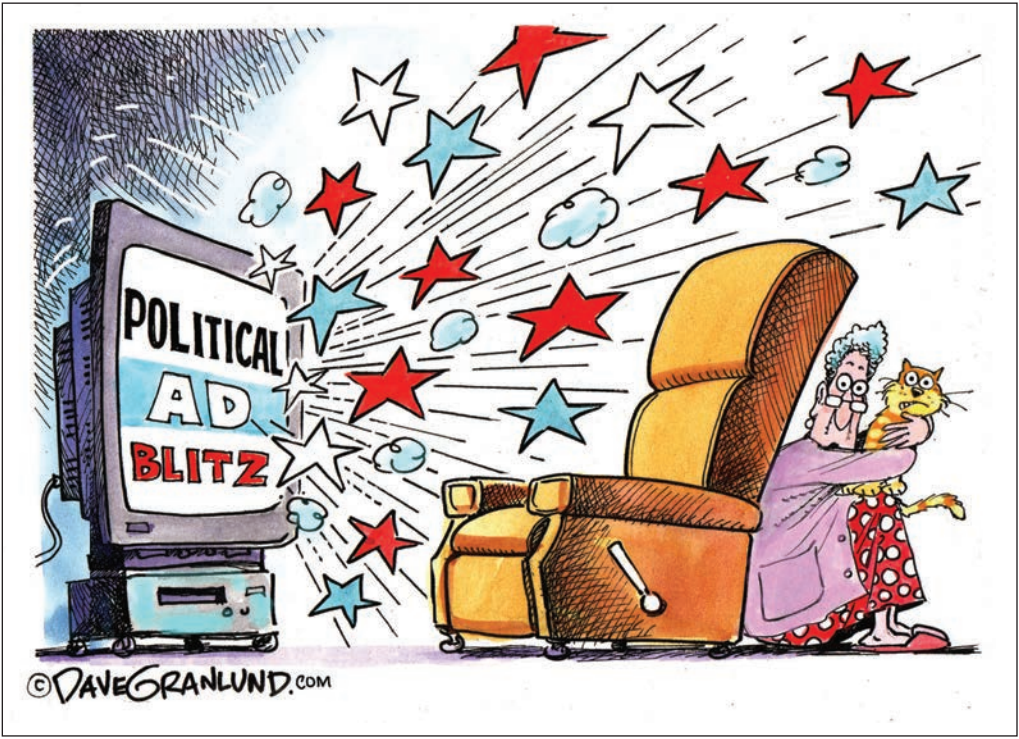
Please understand that I'm not endorsing this SSA rule; only trying to explain how it works and why. Like many SSA rules, there are nuances to how benefits are paid. And this is a classic example. And just remember, as attractive as taking 6 months of retroactive benefits may sound, it also means your monthly amount would be reduced by about 4% for the rest of your life.

As you contemplate when you should claim your Social Security retirement benefits, you should always keep in mind your anticipated life expectancy when making that decision.

If you expect to live at least to the "average" life expectancy for those in their mid-60s (about mid-80s for someone your current age), then waiting longer to claim is usually a better long term financial decision (even considering the DRC issue described above). But if your life expectancy is less than "average," claiming sooner is usually a better choice.

If you have further questions about when to claim Social Security, please contact us at SSadviser@amacfoundation.org or 1-888-750-2622. There is never a fee for our advisory service because we are a non-profit organization.

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



Next steps for frost tinged dahlias, glads

It finally came inside at 6:45 p.m. with a flash-light in hand.

It was my own fault. I started a project much too late in the day for the work that it entailed.

You see, we had a frost last night. The first one of the year, for me, anyway.

The temperature just hit the 32-degree mark, so the tips of certain plants were hit. Leaves that were under the cover of other plants looked pretty good.

I probably could have left the gladiolus and dahlias in the ground for a bit longer based on the upcoming, warmer forecast, but I decided to seize the moment and get them dug up and moved indoors.

Read on to learn the specifics of how to overwinter these summer loving, tender bulbs.

As mentioned, dig up dahlia tubers either just prior to or soon after frost hits. I typically use a shovel or pitchfork, starting a foot or so away from the stems.

Once the soil is loosened up a bit, the stem should lift up easily with the tubers intact.

Soil should be eased off the tubers with a spray of water before placing in storage. Leave a small portion of stem attached to the tubers – it is a great place to adhere a label.

Once the tubers have air-dried for a bit, you can even write on the tubers themselves with a permanent marker. Take it from me – it is easy to forget a name over

the winter months!

Placing tubers in damp peat moss, saw dust, shredded leaves, or even ventilated plastic bags will help to prevent shriveling. Choose a location to overwinter your tubers that maintain 40-50 degrees temps and 90% humidity. These conditions will keep them dormant and healthy until it is time to replant.

Many people have good luck using a cold basement or root cellar; small quantities of tubers can be stored in the crisper drawer of the refrigerator. Be sure to check on your tubers every couple of weeks throughout the off-season.

Should you see shriveling, mist them with clean water and re-dampen the medium in which they were placed. If you see mold, bring down the temperature and humidity level.

Some growers like to get a jump-start on the season by pre-starting dahlias indoors.

We have done this occasionally at Old Sturbridge Village and I am always amazed at just how fast the plants grow, and how quickly they outgrow their pots and become leggy. If you attempt it, four weeks prior to the last spring frost would be soon enough.

Similarly, around the time of our first frost gladiolus

corms should be lifted from the ground with a spading fork or shovel. Never just yank the plant out by pulling on the stem!

Once out of the ground, cut the stem from the corm as closely as possible. Rinse under running water and allow to dry in a frost-free airy location for two-three weeks.

