

Proposed budget includes money for sewer ops

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Mayor Joshua Garcia has put forward his proposed FY24 Supplemental Budget.

Within this budget is a 7.5% tax increase, which is needed to cover the Sewer Operation expenses as the city council has yet to vote on an appropriate sewer rate.

“The picture currently is that expenses are exceeding [the sewer system’s] revenue and this has been a problem for many years, we’ve had a sore deficit,” Garcia said.

With this gap, Garcia, Chair of the Board of Public Works Mary Monahan and other members of their team had put forward a sewer rate to the city council.

This proposed sewer rate was \$8.02, increasing from the current rate of \$7.50. The city

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School renovations underway

Funds for elementary school door and window replacements approved

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The city council unanimously approved the appropriation of \$12,708,775 to contribute to improvement projects at the schools.

With these funds H.B. Lawrence School and Lt. Elmer J. McMahon Elementary School will receive full window and door replacements, and Maurice Donahue Elementary School will receive a partial door and window replacement.

William J. Dean Vocational Technical High School will receive funds to replace the boilers in the building.

“These are much worthy projects in four of our schools,” Councilor Joseph McGiverin said.

With support from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, the city will be reimbursed 80% of the costs for everything eligible.

This puts the city’s share of the borrowing at \$3.2 million, as there is a 5% contingency built into the overall budget.

“Typically, in these projects the contingency is not needed



Funds were approved for multiple door and window replacements at city elementary schools. Work is also underway for the Peck Middle School project. Submitted photos

but it is required and with the building materials and costs of construction going up you never know when something might come in a little bit higher,” McGiverin said.

However, the city does not anticipate even having to pay the full \$3.2 million. The city

put in a request for Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds, and received \$2 million for this project.

Therefore, this leaves local responsibility for the costs at \$1.2 million.

The council felt that such a

great opportunity to support the schools would not come often, so they wanted to take advantage of it while it was presented to them.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for the city of Holyoke to

See SCHOOL, page 10

Anniversary Hill Park improvements set to begin

HOLYOKE – The first phase of improvements at Holyoke’s historic Anniversary Hill Park is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, Nov. 15. This stage of work includes the creation of a new accessible trail corridor and burial of overhead utilities.

Among the first phase of improvements, are creation of a new utility corridor and accessible trail off of Overlook Drive, and an upgraded trail system to Scott Tower that

will be wheelchair accessible and meet U.S. Forest Service Standards for accessibility.

Work will also include burial of overhead utilities that currently service the cell phone tower in the park, originally built in 2001. That work is a requirement for several funding sources that the City plans to leverage for further improvements, such as the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The Anniversary Hill Park project is a multi-year effort.

Holyoke has long sought to restore the city’s largest park, which was bisected by the construction of I-91 in the early 1960s. The interstate cut off the western part of the park from Community Field.

Current restoration efforts began in 2021 with the acquisition of an additional 14.1 acres of forest north of Scott Tower, an undertaking assisted by Kestrel Land Trust. The city used Community Preservation Act funding and

a grant from LWCF to complete the \$300,000 acquisition, which opened up the possibility of an alternative point of public access.

Holyoke’s Office of Conservation and Sustainability collaborated with the Parks and Recreation Department and Kestrel Land Trust to conduct a community outreach process and creation of a master plan for overall park improvements. This included an online survey distributed in English and Spanish that garnered over 450 responses from residents in all wards of the city.

The city hired GZA GeoEnvironmental to work from these recommendations, conduct in-person outreach events, and develop a master plan for improvements. The collaboration brought about a community vision event in October 2021 where over 100 attendees joined in participatory planning activities, including a mood board, in-person interviews, and a guided tour of the park and signature feature Scott Tower.



Residents get a look at plans for Anniversary Hill Park. Submitted photo

See ANNIVERSARY, page 6

City Council approves new cameras

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The city council voted 10-2 to approve the appropriation of \$256,000 from the capital stabilization fund to the Holyoke Police Department for new cameras around the city.

Currently the city has 28 cameras in place, but only four of them are functioning. With these funds, the city will replace the old cameras and install 10 new ones.

“Most of these cameras that are in existence are old and are not repairable and not in operation, they’re going to be replaced with new cameras that have a higher technology,” Councilor Joseph McGiverin said.

These cameras will be placed at the entrances and exits of the city as well as other areas that are known to be sights of

See CAMERAS, page 10

Girls Inc. of the Valley receives \$30,000 grant

HOLYOKE – Girls Inc. of the Valley announces a grant of \$30,000 from Collins Aerospace for the Her Future, Our Future comprehensive campaign. This commitment from Collins Aerospace will support the creation of a dynamic Maker Space in Girls Inc. of the Valley’s new headquarters and program center.

“We are so grateful for this generous

grant, which will allow us to complete construction on the MakerSpace in 2024,” said Suzanne Parker, executive director of Girls Inc. “Thanks to Collins Aerospace, Girls Inc. participants will have an intentionally designed space for hands-on STEM activities and experiments. This commitment, coupled with ongoing volunteer support from Collins Aerospace

team members, will provide unparalleled access to resources and mentors for our students.”

The collaboration between Collins Aerospace and Girls Inc. of the Valley will include volunteer opportunities to conduct STEM workshops for students, assist teens navigating the college application process, as well as job shadowing

and internship opportunities.

The MakerSpace and Collins Aerospace volunteers will have a major impact on Girls Inc.’s Eureka program a unique curriculum that offers youth a sustained, 5-year experience in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math). Eureka is open to all Hampden County girls in grades 8-12.



Residents get a look at plans for Anniversary Hill Park.

Submitted photo

Library lists upcoming events

HOLYOKE – The elegant building at 159 Chestnut St. turns 155 years old in 2023. It was once the home of James Newton of the entrepreneurial Newton brothers and later the Holyoke Club. It is currently the Holyoke Day Nursery. Come learn about the biography and residents of one of Holyoke’s oldest homes in this second annual “House through Time” presentation by local historian Robert Comeau on Thursday, Nov. 16 at 6 p.m. in the Community Room at Holyoke Public Library.

On Wednesday, Nov. 15, from 2

to 4 p.m. come try drop-in genealogy with Hillary Schau. Bring family history questions to our new drop-in sessions with professional genealogists. This week, experienced genealogist Hillary Schau will be at HPL in the afternoon. A born problem-solver with a past career in engineering and teaching, Schau will offer free consultations to anyone who drops in during this time. The History Room’s books, maps, and historical collections will all be available. This event is free. Please sign in for a consult when first arriving.

Tree lighting and parade on Dec. 2

HOLYOKE – Join Mayor Joshua Garcia and the Holyoke Parks and Recreation Department as the City hosts its Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Parade of Lights celebration on Saturday, Dec. 2. Enjoy unlimited free rides at the Holyoke Merry-Go-Round from 3 to 5 p.m.

The Children’s Museum will also be open and offering holiday crafts. From 5 to 6 p.m. at City Hall, warm up with hot chocolate, cookies and popcorn. Enjoy a performance by the Ambassador’s Choir

of First Lutheran Church and Holyoke High School Madrigal Choir. Garcia will light the Christmas Tree at 6 p.m. Watch the Parade of Lights depart from the Holyoke High School parking lot at 5:45 p.m., traveling to Hampshire Street over to High Street arriving at City Hall. Wave to Santa as he arrives on the Fire Truck. Enjoy a performance by Bomba de Aquí. For more information, please contact the Holyoke Parks and Recreation Department at 413-322-5620 or visit www.holyoke.org.