Check the corms regularly, and when a corky area develops between the mother corm and the new corm break off and discard the mother. After drying is complete, store on trays or in mesh bags in a well-ventilated area at temperatures between 38 and 58 degrees. The lower the temp, the better.

Inspect throughout the winter months and throw away any corms that begin to rot.

Typically glads are planted directly in the ground, with no pre-starting needed. You can stagger when you plant, though, so that all of your flowers are not borne at once. Plant a few every week of June for color throughout the late summer through frost.

By harvesting your bulbs now, you are protecting your investment for years to come! Only get out there and do it before you run out of daylight!

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



the **HOLYOKE** Sun

We Want to Hear From You

EDITOR/SPORTS
Greg Scibelli
thesun@turley.com
sports@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

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

WEB
sun.turley.com

PHONE
(413) 283-8393

ADDRESS
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069

Turley Publications, Inc.
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.

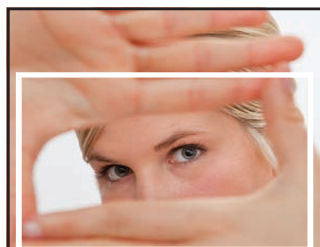
Letters to the Editor Policy

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

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon. Please email (preferred) letters to thesun@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to The Sun, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.



think OUTSIDE of the BIG BOX

SUPPORT COMMUNITY BUSINESSES

The Holyoke Sun welcomes election letters to the editor

The Holyoke Sun welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Holyoke Sun, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to thesun@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be

considered for that Friday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample.

No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election. For more information, call 413-283-8393.

Campaign news: As part of its election coverage, the

newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Holyoke Sun.

COMING SOON

PLACE YOUR AD IN THE HOLIDAY DAZZLER

CALL TODAY TO ADVERTISE (413) 283-8393

ADVERTISING DEADLINE: OCTOBER 28, 2026

PUBLICATION DATE: NOVEMBER 2026

Distributed in ALL 12 Turley Community Newspapers!

YOUR GUIDE TO LOCAL Gift Idea, Seasonal Recipes, Local Happenings

holiday **dazzler** 2026

National Drug Take Back Day returns

People in 14 area communities will have an opportunity to safely dispose of unneeded medication and drugs during the 30th National Drug Take Back Day set for this Saturday, Oct. 24.

The Northwestern District Attorney’s Office, local police departments, the Hampshire County Sheriff’s Office, and the county-based TRIAD initiative are once again partnering to organize and host the event.

“Properly disposing of unused medications is a simple but important step we can all take to prevent prescription drug misuse,” said Northwestern District Attorney David Sullivan in a press release. “Drug Take Back Day gives residents an opportunity to safely remove unwanted medications from their homes, helping protect families and strengthen the safety of our communities.”

Communities in Hampshire and Franklin counties will participate in coordination with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. This nation-wide, twice-yearly initiative encourages residents to safely dispose of unused or expired prescription and over-the-counter medications for both humans and pets.

Proper disposal helps prevent prescription drug misuse and accidental ingestion, while also keeping medications out of water systems and landfills, protecting wildlife and the environment.

Collections are scheduled from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the following locations: Amherst (former Wildwood Elementary), 71 Strong Avenue; Belchertown (Town Common), Park Street; Cumington (Police Department), 8 Fairgrounds Road; Deerfield (Police Department), 8 Conway St.; Easthampton (Public Safety Complex), 32 Payson Avenue; Hadley (Police Department), 15 East St.; Leverett (Police Department), 80 Montague Road; Northampton (Smith Vocational), 80 Locust St.; Pelham (Police Department), 2 South Valley Road; Southampton (Police Department), 8 East St.; South Hadley (Police Department), 41 Bridge St.; Sunderland (Police Department), 105 River Road; Williamsburg (Public Safety Complex), 16 Main St.; and Worthington (Fire Station), 51 Huntington Road.

Since 2011, more than 83,511 pounds of medications have been safely collected and disposed of through Drug Take Back Days and permanent drug collection boxes located at police departments throughout the district.

Volunteers tax preparers sought for tax season

The AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program provides free tax preparation assistance to taxpayers, with a special focus on seniors. Our program is seeking new volunteers to prepare returns for the upcoming tax season.

We need to grow our volunteer pool to continue to complete more returns in 2026. Our need is greatest in Chicopee, Holyoke, Belchertown, and Springfield but anywhere in Hampden, Hampshire or Franklin Counties volunteers are needed. We prepare taxes at 20 Senior Center sites in the three county area.

You don’t need to be a tax expert to volunteer. If you have basic tax knowledge, maybe you have prepared your own tax returns we provide extensive training for volunteers. AARP provides training, IRS Certification and ongoing support for you to be successful.

Interested or have questions please visit www.aarp.org/taxaidevolunteer for more information and to register. You can also contact Daniel Welch, Tax-Aide District Coordinator at dnl.welch@comcast.net

Make a difference and help your neighbors get the free tax assistance they need.

Broadway Brings Joy presents Spooky Spectacular

H O L Y O K E – Broadway Brings Joy (BBJ) invites the community to its Third annual family-friendly BBJ Spooky Spectacular, a Spooky Musical Theater Extravaganza highlighting the Broadway Brings Joy Musical Theater Program for students ages 4 through adult.

Doors open at 6 p.m., showing at 7 p.m. at De La Luz Soundstage, 114 Race Street. The event is free of charge and open to the public, with a suggested donation of \$10–\$20.

The showcase will highlight spooky favorites including Sweeney Todd, Little Shop of Horrors, It’s the Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown, Young Frankenstein, Cabaret, Beetlejuice, and more. A cash bar, snacks, and BBJ merchandise will be available for purchase. The evening offers a fun, family-friendly way for the community to see what BBJ programs are all about.

For more information, visit www.broadwaybrings-joy.com.

Friday, Oct. 30 -

SCHOOL, from page 1

Sullivan School has seen their attendance increase from 91.6% to 93.1%.

Additionally, Lawrence has improved from 92.7% to 94.5%.

“Katie Burke (the Lawrence principal) and her team really put putting families first in their first years at Lawrence as their priority,” Glasheen said. “We’re seeing the results of that in the attendance data.”

Glasheen credits this improvement to the work of the schools. Each school has been taking an individualized approach to ensure that their attendance improvement policies are specific to their families and their community.

Additionally, Chief of Student and Family Experience Steven Moguel mentioned that the district has shifted from doing district-wide attendance goals to school-specific goals to ensure that each school can individualize their plans.

In addition to the action plan and tiered supports, the administration has also tied student attendance to school leadership pay increases.

Glasheen and Moguel believe that this will help with accountability in attendance.

Both Glasheen and Moguel are hopeful for the rest of the school year. They plan to continue to report to the school committee on matters concerning attendance.

Moreover, they are open to advice the school committee has on how they can continue to improve attendance.

BUST, from page 1

are working to disrupt,” said Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni. “These investigations require coordination, persistence, and a shared commitment to protecting our communities. I commend the investigators and agencies involved for their work in bringing this case forward.”

The operation involved the SAFE Task Force, Hampden County Narcotics Task Force, Massachusetts State Police Gang Unit-West, Violent Fugitive Apprehension Section-West, and K-9 Unit, along with the Holyoke Police Department, Holyoke Narcotics Unit, and Hampden County Sheriff’s Department.



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			

CLUES ACROSS

1. Nocturnal rodent

5. Requesting

11. Give temporarily

12. Frivolousness

16. Military arm

17. “Westworld” actor Harris

18. Persian Gulf port city

19. Air hostesses

24. Partner to “Pa”

25. Percussion instrument

26. Raincoats

27. Lower the light

28. Asian mountain range

29. Every one of two or more

30. Lack of difficulty

31. A public announcement of a proposed marriage

33. Reduces in size

34. Make an impact

38. Serviceman

39. A French river

40. Prehistoric people

43. Messenger ribonucleic acid

44. “Layla” singer Clapton

45. Ancient Greek sophist

49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)

50. “Top Gun: Maverick” actor Powell

51. A way to disentangle

53. Atomic #93

54. Manifesting approval

56. Indigo bush

58. Larry and Curly’s pal

59. Off-Broadway theater award

60. Fencers

63. Masses of fish eggs

64. Passerine birds

65. Arrange systematically

CLUES DOWN

1. Colorless part of blood

2. Of a main artery

3. Photog’s tool

4. Blues Traveler hit “But ___”

5. Grew older

6. Not the leader

7. ___ Lang: country singer

8. A driver’s license is one

9. Nests of pheasants

10. Antelopes

13. One quintillion bytes

14. Japanese lute

15. A type of cat

20. It cools your home

21. Dorm official

22. Pouches

23. German trigraph

27. Form of Persian

29. ___ route

30. Upper body part

31. Bridge building degree

32. Indicates position

33. Political action committee

34. Edible nuts

35. Front part of a quadruped

36. Locate

37. Geological time

38. Of I

40. Northern Utah city

41. They work in the trenches

42. Hammer is one

44. Tall deciduous tree

45. Performers

46. Slang for mistake

47. More open

48. Most slick

50. Provokes

51. Home of the NCAA’s Flyers

52. Sodium

54. Large fish of the mackerel family

55. Not one

57. ___ and behold

61. Atomic #21

62. “The Great Lakes State”

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 8

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

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

Our Lady of the Cross Parish
Very Rev. Michael Pierz
Email: pastor@ourladyofthecross.com
Holy Cross Ave., Holyoke
WEEKEND MASS:
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. (9 a.m. on legal holidays)
Reconciliation
Monday-Saturday: 8 a.m.
Saturday: 3:15 p.m.
Anytime by Appointment
DEVOTIONS:
Monday - Saturday
Divine Mercy Chaplet: 7:50 a.m.
Rosary: 8:05 a.m.
Parish Offices are located at:
15 Maple St., Holyoke
Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
(413) 532-5661
parish@ourladyofthecross.com

CHURCH DIRECTORY



Your Community Church

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

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
The Rev. Canon Joel Martinez
485 Appleton St., Holyoke
413-532-5060
Office@StPaulsholyoke.org
StPaulsHolyoke.org
Instagram:
stpaulsepiscopalchurch_holyoke
OFFICE HOURS:
Tuesday – Friday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Days and Hours of Services:
Sunday: 8 a.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m.
Sunday: 5 p.m. (Spanish)

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



Holyoke Police Chief Brian Keenan with Hampden County Sheriff's Deputy Superintendent Edward Caisse, retired, receiving one of the Chief's Recognition Awards.



Holyoke Police Chief Brian Keenan with Cara Martin, an RN from Baltimore, Maryland, and her daughter - one of the recipients of the 'Life Saving Award'.



Holyoke Police Officer Steven Negron, right, receives the department's two highest honors, the Medal of Honor and the Medal of Valor, (for helping to rescue a baby).

POLICE, from page 1

mayor noted that over the last decade, officers have responded to serious incidents most people will never experience—from threats to schools and armed suspects to violent domestic calls and dangerous pursuits.

 “Throughout the last decade, we’ve seen fatal shootings on High, West, Sargeant, and Suffolk streets, and we all remember the tragedy of October 2023, when a shooting resulted in the death of eight-month-old Ezekiel—an anniversary that passed just two days ago,” Garcia said. “However, through it all, you’ve investigated crimes, recovered illegal firearms and narcotics, and repeatedly put yourselves between danger and the people you are sworn to protect, and for that, my message is simple: understand, good police work isn’t just about what happens when the lights and the sirens turn on. It’s also about the conversation with a resident who might be having a difficult day, it’s helping a young person make a better decision, showing compassion when someone is at their lowest point, knowing your neighborhood, knowing the people who live there and earning trust one interaction at a time, so on behalf of this entire community, know we owe you a sense of everlasting gratitude, and an eternal thank you,” Garcia said as he finished his thoughts.