Rotary Club tasting fundraiser and silent auction on Dec. 7

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Rotary Club has announced the return of Eat, Drink, and Be Holyoke, their premier tasting fundraiser and silent auction on Thursday, Dec. 7. The event will take place at the Holyoke City Hall Ballroom at 5:30 p.m. following the sealing of the Holyoke 150th Anniversary time capsule.

“We are proud to bring back Eat, Drink, and Be Holyoke and excited to be the final event of the Holyoke 150th Anniversary celebrations,” said Barbara Baran, co-president of the Holyoke Rotary Club. “Our community has a long and rich history and the Holyoke Rotary Club is proud to be a part of it since 1915.”

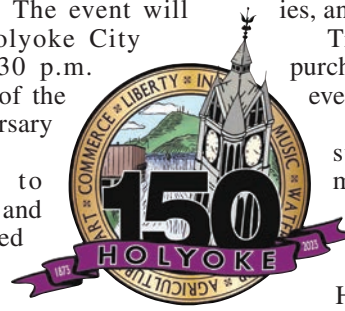
Eat, Drink, and Be Holyoke will feature food prepared by 110 Grill, Amedeo’s, Crave, Fame, Hamel’s Summit View, Iona’s Kitchen, Kate’s Kitchen, Pics Pub, Rusty’s Place,

White Hut, and Woodstone Tavern. Additionally, Brennan’s Place will be providing various alcohol tastings from local and regional breweries, wineries, and distilleries.

Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased online at <https://EDBH.eventbrite.com>.

Proceeds will go towards supporting Rotary projects, mostly within the Holyoke Rotary district of Holyoke, South Hadley, and Granby. Ongoing Holyoke Rotary projects include providing several annual scholarships, providing food for those in need through community collaborations, and funding international clean water initiatives.

Eat, Drink & Be Holyoke is sponsored by platinum sponsor Holyoke Medical Center, and silver sponsors Center for School Crisis Intervention & Assessment, Dowd Insurance, Marcotte Ford, and PeoplesBank.



ARPA Small business program accepting applications

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke ARPA Small Business Code Compliance Program is opened and accepting applications. This program offers financial assistance to those businesses in need of code compliance updates to resume or continue operations. Small businesses may apply from Oct. 15 through close of business on Nov. 18. All applications will be reviewed after Nov. 18.

The City of Holyoke has allocated \$800,000.00 in American Rescue Plan Act funds to support small businesses with code compliance improvements. This Program is a subset of the Small Business Grant Program which has already provided nearly \$800,000.00 to assist Holyoke small businesses in their

recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

This round of funding is provided to assist businesses with specific code compliance improvements to buildings, such as accessibility modifications, fire systems and other compliance updates that must be made under orders from public safety or building officials. Minimum award amounts will be \$2,000; maximum award amount will be \$100,000.

Applications materials are available on Facebook (@HolyokeOCD), by emailing the Mayor’s Office at fays@holyoke.org or the Office for Community Development Office at zoellera@holyoke.org or by calling the Office for Community Development at 413-322-5610.

As Thanksgiving and holidays approach, tips offered on dealing with grief

SPRINGFIELD – Looking at an empty chair at the table can bring a rush of emotions and it doesn’t matter how long it has been, whether this year or in the past, since a family member or friend died.

“It’s only natural to experience a range of emotions such as sadness, loneliness, and a feeling of helplessness and hopelessness as you navigate the hustle and bustle of the holidays alone. Those feelings of grief, especially during Thanksgiving and the December holidays, often become more intense for those preparing to spend these joyous occasions for the first time without a spouse, child or other beloved family member or friend by their side,” said Dr. Anfang, vice chair for Clinical Services

Dr. Anfang noted that planning for the approaching holidays is the first step

in developing your coping strategy, and there is no wrong or right way to deal with the holidays. Begin by making decisions that are comfortable for you and your family. Use your awareness that things are different to help you plan what makes sense. Holiday preparations, traditions, and family time may all feel less than normal. It is also important to remember that your emotions and energy level are strongly connected. Good self-care routines are important as you prepare and deal with the holiday season. Get plenty of rest and pay attention to healthy eating. Use alcohol in moderation. Plan self-care activities that will feed your mind, body and spirit. Give yourself permission to take care of yourself.

Anfang stressed that it’s okay and not a sign of weakness to ask for help, whether it’s help preparing some holiday

treats, decorating the home, shopping, or just a shoulder to lean on.

“If you wish, you can find a way of formally remembering your loved one who is not physically present with you. For example, serving their favorite dessert and reflecting on the joy that it brought to your loved one in the past. It is stressful to experience the holiday without your loved one, but you can find ways to honor and include them,” Anfang said.

According to the American Association of Retired Persons “it’s amazing how in times of grief, sometimes the biggest comfort is to give to others,” whether it’s a physical present or doing something nice for others in need or who are also hurting. Many people volunteer during the holidays, such as serving meals at a local shelter or distributing toys to needy children.

Still, for some the holidays may offer a reprieve from sad feelings and you may find yourself caught up in the moment as you experience the joy of family and friends around you.

“If you are noticing more significant symptoms causing impairment at work, school or home, problems with sleep, low energy, dramatic change in appetite or weight, inability to concentrate, frequent crying, easy irritability, thoughts of hurting yourself or wanting to die, that may be time to seek some professional evaluation. A good place to start can be your primary care provider or a trusted clergy. Bottom line, help is available and do not suffer in silence,” said Anfang.

If you do not have a primary care provider, you can find one at <https://www.baystatehealth.org/locations/search-results?loctype=primary%20care>.

HG&E recognized for being smart energy provider

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Gas & Electric has earned a Smart Energy Provider designation from the American Public Power Association for demonstrating a commitment to and proficiency in energy efficiency, distributed generation, and environmental initiatives that support the goal of providing safe, reliable, low-cost, and sustainable electric service. Kris Sellstrom, Energy and Gas Resources Manager at Jamestown Board of Public Utilities in Jamestown, New York, and chair of

APPA’s Energy Innovation Committee, presented the designations on Nov. 13 in San Antonio, Texas during APPA’s annual Customer Connections Conference.

The SEP designation, which lasts for two years, recognizes public power utilities for demonstrating leading practices in four key disciplines: smart energy program structure; energy efficiency and distributed energy resources programs; environmental and sustainability initiatives; and customer experi-

ence. HG&E joins more than 90 public power utilities nationwide that hold the SEP designation.

“SEP-designated utilities have demonstrated their leadership in smart energy programs and services,” said Sellstrom. “This designation celebrates utilities that are committed to serving their customers while taking the extra step to plan for the future. Communities served by utilities that have earned the SEP designation should be proud of their utility’s accomplishments.”

“We are honored to be recognized as a utility at the cutting edge of smart energy best practices,” said James Lavelle, HG&E’s general manager. “This SEP designation represents our dedication to offering programs that keep energy affordable, support energy efficiency in our community, and reduce environmental impacts.”