 The night’s highest distinctions—the Medal of Honor and the Medal of

Valor, two of the department’s highest honors—went to Officer Steven Negron. Keenan noted that the criteria to achieve the Medal of Honor are as follows: “an extraordinary act of heroism performed with full knowledge of the imminent risk of serious injury or loss of life.” Negron’s actions met all the requirements as he earned the recognition for rescuing a one-year-old child during an October 2024 standoff on Newton Street involving the child’s father, who was armed with a machete and threatening to harm himself and the child. Additionally, Officer Negron was honored at the State House earlier in the week, where Governor Maura Healey presented him with the prestigious Trooper George L. Hanna Memorial Award for Bravery, the state’s top police bravery medal, for heroics that occurred in July 2025. Last year, during an incident, Negron faced an armed individual who fired at him and his partner, acting courageously to neutralize the immediate threat before providing emergency medical aid to the injured individual until paramedics arrived. That powerful combination of courage, training, and commitment to preserving life rightly earned top recognition.

 In addition to Negron’s heroics, the night also celebrated the achievement of Cara Martin, an RN from Baltimore, Maryland, who was honored for her quick efforts during this past year’s Holyoke St. Patrick’s Parade Road Race, which resulted



The room at attention during the Pledge of Allegiance.

in saving a life, marking her as one of the recipients of the ‘Life Saving Award’; before the event, she told us her story and retold the miraculous moment.

 “So I’m being honored tonight by the Holyoke City Police Department because at the Holyoke Road Race this past year, a gentleman was down at the finish line. So I, along with a whole bunch of other first responders—a respiratory therapist, a few doctors, and an anesthesiologist—we performed CPR, used the AED that had been available, and were able to rescue this gentleman’s life,” Martin shared.

 She then revealed a positive update: the gentleman is in great spirits, recently completed a 5k, and the pair have become “great friends”, before discussing the importance of learning CPR and the use of an AED.

 “Remember, if you see a person down, don’t be afraid to call for help, and under-

stand that if you are ever in a situation where you need to administer the AED, don’t be afraid if you’re not trained, because the instructions will tell you exactly what to do, and remember, always be safe,” Martin added.

 She closed by admitting she tends to keep a low profile, and shared that the tale of heroics hasn’t reached her home of Baltimore, but added that her daughter was on site to help her accept the award.

 As the evening carried on, and eventually drew to a close, the focus remained fixed on the profound impact these 44 honorees left on the Paper City. From life-saving interventions on parade day to valor in the face of grave danger, they serve as a powerful reminder of the resilience woven into the fabric of Holyoke, building towards a hopeful testament to the unwavering dedication of those who answer the call when it matters most.



Holyoke Police Chief Brian Keenan delivers opening remarks.



State Rep. Patricia Duffy was also one of the honored speakers as well.



U.S. Rep. Richard Neal delivers remarks.



Holyoke Mayor Joshua Garcia voices accounts of progress.

Send Us Your Community Holiday Events

Turley Publications will print your Summer event FREE OF CHARGE in our Holiday Dazzler Supplement which will be published November 19, 2026.

 Total circulation of 85,000 which reaches over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley.

 Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public



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

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

Event Name _____

 Date/Time _____

 Location _____

 Description _____

 Cost _____

 Contact name & phone number for more information _____

Please specify if you would like your name and number printed in the paper.

SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

www.sports.turley.com

Tigers take first meeting with Knights

HOLYOKE – Last Thursday night, Holyoke and South Hadley football battled in the first two meetings between the teams.

The two teams are currently in the same conference, but are also Thanksgiving rivals. South Hadley scored early and often and took the game easily 55-0. The Tigers would lead 47-0 at halftime. Noah Hambley scored five touchdowns, three on interceptions. South Hadley is a perfect 6-0 this season while Holyoke is now 2-4.



Eladio Pacheco takes the snap.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Knights attempt to block the South Hadley defense.



Darek Nunez goes for a tackle.



Multiple players go for a fumble.



Georlee Aponte goes after a kickoff.

Darel Sierra-Feliciano returns the ball.

Holyoke takes down Granby

HOLYOKE – Last Wednesday afternoon, Holyoke boys soccer picked up its fourth win of the season with a win over Granby.

Holyoke did all of its scoring in the first half, with Isiah Frazer, Nayan Tabin, and Bradley Richard all notching goals. Jean

Rikendy made three saves to get the win. With the 3-1 triumph, Holyoke is now 4-8-2 on the season.



Gavin Diaz chases down a ball, looking to turn play around.



Rikendy Jean attempts to make a defensive play near the goal.



Yariel Serrano Rios goes after a 50/50 ball.



Jakesue Albelo is pressured near the sideline.



Isiah Frazer looks to send the ball deep.



Patrick Smith-O'Connor takes a free kick.

Lady Cougars claim straight-set regional win

HOLYOKE – Women's volleyball played at home at HCC's Bartley Center on Thursday night, following six consecutive games on the road. The Lady Cougars took care of business, defeating regional opposition Quinsigamond CC 3-0 in straight sets.

Holyoke put forth a full team effort in the win with their sophomores Jaylanie Nieves (Holyoke, MA / Chicopee HS) and Desirae Robinson (Springfield, MA / Sci-Tech HS) leading the way. Women's volleyball improves their regional record to 9-3 and their overall record to 10-7.

RACE, from page 1

millions of workers, and make sure retirees receive the Social Security benefits they’ve earned by repealing the Windfall Elimination Provision,” Neal said.

Milleron countered that the incumbent has historically stood in the way of structural reform, pointing to stalled inflation adjustments for Social Security and noting that Neal opposed the Social Security Fairness Act until a bipartisan discharge petition forced a floor vote.

“Richard Neal could have done so many things,” Milleron said, pointing to proposals like Rep. John Larson’s bill to adjust Social Security for inflation. “If you do not compensate for inflation, then Social Security is not covering your needs... Richard Neal did not push that. He blocked it. You can make Social Security solvent by putting a deduction onto income over \$184,000. Richard Neal has not made that happen.” Milleron also criticized Neal’s record on the Social Security Fairness Act. “Richard Neal opposed the Social Security Fairness Act until it came down to a vote,” she said, referencing the bipartisan discharge petition used to bypass committee leadership. “This is Social Security that was stripped from municipal employees—firefighters, teachers, and police officers—who earned those benefits through other work.”

Retorting to the claims, Neal highlighted tangible investments secured under his watch to help landmark anchors throughout the district.

“I’ve also helped secure hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding for projects like Barnes Air National Guard Base and the Holyoke Soldiers’ Home,” Neal said. “My priority has always been to show up for the people I represent... I’ll continue fighting to lower costs for middle-class families by cutting their taxes, ending Trump’s tariffs, and protecting the programs that working families and retirees depend on.” Milleron pushed back on those federal claims, arguing, “He does support the district, but there are people and agencies inside the district that wrote those requests for proposals. They wrote those grants, and he signed on to it and said, ‘Sure, I support.’ Any representative can support, and I am a worker.”

Offering a solution to help working families, Milleron remained steadfast in her proposal to eliminate federal income tax for families earning under \$100,000, while Neal emphasized protecting healthcare subsidies and reforming long-term care to prevent families from facing financial ruin.

The candidates agreed on the immense importance of MA-01, noting its vast geographic footprint and unique economic diversity.

“MA-01 is the largest congressional district in Massachusetts, covering nearly a third of the state,” Neal noted, highlighting the region’s rich industrial history, cultural institutions from MASS MoCA to the Dr. Seuss Museum, and ongoing development challenges in transportation, housing, and healthcare.

Milleron echoed the

We need to continue working to increase supply and bring down costs.”

- Richard Neal

district’s broad scope: “MA-01 is a very diverse district... and we can unite all the people in the district to get material gains, material improvements for our lives. Everybody is for that, and everybody will galvanize around that.”

The debate narrowed down sharply to surging living costs and contrasting economic visions. Neal pointed to inflation and tariffs as primary drivers of financial strain for middle-class households, citing Federal Reserve reports linking tariffs to inflationary pressures, asserting, “The issue I hear about most is the rising cost of living... Whether it’s gas prices, groceries, housing, utilities, or health care, people are feeling squeezed. My opponent said it’s ‘FALSE’ that Trump’s tariffs are driving up prices. It’s not just every economist who will tell you she’s wrong; it’s every person in Massachusetts paying more for everything.”

Milleron defended tariffs as a potential tool for domestic manufacturing. “Tariffs can be a financial incentive for manufacturers, because it’s a way of saying, you can produce the item

Richard Neal is the worst Ways and Means Committee Chairman in our nation’s history.”

- Nadia Milleron

here in our country and then employ people, and provide good wages here,” she said. However, she laid blame on the incumbent for job losses: “Richard Neal is the worst Ways and Means Committee Chairman in our nation’s history. He has lost thousands of jobs... under his watch, all of these jobs have just disappeared from our country.”

Closing out their policy visions, the candidates addressed domestic production, supply chains, and local resource burdens.

Milleron proposed establishing local manufacturing hubs in regional centers like Springfield, Pittsfield, Sheffield, and Southbridge to produce essential generic drugs and secure supply chains.

“We could start producing generic drugs here in our country, and I’m just looking at the facilities in Sheffield, in Springfield, in Southbridge, and in Pittsfield, for where such a facility could exist,” Milleron said. “What we need to do is incentivize people to make the products that we use, that are essential to our existence, right here in this country, so that if you have supply chain

issues and emergencies, at least you’re producing the hospital supplies and the generic drugs that you need.”

Neal countered by pressing to expand prescription drug price negotiations into the commercial market, roll back healthcare cost increases from the Republican “Big Ugly Bill” (noting that more than 300,000 people in Massachusetts face coverage risks due to new paperwork rules), and protect vulnerable populations from losing Medicaid coverage, as millions of children are at risk of losing their health care because of this bill.

“More than 300,000 people in Massachusetts are at risk because of Republican paperwork requirements that will keep sick people, even those with cancer, from getting Medicaid coverage. In the year since the bill’s enactment, over 8 million Americans have already lost insurance coverage, and many more face significantly higher premiums to keep it or must switch to less coverage at a higher cost,” said Neal. “Many hospitals are already on the brink. They are seeing a sharp rise in patients who cannot afford care, leaving communities vulnerable to losing access to health care and, in many cases, one of their largest employers.” The congressman then said he would expand prescription drug price negotiations to include more drugs and extend those savings into the commercial insurance market, so seniors aren’t the only ones who benefit, while prioritizing rolling back the health care cuts and cost increases from the Big Ugly Bill.

On housing and energy,

Neal pointed to legislative frameworks aimed at alleviating local cost pressures.

“We need to continue working to increase supply and bring down costs,” Neal said, highlighting the impact of measures like the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act and ongoing support for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to protect families from rising utility and heating oil burdens. “I remain committed to advancing solutions that recognize the unique housing challenges facing

Western and Central Massachusetts, including the need for more affordable housing and the rehabilitation of existing housing stock.”