To learn more about HG&E energy portfolio and efficiency incentives, please visit www.hged.com/cleanenergy.

Holiday Open House at Wistariahurst begins Dec. 2

HOLYOKE – Embrace the magic of the holiday season at Wistariahurst’s Holiday Open House and Festive Market on Dec. 2 and 3 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. During this captivating weekend, the museum will be decorated with the season’s splendor and festive cheer. The event features a festive market with local vendors to jump-start holiday shopping. The local vendors will offer an array of products such as art, delicious treats, jewelry, and many other amazing items that will be perfect for your holiday gift exchanges this year.

Throughout the event, people of all ages will be able to enjoy holiday story time, an exciting festive model train, sample tasty treats, and groove to your favorite holiday tunes.

“Our Holiday Open House is the event I look forward to most throughout the year,” Megan Seiler, museum director said “It’s so delightful to see everyone filled with excitement for the holidays, and to celebrate that with them inside our museum is amazing.”

Wistariahurst Museum’s Holiday Open House and Festival Market truly offers something for everyone. The event is a time for celebration and a time to make cherished memories, admission to this event absolutely free and open to the public.

Please visit <https://wistariahurst.org/events/holiday-open-house-festive-market/> to learn more about this event.



Wistariahurst Museum decks the halls.



Local vendors offer various items for sale.

Submitted photo

Officials issue home heating reminder

STOW – A three-alarm fire in Revere last week started with a furnace, prompting a reminder from fire officials to pay special attention to home heating safety. Heating equipment is the #1 source of carbon monoxide at home and the second-leading cause of residential fires in Massachusetts.

“As the nights and mornings get chillier, many of us are turning up the heat for the first time since the spring,” said State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine. “Be sure you’re heating your home safely. That means having working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms on every level of the dwelling, having your appliances professionally checked, and keeping heat sources clear of anything that can burn.”

“Last week, the Revere Fire Department responded to a three-alarm fire that started with an older furnace that hadn’t been professionally serviced in years,” said Revere Fire Chief Christopher Bright. “Working smoke alarms alerted residents to the danger, but the home is a total loss. No matter how you heat your home, please be sure your heating appliances are operating safely.”

Fire officials said there have been more than 6,000 heating fires in Massachusetts over the last five years. These fires claimed eight lives, caused more than 140 injuries to firefighters and residents, and contributed to over \$39 million in damage. And in 2022 alone, Massachusetts fire departments reported finding carbon monoxide at nearly 5,000 non-fire incidents.

Every household needs working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms on every level of the home. Check the manufacturing date on the back of the alarms to know when to replace them, smoke alarms should be replaced after 10 years and carbon monoxide alarms should be replaced after 5 to 10 years depending on the model. If the alarms take alkaline batteries, put in fresh batteries twice a year when changing your clocks. If it’s time to replace your alarms, choose new ones from a well-known, national brand. Select photo-electric smoke alarms with a sealed, long-life battery and a hush feature.

If residents have a furnace, water heater, or oil burner, have it professionally checked and serviced each year. This will help it run more efficiently, which will save money and could save lives. Always keep a three-foot “circle of safety” around the appliance clear of anything that could catch fire. Never store painting supplies, aerosol cans, or other flammable items near these appliances. If residents smell gas, don’t use any electrical switches or devices: get out, stay out, and call 9-1-1 right away.

Residents struggling to pay for heating bills or maintenance may be eligible for assistance through the Massachusetts home energy assistance program. No matter what type of heating equipment in use, LIHEAP may be able to help pay winter heating bills or maintain the heating system. All Massachusetts residents are encouraged to explore eligibility for this free program and apply for assistance.

PUBLIC NOTICE BAIL COMMISSIONERS NEEDED HOLYOKE DISTRICT COURT

The Massachusetts Trial Court hereby gives notice of the availability of one or more Bail Commissioner appointments for the Holyoke District Court located in Hampden County.

A Bail Commissioner is appointed by the Massachusetts Trial Court to make release and bail determinations for persons arrested when courts are closed (overnights, weekends and holidays.)

PLEASE NOTE: This is an appointment only. No salary or benefits are included but fees may be collected from the person in custody at the time of release. The base fee is \$40.00.

Bail Commissioners are required to have reliable transportation in order to travel to the court and the Holyoke Police Department. Familiarity with criminal law and procedures helpful.

If you are interested in being considered for appointment, please contact:

**CATHERINE M. COUGHLIN, ESQUIRE
STATE BAIL ADMINISTRATOR
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE TRIAL COURT
tcbaill@jud.state.ma.us**

The appointing authorities do not discriminate against any applicant because of race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, status as a veteran, basis of disability or any other federal, state or local protected class.

Guest Column

in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid

Thanksgiving thoughts

My dad has been gone a long time. I sometimes feel badly that he is not in my thoughts as much as he used to be. A lot has happened since his death - marriage and children, a new (old) house.

Sometimes it's easy to get caught up in the day to day, but today, as I write, I think of him. Holidays at my childhood home were always a lot of fun.

I reflect on that now, as we make plans for our Thanksgiving and Christmas gatherings. I can still picture him standing at the counter by the sink, carving the turkey and later in the day enjoying a whopping piece of apple pie (with American cheese?) from his recliner.

My mom still keeps some of the traditions alive as do other family members. Read on to learn about some of the favorite vegetables, fruits and even herbs that make an appearance at the table.

I am not exactly sure where my mom's stuffing recipe originally came from, but it is always a big hit. My Illinois based brother loves it so much that my sister-in-law asked for a copy and now makes it for him on Thanksgiving.

I guess if you can't be at home, having mom's stuffing is the next best thing! Her recipe wouldn't be the same without sage and I doubt yours would either.

Common garden sage (*Salvia officinalis*) is a shrubby perennial plant native to the Mediterranean.

Its leaves start out lime-green in color, but at maturity end up more grey than green. They are somewhat "pebbly" in texture and are very aromatic.

For the most pungency, sage leaves should be harvested just prior to flowering. Hang the leaves and stem tips in loose bunches upside down in an airy, dark place to dry.

Once completely dry (crispy to the touch), leaves can be stripped from their stems and stored in an airtight container.

Remember, as with any herb, drying concentrates the oils in the foliage. Use only half the amount of dried herbs if you have to substitute them for fresh in any recipe.

Because sage is nearly evergreen (actually, "evergrey") I rarely dry any, but harvest it for immediate use even through the winter months - it is freeze-dried but still tasty! Cut back the plant hard in early spring- you will sacrifice a few flowers, but will be rewarded with a lush bushy plant, rather than one that is woody and sparse.

Another one of mom's cherished contributions to Thanksgiving dinner is her apple cranberry relish. This is a simple recipe in which fresh cranberries and peeled apples are chopped fine and mixed together with a little sugar.

So easy yet incredibly yummy! I tried growing cranberries only to be disappointed that voles chewed the roots and killed the plants.

Maybe I'll try again sometime in the future. They don't need a bog, but the water does help with harvesting.

My mom always bought a small turnip for my Dad to enjoy at Thanksgiving dinner. I have to say that I don't recall any other members of the family eagerly anticipating it, not the way he did anyway.