Milleron felt the district is ripe for solar power potential and electric car production, despite President Trump stopping it: “We had a great solar industry here. You know, our farm is totally run by solar. My car is electric. I don’t pay any gas prices, and I want that for everybody,” Milleron said. “And so, you know, definitely we have to stop the moratorium on alternative energy, develop it, and encourage people. And you can get that up pretty quickly in a district. And people have all of these roofs here; you know, they can put solar up there. And so, yeah, I think that would make a material difference for households if they were producing the energy they need to drive a car, and that’s definitely made a big difference for our households.”

Election Day is November 3rd, and it’s clear this race will be one to watch.

Public Notices

City of Holyoke Board of Appeals Notice of Public Hearing The Holyoke Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday November 12, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., in the City Hall Conference Room, Room 6, Holyoke MA** to hear the petition of Ryan Ripa, who is requesting a residential rehabilitation use variance, at a property known as 12 Crescent St., Holyoke MA 01040 (030-02-001) currently zone general industry (IG). A complete copy of the application may be seen in the Office of Planning & Economic Development, 20 Korean Veterans Plaza, Rm 401, 8:30-4:30, M-F. Board of Appeals: Josh Knox Applicant: Ryan Ripa 10/23, 10/30/2026

LEGAL NOTICE CITY OF HOLYOKE GAS & ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT ELECTRIC LINE CONTRACTORS ANNUAL CONTRACT Sealed proposals for the above contract will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept. until **2:00 p.m., November 24, 2026**, at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St., Holyoke, MA 01040, at which time proposals will be publicly opened and read. Prevailing Wage Rates set by the Mass. Dept. of Labor & Industries shall be paid to all people engaged in work under this contract. All Bidders are required to submit a Bid Deposit.

Additional information may be obtained from: Chi Wong Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept. 99 Suffolk St. Holyoke, MA 01040 (413) 536-9308 cwong@hged.com The right is hereby reserved to reject any or all proposals, or to accept any proposal that in the opinion of the Manager may be for the best interest of the City of Holyoke. Please mark sealed envelopes **“Bid for Electric Line Contractors Annual Contract”** and address them to: James M. Lavelle, Manager Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept. 99 Suffolk St. Holyoke, MA 01040 10/23/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD26P2174GD In the matter of: Norma Vega Juarbe Of: Holyoke, MA RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 To the named Respondent and

all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Antonia Acevedo** of Holyoke, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Norma Vega Juarbe** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Antonia Acevedo** of Holyoke, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

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

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **11/06/2026**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person’s right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both.

The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense. WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court. Date: October 09, 2026 Rosemary A. Saccomani Register of Probate 10/23/2026

City of Holyoke Notice of Public Hearing The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, November 4, 2026, at 5:15 p.m.** You can join via Zoom.com; ID 83974921923; CALL IN: *67 646 558 8656 or in person at City Hall, 536 Dwight St. in the Old Tax Collector Office Room 6, regarding the application for a Amendment- Change of License Classification for Los Masters Social Club at 65 Commercial Street. pursuant to M.G.L. Ch.138. Applicant: Los Master Social Club License Board: Jose Correa, Chairman 10/23, 10/30/2026

City of Holyoke Notice of Public Hearing The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, November 4, 2026, at 5:15 pm.** You can join via Zoom.com; ID 83974921923; CALL IN: *67

646 558 8656 or in person at City Hall, 536 Dwight St. in the Old Tax Collector Office Room 6, regarding the application for a Amendment- Change of License Classification for Pedro Sport’s Bar LLC DBA Pedro Sports’s Bar at 120 High Street. pursuant to M.G.L. Ch.138. Applicant: Pedro Sport’s Bar LLC License Board: Jose Correa, Chairman 10/23, 10/30/2026

City of Holyoke Notice of Public Hearing The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council and the Planning Board will hold separate public hearings to hear a zone change application from RA (Agriculture and single-family residence) to R-2 (Two-family residence) of MS Homes LLC / Sergey Savonin at the north-east corner of the intersection of Main Street and Jones Ferry Road (117-00-140) to develop two duplexes on the vacant lot. **Planning Board public hearing will be held on Tuesday, November 10th, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. remotely via zoom.us** with Meeting ID 819 6511 7810 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 using same meeting ID. **Ordinance Committee public hearing will be held on Tuesday, November 30th, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via zoom.us** Meeting ID 890 9276 0984 Meeting Passcode 034069 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For a copy of the

application or to provide comments to the Planning Board, please contact Brianna Tejada at tejadab@holyoke.org. For the Ordinance Committee, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525. Planning Board Chair, Lauren Niles Ordinance Chair, Meg Magrath-Smith 10/23, 10/30/2026

City of Holyoke Planning Board Notice of Public Hearing The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, November 10, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.com** ID: Webinar ID819 6511 7810; Call in *67 646 558 8656 to hear, pursuant to the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance, a Site Plan Review (Sec 10.0) for Walmart Store submitted by Capro Cypress Holyoke Retail, LLC C/O Cypress Acquisitions LLC to be located at 2201 Northampton St, Holyoke MA 01040 (n/f 115-00-015 & 115-00-173). A complete copy of the application may be seen in the Office of Planning and Economic Development at 20 Korean Veterans Plaza, 8:30 am-4:30 pm, M-F. APPLICANT: Capro Cypress Holyoke Retail, LLC C/O Cypress Acquisitions LLC PLANNING BOARD: Lauren Niles 10/23, 10/30/2026

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.

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICES
ARE NOW ONLINE

1 Email all notices to 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

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

ESTATE SALE

LARGE COLLECTION FROM THE 1950'S to the 1980's. Everything must be sold. Call to see **413-531-6835**.