I remember mom carefully cutting away the hard outer skin and then cubing the flesh. It was then boiled and mashed as you would potatoes, with lots of butter.

Turnip must be one of those foods that

See GARDEN, page 7



Guest Column

in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

I received an email from a reader, who had a Cooper's hawk in his yard for two days. He said, "The barred tail was distinctive flying through the yard ... and looked like a dart with the tail straight out. Many people don't realize they, like the Peregrine Falcon, were decimated by DDT and pesticides."

The Cooper's hawk is 16 inches long and as the reader said in his email they have a long tail with barring. They also have fine streaking on the breast. They are gray above with reddish brown barring. Their crown is darker than the back. The immature Cooper's hawk is dark brown above and light below with thin streaking. Immature plumage is kept for one year.

During the breeding season, these hawks have a regular feeding route where it hunts for common medium sized birds such as mourning doves, blue jays and starlings.

The female lays three to six pale blue green eggs with dark marks in a platform nest

See BACKYARD, page 7



Cooper's hawk

Social Security Disability vs. Spouse Benefits vs. Survivor Benefits and COLA



Dear Rusty

I retired from working in June but will not sign up for Social Security until age 70 and, to do that, I plan to draw from my IRA for the next three years. My wife is receiving Social Security disability benefits and will reach her full retirement age in March of next year.

I know that my wife simply reaching her full retirement age will not mean an increase to her benefit except for Cost Of Living Allowance. What I'm wondering is, can my wife get spousal benefits of any sort based on my Social Security benefits either before I draw or after I am drawing apart from her benefits at my death? Her Social Security disability amount is only a fraction of my maximum benefit.

Signed Baffled Husband

Dear Baffled

Looks like you're confused about your wife's Social Security disability benefits,

retirement benefits, spousal benefits, and survivor benefits. Here's what you need to know:

When your wife reaches her Full Retirement Age next year, her current Social Security Disability Insurance benefit will automatically convert to become her regular SS retirement benefit at the same amount she was receiving on SSDI (disability). The amount stays the same because your wife's SSDI amount is based on her FRA entitlement.

Your wife cannot get any spousal benefits from you until you claim your own Social Security retirement benefit. Since you plan to delay claiming until you are 70 several years from now, after your wife's SSDI converts to become her regular retirement benefit at her FRA next year, she will continue to receive her own SS retirement benefit until you claim. At that point your wife will get a "spousal boost" added to her own SS retirement benefit. The amount of her spousal boost will be the difference between her FRA entitlement (same as her SSDI amount) and 50% of your FRA entitlement (not half of your age 70 amount - spouse benefits are always calculated using FRA amounts, regardless of when Social

See SECURITY, page 7

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A Quote

OF NOTE

"If you are really thankful, what do you do? You share."

W. Clement Stone

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.

Snow plow naming contest now happening

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation is announcing the second annual, “Name A Snowplow,” contest for statewide elementary school students in Massachusetts. The contest seeks to solicit names for 12 vehicles. MassDOT snowplows that will be in service for the upcoming 2023/2024 winter season.

Applications for the Snowplow Naming Contest are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1, and can be submitted by using an online portal: <https://www.mass.gov/forms/name-a-snowplow-contest-submission>. There is no limit to the

number of applications that can be submitted per school. The contest winners will be invited to participate in a scheduled snowplow unveiling event.

The purpose of the contest is to celebrate the snow and ice season and to help recognize the hard work and dedication shown by public works employees and contractors during the winter season. Winning applicants will be announced by Dec. 22.

“This contest is a great way to celebrate the winter season in New England, encourage the creativity of our young people, and to thank all the dedicated members of our crews who

keep our roads and bridges cleared during severe weather,” said Acting Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt. “We truly appreciate all the people who work on the front lines regardless of the weather in all sectors of the economy and this is one gesture of thanks.”

A selection panel composed of MassDOT employees will choose two elementary school classroom winners that are located within each of the six Highway Division districts. The winning submissions will be evaluated based on two grade-level categories: kindergarten through fourth grade; and

fifth grade through eighth grade.

During the first snowplow naming contest last winter, the winning names were: Flurry Fighter, Luke Snowwalker, Plower Ranger, Sherlock Snowmes, Snowdrop, Arctic Beast, Sled Zeppelin, Snow day No Way, Blizzard Wizard, Snow Big Deal, Snow Time to Lose, and Blizzard of Oz. These names which were placed on the sides of plow trucks a year ago remain on those vehicles.

For more information on the contest, please visit: <https://www.mass.gov/name-a-snowplow-contest-2023-24>.

SECURITY, from page 4

Security is actually claimed).

Your wife cannot get a spousal benefit from you until you start your Social Security, but after you claim she will receive her higher spousal benefit, her own SS retirement benefit plus a spousal boost, for the rest of her life or until you predecease her. If you die first, your wife will get 100% of the amount you were

receiving at your death (e.g., your age 70 amount), instead of the smaller amount she was receiving as your spouse while you are both living.

Regarding COLA, after becoming eligible for benefits, everyone gets the annually awarded COLA increase whether they are already collecting SS benefits or not. The next annual COLA increase will be added to your wife’s SSDI at the end of this year and added to her SS retirement amount each year thereafter, and then to

her higher amount as your spouse after you claim.

And even though you are waiting until age 70 to claim, the annual COLA will still be added to your Primary Insurance Amount each year, and you will receive that past COLA in your monthly payments after you later claim.

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

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

GARDEN, from page 4

you acquire a taste for, and as of yet I have not.

To produce the best-tasting, largest turnips time your plantings to grow and mature in cool weather. For Thanksgiving turnips sow seeds 90 days before the first fall frost is expected.

Simply make a shallow trench one-quarter to one-half inch deep and position seeds one to one and a half inches apart. Once germination occurs and plants have developed their first set of true leaves, thin seedlings to three inches apart.

Deep, loose soil is best for root vegetables of any kind. Turnips benefit from extra water during droughty periods.

If an early frost threatens and your roots aren’t yet mature you can cover turnip plants with a sheet or blanket on chilly nights to get through the cold spell and sneak out some additional growing time. Do watch out for frigid temps, however, since mercury that measures

below the twenty-five degree mark can damage the crown of the plant.

This type of injury can make turnips more susceptible to rot and reduce storage capabilities. Turnips are best stored at temperatures around thirty-five degrees.

They can be packed in damp sand or leaves in a cold cellar and should keep for at least two or three months. Some books recommend wrapping individual roots in plastic wrap to hold in moisture as well as prevent the strong turnip odor from permeating other vegetables.

Commercial turnip growers use a food grade wax for this purpose, which makes cutting away the outer flesh all the more challenging.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

BACKYARD, from page 4

of sticks place in a tree ten to 70 feet high.

Cooper’s hawks may show up at bird feeders especially during the winter months, when it roams a wider area for food. Cooper’s hawks inhabit mixed forests and open woodlands. They make a loud repeated “kek kek kek kek” call given during alarm or during pair interaction. As mentioned in the email above, the Cooper’s hawks were decimated in the 1950s and 1960s due to the use of DDT.