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD
Fresh cut & split \$240.00
Seasoned cut & split \$375.00
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**

WANTED

WANTED! CASH for:

- Machinist tools, power tools & Snap on.
 - Electronics & Audio Equipment.
 - Sports Cards.
 - 70s/80s/90s Toys.
 - Antiques & Collectibles.
- Much, much more!

Call/Text Sam
413-531-5381

WANTED TO BUY

ALL 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

ALWAYS BUYING ALL ANTIQUES:

Musical instruments, guitars, horns, keyboards, vintage electronics, jewelry, coins, watches, military cameras, sports memorabilia, art, sterling, signs, automotive, hunting, advertising, radios, ham radio equipment, audio equipment, toys, one item or entire estate.

Call Paul **413-206-8688**

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**.

A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL

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

SERVICES



**A B Hauling and
Removal Service**

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

PJ's Electrical MASTER ELECTRICIAN

• **Licensed & Insured** •
Providing safe, reliable electrical services for residential and commercial projects.

NOW OFFERING FREE CONSULTATIONS.
Call today to schedule your appointment.
(413) 366-1703
(Lic. #24046-A)

DANNY'S ELECTRICAL SERVICES LLC

I offer good quality electrical work, no project too small, free estimates, service upgrades, pools, budget friendly, committed to satisfaction, dependable & insured. Master Lic. #20773-A, Business Lic. #9310-A1.
Text or call Daniel at **413-218-3301**
or visit my website at **dannyselectricllc.com**
to fill an online work request

GAGNON ELECTRIC

All types of electrical work. Fully insured. All work fully guaranteed. Free estimates.
Lic. #14960A. **413-533-8867**

SERVICES

HOME IMPROVEMENT

HOME IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST

Decks, porches, repair service, roofing and siding contractor.
Tim **413-563-2229**. Licensed/insured. 35 year construction supervisor.

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**.

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

FRIDAY AT NOON

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Licensed & Insured

Handyman Services

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

(413) 687-5552

SERVICES

LAND CLEARING

HENRY'S LAND CLEARING INC.

Clearing and forestry mulching for lot clearing, perimeter clearing, 1-5+ acres & stumping. Certified & Fully Insured. Free Estimates
Over 30 Years Experience
Offering Senior Citizen & Military Discounts

Call **413-279-1050**

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**

PAINTING

DUTCH TOUCH PAINTING

Interior only \$199.00 for average 12x16 room. Very neat, references, prompt service. Serving Palmer, Barre and surrounding area. Call **(508)867-2550**

KEN'S PAINTING SERVICES. Interior painting/staining, wallpaper removal, wall/ceiling resurfacing, cabinet painting. Quality workmanship, fully insured. Free estimates. Call **413-896-8264**.

PRO PAINTING

Low, low prices. All phases interior, exterior painting and wallpapering. Also minor carpentry. **413-310-5099**.

Find archives of this local newspaper at
www.newspapers.turley.com

SERVICES

RUBBISH REMOVAL

BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 **(413)537-5090**

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/cell 413-237-9881**.

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**

HENRY'S TREE SERVICE LLC

Tree Removal-Tree Trimming
Storm Damage-Structure Pruning
Forestry Mowing
ISA Certified Arborist & Fully Insured.
Free Estimates
Over 30 Years Experience
Offering Senior Citizen & Military Discounts
Call **413-279-1050**

STUMP GRINDING

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

HENRY'S TREE SERVICE LLC

We do what others don't.
We grind stumps of any size, provide cleanup and add loam and seed.
Certified & Fully Insured.
Free Estimates
Over 30 Years Experience
Offering Senior Citizen & Military Discounts
Call **413-279-1050**

AUTO

1975 FORD F-250 long bed, automatic, Southern truck, needs engine work. \$8500.00. Text **413-3889-1694** Ludlow

AUTO PARTS

4 - 1980'S 8x15 Corvette steel rims, \$200; 2 new F-250 rear leaf springs and shocks \$100; antique carpenter tools. **413-219-6216**

PETS

WEST HIGHLAND WHITE TERRIER PUPPIES. AKC Reg. Males and females, Great family pets, good with children. First vaccination, ready 11/20. taking deposits, **413-596-8190**

HELP WANTED

BIDS FOR SNOW REMOVAL For church and parsonage.

Cleaning around entry ways, sidewalk and handicap ramp required.

Submit interests to
firstchurchblandford@gmail.com
This is for the First Congregational Church of Blandford, 91 Main St., Blandford

We seek an energetic, enthusiastic, and well-organized person for the position of
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR/CLERICAL PART-TIME.

This is a part-time position of 20 to 25 hours per week at \$680, depending on Workload. Need to be detail-oriented, possess good customer service skills, some cash & items handling skills. Apply Email: **wowwhunn@outlook.com**

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.

HOUSE FOR RENT DOWNTOWN MONSON. 3bedroom/1bath. No pets. No smoking. \$1850.00 per month. Call **413-478-4120 or 413-237-0417**

QUAINT WEST BROOKFIELD BROOKHAVEN LAKE by babbling brook, l-shaped 2bdm. ranch, 2/full baths, finished basement, walkout slider, enclosed front porch, beach rights. Enjoy nature trails, very quiet private area. \$3000/monthly rental fee.
Bernice Stone **774-262-6667**.