Other birds by the lake

He lives on a lake and said, “There is an old pine the Bald Eagles love to fish from. There are two Red Shouldered Hawks’ nests within three or four hundred feet of each other and when the young start yelling for food the other nest invariably starts and I have them in stereo. Last year a pair of Blue Heron nested, but this year there is only one who patrols the cove shoreline alone. The eagles seem to ignore the adult.” He also sees Golden eagles as well.

Bird tally

I received an email from a reader, who visits ponds in Warren. He sent a

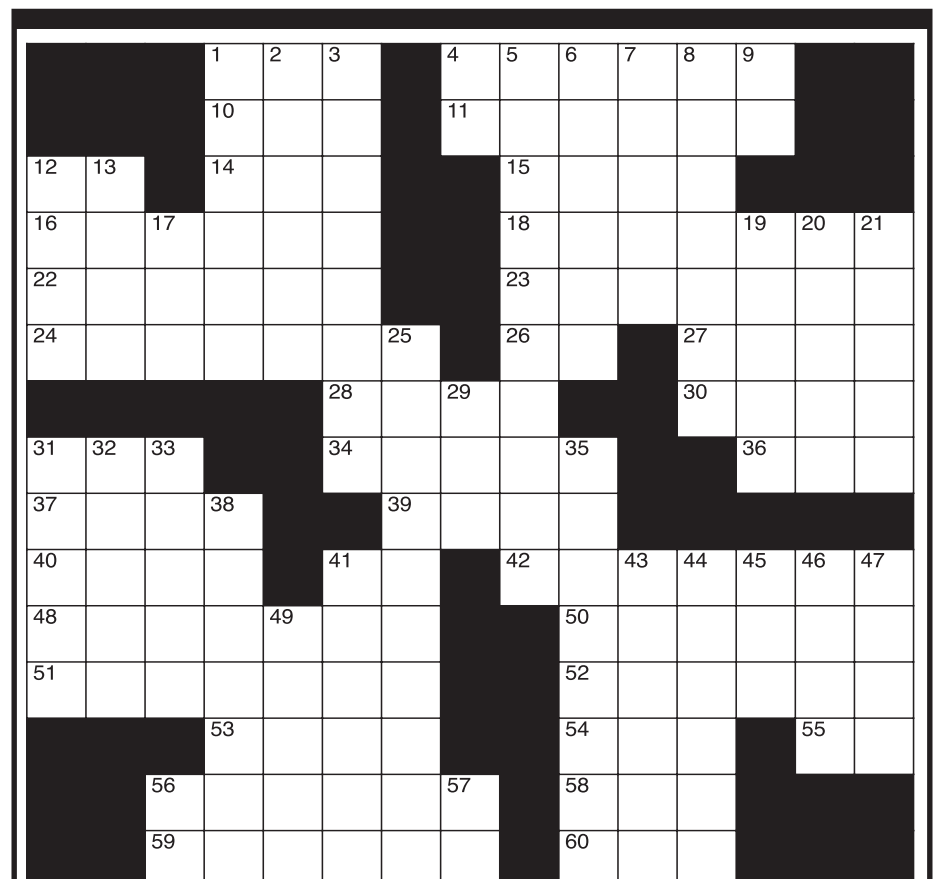
tally of bird observed on Nov. 2, 3 and 4. They included on Nov. 2 46 Canada geese and again the same number on Nov. 3 and six on Nov. 4; one pied-billed grebe on Nov. 3, four great blue herons on Nov. 2, two on Nov. 3 and 3 on Nov. 4; a red-tailed hawk on Nov. 2 and one bald eagle on Nov. 3.

He also reported seeing two American crows on Nov. 2, a yellow-bellied sapsucker on Nov. 2, two blue jays on Nov. 2, a titmouse on Nov. 2, one bluebird on Nov. 2 and two on Nov. 3, six robins on Nov. 2, two yellow-dumped warblers on Nov. 2 and again on Nov. 3 and three song sparrows on Nov. 2. Yellow-bellied sapsuckers, yellow-rumped warblers and bluebirds were eating poison ivy berries.

Canada geese

This weekend my granddaughter and I saw about two dozen Canada geese fly over her house. They were honking as they flew overhead. They headed for a beaver pond across the street.

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



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Beats per minute
- 4. Hindu deity
- 10. Polynesian garland of flowers
- 11. Not chained to
- 12. Metric ton
- 14. Tall, rounded vase
- 15. Musical composition
- 16. St. Francis of ___
- 18. Discover the location of
- 22. Compact group of mountains
- 23. Mend
- 24. Not current
- 26. Atomic #64
- 27. Young hawk
- 28. Or ___
- 30. Pouches
- 31. Southern Thailand isthmus
- 34. Mends with yarn

CLUES DOWN

- 36. Downwinds
- 37. One of two equal parts of a divisible whole
- 39. Italian archaeological site
- 40. Cold appetizer
- 41. Yes
- 42. Peninsula
- 48. Of that
- 50. A way to divide
- 51. Relating to the physical senses
- 52. One who makes money
- 53. ___ Spumante (Italian wine)
- 54. Inconvenience (abbr.)
- 55. South Dakota
- 56. Snow sport
- 58. The products of human creativity
- 59. Change mind
- 60. Born of

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Similar to the color of a clear unclouded sky
- 2. Former name of Iran
- 3. Made smaller
- 4. Type of meter
- 5. Revolt
- 6. Killed with rocks
- 7. Gregory ___, US dancer
- 8. Nullifies
- 9. Home to the Flyers
- 12. Female parent
- 13. Pre-1917 Russian emperor
- 17. Outsourcing (abbr.)
- 19. Regal
- 20. Line
- 21. Hermann ___, author of “Siddhartha”

- 25. Clearing up
- 29. No seats available
- 31. Leaves of an Arabian shrub
- 32. Groove in organ or tissue
- 33. Not of this world
- 35. Cooking device
- 38. Forget
- 41. Operational flight
- 43. Actress Danes
- 44. Poke holes in
- 45. A way to discolor
- 46. Shouts of welcome or farewell
- 47. Pharrell’s group
- 49. Red fluorescent dye
- 56. Jr.’s dad
- 57. Electronics firm

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 10

In The News

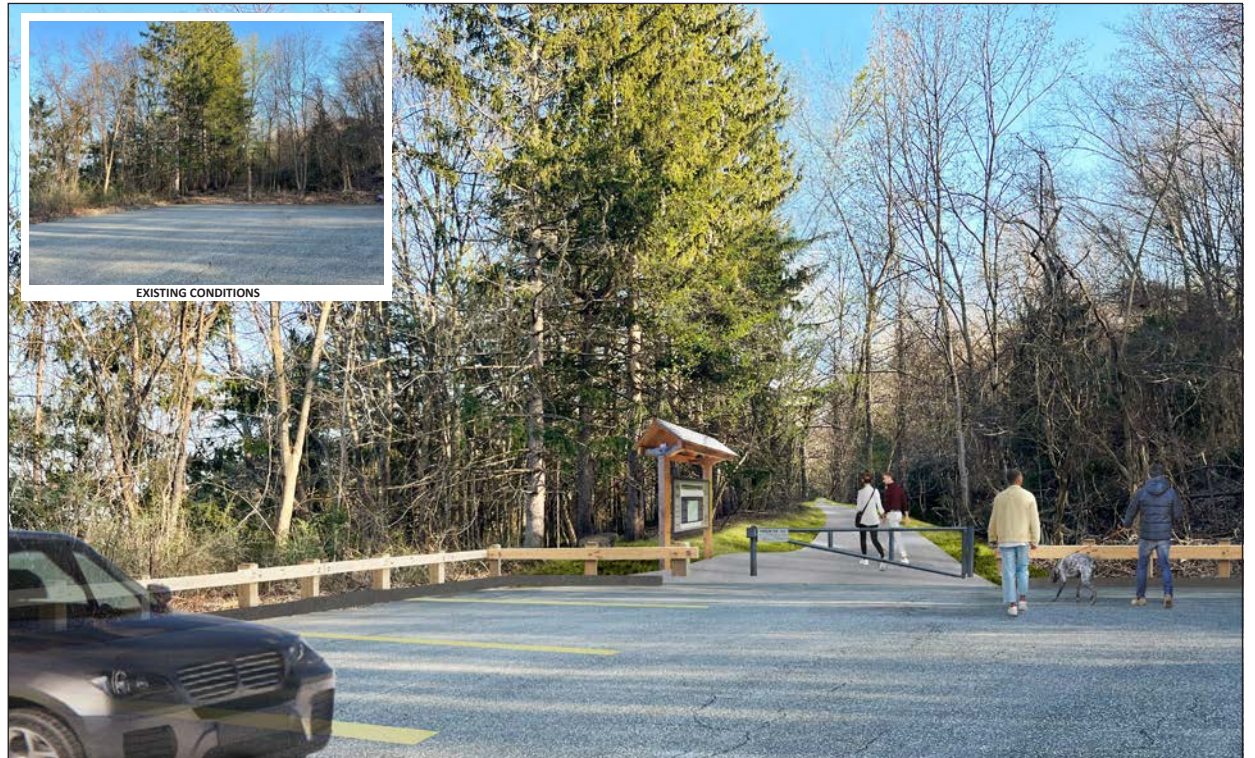
ANNIVERSARY, from page 1

Feedback on the master plan was incorporated at on-site community events on April 29 and Aug. 27, and a live Powerpoint presentation at the Holyoke Senior Center on Oct. 19.

During the year 2022, Holyoke's Office of Conservation and Sustainability gathered an additional \$1.7 million in funding from grant sources to support an initial phase of improvements. The Land and Water Conservation Fund, MassTrails, Community Development Block Grant, and Gateway Cities Parks Grant all leveraged in match by additional local CPA dollars.

Step 1 is the utility burial and creation of an access corridor with stone dust trails and benches. Leftover available funding will be used to improve existing Civilian Conservation Corps-era stone structures, trail improvements, and landscaping in accordance with the community vision.

Work is expected to be completed and trails made open to the public by June 2024.

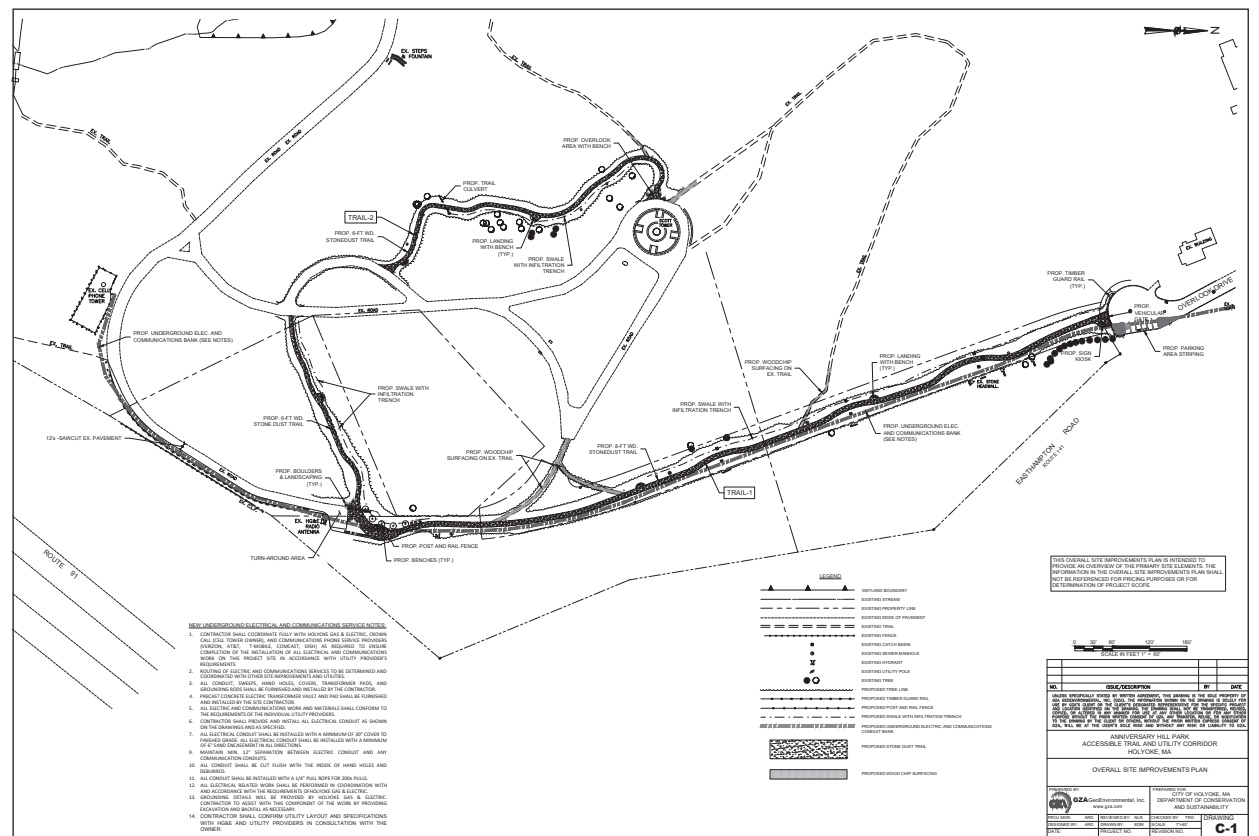


One of the renderings of the Anniversary Park design.

Submitted photos



Scott Tower at Anniversary Hill Park. CCC era stone structures are anticipated to be restored in future phases of improvements.



Plans are underway for an accessible trail.

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|--|--|---|

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Gavier Fernandez scrambles to the right during last year's holiday matchup.

Knights look to rebound vs. Tigers

HOLYOKE – The Tigers and Knights will matchup in the final game on Thanksgiving for the sixth time since developing the new holiday rivalry.

Last Thanksgiving, the South Hadley finished off the 2022 season with a huge

offensive performance, defeating Holyoke 60-36. The Tigers exploded for four touchdowns in the second quarter to go up 38-14 at halftime. South Hadley did not let up, grabbing three

See **KNIGHTS**, page 8



Asa Allen squeezes the ball on a carry.



David Sicard makes a great catch on a long pass.

Staff photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Jaden Diaz and Davonte Westbrooks attempt to make a tackle.