**Post your
job openings
in our classifieds.
WE GET RESULTS!**

FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

Turley Publications, Inc.
www.newspapers.turley.com

AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS

BARRE GAZETTE

COUNTRY JOURNAL

CHICOPEE REGISTER

THE JOURNAL REGISTER

THE LUDLOW REGISTER

QUABOAG CURRENT

THE SENTINEL

THE SUN

WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN TIMES

TOWN REMINDER

WARE RIVER NEWS



turleynews



TurleyPublications

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or call: 413-283-8393

DEADLINES: **FRIDAY AT NOON**

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
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: _____

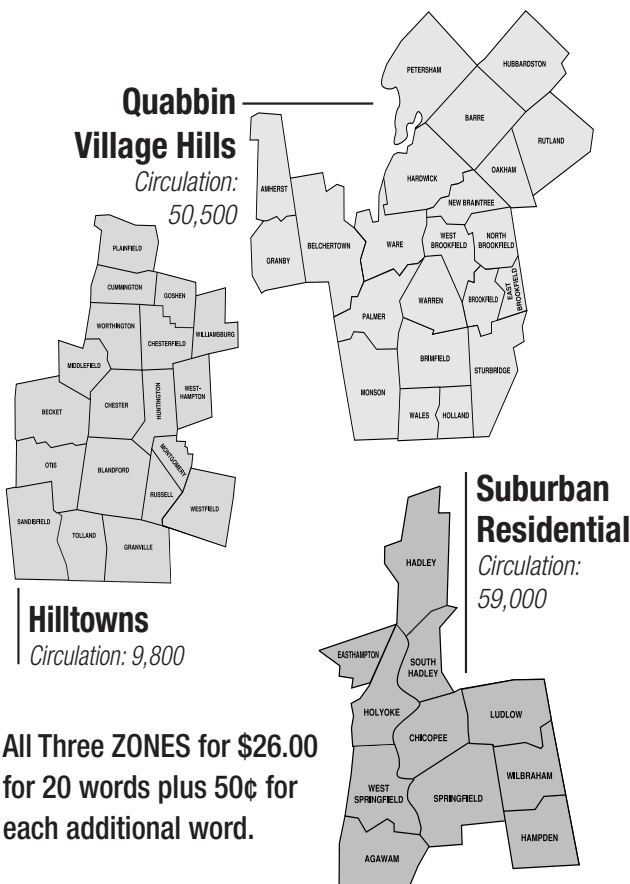
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____

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

Expanding Access, Leading the Way: Baystate Health’s Role in Local Cancer Treatment

By: Dr. Rawad Elias, Vice President, Medical Director, Cancer Services, Baystate Health



A cancer diagnosis can instantly transform everyday life into a series of urgent and deeply personal questions.

How quickly can treatment begin? Will care require long journeys away from support networks? Who will guide and support patients and their loved ones through the challenges ahead?

Baystate Health: Expanding Compassionate, Accessible Cancer Care

The Baystate Health Cancer Services team is comprised of compassionate professionals who work collaboratively to provide exceptional care. The team includes more than 20 physicians and providers with subspecialty expertise in surgical oncology, radiation oncology, gynecologic oncology, neuro-oncology, and more. We work closely with specialists across the cancer spectrum, including gynecologic oncology, who are integral to our cancer care team, ensuring our patients benefit from comprehensive, multidisciplinary expertise.

What sets Baystate Health apart is our ongoing commitment to the communities we serve and the impact we have on the lives of our patients and their families. This sense of shared purpose and dedication to our community’s well-being shapes our approach to care: to support families and provide seamless, compassionate and quality care when it’s needed most. This is why we are excited to expand our cancer program, recruit additional clinicians to increase access, and continually provide advanced expertise to all we serve.

For example, neuro-oncology, a subspecialty that was not previously available in our region, is now offered. In the past, patients would have to travel for this level of specialized care, but now it is available right here in our community. We have recruited a physician who specializes in tumors of the brain, spinal cord, and nervous system. For families facing a challenging diagnosis and frequent appointments, having access to that expertise locally reduces travel and allows for more quality time with loved ones.

We have also introduced advanced treatments such as bispecific T-cell engagers, or BiTEs used primarily for multiple myeloma and lung cancer. These medicines bring immune cells and cancer cells together, helping the body’s immune system attack the cancer. Offering these treatments safely requires specialized teams, careful monitoring, and strong hospital support. Additionally, Baystate participates in clinical trials that provide eligible patients the opportunity to participate in cancer research in their own community.

Building on a Legacy: Sister Caritas Cancer Center To Join Baystate

The planned addition of Sister Caritas Cancer Center to Baystate’s cancer program on November 1, subject to regulatory approval, marks a pivotal milestone for cancer care in our region. The Sister Caritas Cancer Center brings a dedicated team and a legacy deeply valued by our community. This integration represents a significant step forward in delivering comprehensive, patient-centered cancer care, and becoming stronger together.

To support this transition, we are actively working to unify electronic health records and launch MyBaystate Health, a secure and modern patient portal that will ensure seamless care for patients throughout Baystate Health and the future Baystate Mercy Hospital.

We are committed to honoring the legacy of Sister Caritas Cancer Center, expanding services collaboratively, and guaranteeing patients experience continuity of care, and access to the full resources and expertise of Baystate Health.

Supporting Patients and Families at Home

Baystate has recently added a dedicated palliative care physician to our team. We are launching the palliative care program at D’Amour Cancer Center now, with the long-term vision of making it available to patients at all our sites, including Baystate Franklin and Sister Caritas Cancer Center. This important step reflects our dedication to ensuring all patients with cancer receive comprehensive support. The focus of palliative care is on symptom management, quality of life, and supporting patients and their loved ones alongside cancer treatment. This is a key part of our vision for Cancer Services, as we work toward a future where care is designed around individual priorities and values, whether that means staying active, continuing to work, or spending time with family.

What sets Baystate Health apart is our ongoing commitment to the communities we serve and the impact we have on the lives of our patients and their families.

Continuing to Innovate for the Future

Cancer treatment is advancing rapidly, offering new hope and greater complexity. To keep pace, we will continue investing in people, technology, and services. As a regional leader in cancer care, we embrace this responsibility and strive to advance and adapt to advance our communities health for all. Growing, innovating, and helping generations thrive.