Volleyball All-Star Showcase set for Nov. 21

HOLYOKE – The 11th IVHF All-Star Showcase will feature the top players in Western Massachusetts in two showcase matches. The event will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 21 at the Holyoke Community College Bartley Center located at 303 Homestead Avenue, Holyoke.

The event will start with a 3-set Second team all-star match at 6 p.m. followed by the award presentation and a 3-set First team match at 7:30 p.m. Adult tickets are \$10, Seniors 65-and-over are \$5 and Students/Children are free of charge. Admission to the All-Star Game also includes a free of charge future admission pass to the International Volleyball Hall of Fame Museum.

“The IVHF is very proud to have its home in Western Massachusetts and we are very excited to again recognize the top players in our area.” said IVHF Executive Director George Mulry.

Selected players are chosen by vote of the Western Massachusetts girls high school coaches.

For more information on the Hall of Fame Girls All-Star Volleyball Showcase, contact events@volleyhall.org.



Veronica Colon make a pass.



Tryana Ayala looks to send a shot deep.

Turley photos by David Henry



Kayshaly Garcia tries to outmaneuver her opponent.



Jayleen Moquin sprints downfield with possession.

Big turnaround lands Holyoke in state tourney

HOLYOKE – After several years of no tournament games, Holyoke girls soccer put forward a great season with nine regular season wins, and qualified for the Division 2 State Tournament this year. While Holyoke's first half of the season was better than its more difficult second half, Holyoke picked up two wins in the final three games of the regular season, then tied and won in the nonplayoff after not ranking in the top eight to qualify for Western Mass.

Their 10-5-3 record placed them in the preliminary round for the state tournament and Holyoke was able to travel to across the state on Nov. 3 to Sandwich.

The Knights would fall to Sandwich 5-1, ending their season at 10-6-3 overall.

Thunderbirds fall in overtime to Bridgeport Islanders

BRIDGEPORT, CT – The Springfield Thunderbirds (7-6-1-0) got a terrific netminding performance, but the offense went cold in a 2-1 overtime loss to the Bridgeport Islanders (4-6-1-0) on Saturday night at Total Mortgage Arena in Bridgeport.

The starting goaltenders were the best performers in the opening period. Malcolm Subban got the nod for the T-Birds after a strong relief effort in Providence on Friday and helped Springfield kill off a pair of Islander power plays in the first, denying nine shots in the period. At the other end, Ken Appleby was far busier than he was last Sunday when he needed to make just 17 saves in 60 minutes against the T-Birds.

He had an answer for all 11 Springfield shots in the first frame.

The scoreless affair was broken at the 5:54 mark in the second period. After Springfield failed to generate a chance on an odd-man rush, it sprung the Islanders into the T-Birds zone on a 3-on-1, and Ruslan Iskhakov elected to take the shot himself from the right circle, slipping it between Subban's legs to give Bridgeport the 1-0 advantage and snap a streak of more than 75 minutes without a goal for the Isles.

Despite some shaky moments in the stanza, the T-Birds fought back to even the score at 15:28. Near the end of a shift, Will Bitten entered the offensive zone on the left wing, dropping a pass at the top

of the left circle for Joey Duszak. After stumbling slightly, Duszak regathered his footing and surprised Appleby with a low shot along the ice that sneaked home, equaling things at 1-1. Bitten picked up his first assist of the year, while Duszak's tally was his first goal as a Thunderbird.

Subban remained stout in between the pipes, as he shut down each of the other 13 shots he faced in the period, allowing just the Iskhakov wrister to beat him, taking the 1-1 tie into the final 20 minutes.

Shots and chances heavily favored the Islanders in the third period, as Springfield just a single shot on goal in the final 20 minutes. Subban, though, maintained his poise and nearly single-

handedly earned a standings point for the T-Birds, forcing the 1-1 tie into overtime.

After winning their first two overtime games of the season, Springfield could not make it three straight, as Iskhakov stormed up the ice to create a 2-on-1 with Sam Asselin with under a minute left in overtime. Asselin hit Iskhakov in stride, and the skilled winger made no mistake in beating Subban on the stick side to seal the victory at 4:08 of extra time.

The T-Birds come back home next Friday, Nov. 17 for another Deuces Wild Friday at the Thunderdome, where the T-Birds will take on the Utica Comets for their first of four matchups on the season, with puck drop at 7:05 p.m.

Sign up for the Wilbraham Turkey Trot

WILBRAHAM – Please join us on Thanksgiving morning, Nov. 23 for the Wilbraham Turkey Trot - a five-mile road race up Monson Road now in its 44th year. The annual tradition, started in 1980, has grown in recent years selling out at 500 runners the past several years. This year, the maximum has been increased to 550 participants.

The race returned successfully returned last Thanksgiving morning for the annual tradition benefitting the Community Survival Center.

There is no vaccination requirement this year. The course starts in Woodland Dell Cemetery just up from race headquarters at the Wilbraham United Church. Runners then make a left onto Main St. and head up Monson Road. Once summited, runners turn left and enjoy scenic views of the valley from atop Ridge Road and enjoy the downhill along Mountain Road before turning back on Main Street to the church. The race starts at 8:30 a.m. with bib pick-up beginning at 7:30 a.m. at the church.

The race focuses on providing a classic New England Turkey Trot with chip timing, race swag, and one big hill. Awards will be given for the first

male and female runners to the top of Monson Road.

Registration is only \$20 and available online at www.RunReg.com/wilbrahamturkeytrot

Residents are asked not to park on Woodland Dell or Main Street on Thanksgiving morning and to avoid driving on the route until after the race has concluded at 10 a.m. Any traffic will be detoured downhill from Monson Road to Main along Ridge and Mountain Roads.

Expected road closures are as follows:

Main Street: From Monson to Woodland Dell: 8:30-8:35 a.m.

Monson Road: Closed to downhill traffic from Ridge Road to Main Street: 8:30-8:50 a.m. (Traffic detoured down ridge road)

Ridge Road: Closed to uphill traffic from Mountain to Monson: 8:35-9:10 a.m.

(Traffic detoured down Mountain Road)

Mountain Road: Closed to uphill traffic from Main to Ridge: 8:40-9:25 a.m.

(Traffic can travel uphill via Monson Road)

Alumni football game at Chicopee Comp

CHICOPEE – All Chicopee Comprehensive High School football alumni are invited to participate in the 6th annual CCHS Alumni Football Game.

The game will be taking place on Wednesday, Nov. 22 at 6 p.m. at

Chicopee Comp High School, 617 Montgomery Street, Chicopee. All proceeds will benefit the Chicopee Comprehensive football team.

For more information, please contact Tammy Martin-Griffin at tmg811@yahoo.com.

UMass hosting Pioneer Valley Tip-Off

AMHERST – The Pioneer Valley Tip-Off is a student-run high school basketball showcase featuring some of the best talent in Central and Western Massachusetts.

The PVTO was started in 2011 by Scott Moses and Pat Salle, both students at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and it continues to be entirely student-run by the McCormack Student Leaders Club today. The PVTO is held

each December on the University of Massachusetts Amherst campus, where we strive to create a professional environment for fans and players alike.

This year's event will be held on Dec. 9 and 10 and will feature teams from throughout the region. A schedule is online at www.pioneervalleytip-off.com. All games will be held at the Mullins Center on the UMass-Amherst campus.



Zeph Williams jukes on a run for the Knights.

Staff photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

KNIGHTS, from page 7

more scores in the second half. Owen Dawson capped his season with 300 yards on the ground and five touchdowns for the Tigers. Noah Marion had a big game with 148 yards. Holyoke's season finished at 2-9 while South Hadley went 4-7.

This year, Holyoke is coming off a tough season. The Knights won just one game during the regular season against Chicopee Comprehensive. The Knights

did win once more against Commerce in Week 10 and will enter the holiday game with a 2-7 record.

South Hadley has a 7-3 record going into this year's game, and made the state tournament for the second time in three years. The Tigers faced West Bridgewater and lost 39-8 in that matchup. They faced Amherst in a consolation game in Week 10 and lost 28-14.

This year's matchup takes place at Holyoke High School with kickoff set for 10 a.m.

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HOLYOKE, MA
Notice of Public Hearing
 The DGR Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, November 20, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.** to hear a special permit application of Zachary Bruneau per 4.7.3 non-conforming to rebuild old garage on the same footprint at 15 Brookline Avenue (127-00-143) Meeting will take place at Holyoke City Hall, 536 Dwight St., and can be accessed remotely via www.zoom.us Meeting ID 823 1086 6135 Meeting Passcode 192638 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For an electronic copy of this application or to provide comments for the public hearing, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyo-oke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.

DGR Chair
 Tessa Murphy-Romboletti
 11/10, 11/17/2023

HOLYOKE, MA
Notice of Public Hearing
 The DGR Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, November 20, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.** to hear a special permit application of Delfina Saillant per 7.2.9 to convert basement into a livable studio space at 20 Pearl Street (094-00-065) Meeting will take place at Holyoke City Hall, 536 Dwight St., and can be accessed remotely via www.zoom.us Meeting ID 823 1086 6135 Meeting Passcode 192638 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For an electronic copy of this application or to provide comments for the public hearing, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyo-oke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.

DGR Chair
 Tessa Murphy-Romboletti
 11/10, 11/17/2023

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
 The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.** via Zoom.com; ID: 83639398493; CALL IN 1 646 558 8656 to hear, pursuant to the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance, a **Site Plan Review** petition (Sec 10), submitted by ESG-H2, LLC for the 28 Water Street-Phase H2 project to be located at 28 Water Street (051-01-009).

For a complete copy of the application and site plan, contact the Planning Department at (413) 322-5575.

APPLICANT:
 ESG-H2, LLC
 PLANNING BOARD:
 Mimi Panitch
 11/10, 11/17/2023

City of Holyoke PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.** via Zoom.com; ID: 83639398493; CALL IN 1 646 558 8656 to hear, pursuant to the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance, a Special Permit for a Parking Reduction (Sec 6.1.7), submitted by Womeldorf & Associates, LLC, for the Crafts Block Redevelopment, to be located at 141-147 High Street.

For a complete copy of the application and site plan, contact the Planning Department

at (413) 322-5575.
 APPLICANT: Womeldorf & Associates, LLC,
 PLANNING BOARD:
 Mimi Panitch
 11/10, 11/17/2023

HOLYOKE, MA
Notice of Public Hearing
 The DGR Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, November 20, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.** to hear a special permit application of O'Connell Professional Nurse Service, Inc dba O'Connell Care at Home per 8.4.0 Professional office overlay district operate a professional office at 1763 Northampton Street (108-00-083) Meeting will take place at Holyoke City Hall, 536 Dwight St., and can be accessed remotely via www.zoom.us Meeting ID 823 1086 6135 Meeting Passcode 192638 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For an electronic copy of this application or to provide comments for the public hearing, please contact City Council Admin. Asst. Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyo-oke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.

DGR Chair
 Tessa Murphy-Romboletti
 11/10, 11/17/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Probate and Family Court
Docket No. HD22P0021GD
In the interests of
Naomi M Denoncourt of Holyoke, MA
Minor
NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Resignation or Petition for Removal of Guardianship of a Minor
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition to Resign as Guardian of a Minor or Petition for Removal of Guardian of a Minor filed by **Karon Tobin** on **11/06/2023** will be held **12/11/2023 08:30 AM Motion.** Located **Judge Army- In Person: 50 State St. Springfield, MA 01103 Courtroom 2 - 4th Floor**
2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests. Date: November 6, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
 Register of Probate
 11/17/2023

CITY OF HOLYOKE PURCHASING DEPARTMENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS 2024-18, EASTHAMPTON RD./ RTE. 141 LAND SALE SEALED SUBMITTALS ARE DUE BY 1:30 PM ON

11/21/2023. EMAIL SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
 The City of Holyoke is soliciting proposals for the undeveloped lot located on Route 141 near the Easthampton border, south of the Log Cabin and adjacent to the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game East Mountain Wildlife Management Area and Mount Tom State Reservation. The Property is described in the Holyoke Assessor's Records as Map 212, Block 00, Parcel 001, consisting of approximately 53.5 acres of land. The Property is zoned as Business General (BG) with an assessed value of \$1,119,200.00.

Proposals will be received at the City of Holyoke's Purchasing Office, 536 Dwight Street, Room 3, Holyoke, MA 01040 beginning at 11:00AM on Tuesday October 17, 2023. Bid documents may be requested via email to tomorrowj@holyo-oke.org or sweeneeye@holyo-oke.org or in person at the City of Holyoke's Purchasing Office. The deadline to submit proposals is November 21, 2023, by 2:00PM, at which time all submissions received will be publicly opened in compliance with Chapter 30B and the City of Holyoke's Ordinances. **THE CITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS** 11/03, 11/10, 11/17/2023

Holyoke, MA
Notice of Public Hearing
 The DGR Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, November 20, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.** to hear a special permit application of CAMRAC, LLC dba Enterprise Rent-A-Car per 7.2.13 for rental of motor vehicles at 7 Cray Ave (106-00-045) Meeting will take place at Holyoke City Hall, 536 Dwight St., and can be accessed remotely via www.zoom.us Meeting ID 823 1086 6135 Meeting Passcode 192638 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For an electronic copy of this application or to provide comments for the public hearing, please contact City Council Admin. Asst. Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyo-oke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.

DGR Chair
 Tessa Murphy-Romboletti
 11/10, 11/17/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD23P2161GD
In the interests of
Jaliany Estrada Figueroa of Holyoke, MA
Minor
NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **10/19/2023** by **Alina Madera** of Holyoke, MA will be held **12/07/2023 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing.** Located: **Hampden Probate and Family Court, 50 State Street, 4th Fl, Springfield, MA 01103**

2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests. Date: November 2, 2023

Rosemary Saccomani
 Register of Probate
 11/17/2023

CITY OF HOLYOKE PURCHASING DEPARTMENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS 2024-20 OPEDEQUITY ARTERY LEASE SPACE SEALED SUBMITTALS ARE DUE BY 1:30 PM ON 11/21/2023. EMAIL SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

The City of Holyoke is soliciting proposals from qualified, locally based companies and/or individuals to provide leased space for a storefront for the ARtery and Splattery, a retail art gallery and painting room operated by Holyoke Art. The key requirements for the space are: a minimum of 2000 sq/ft (ADA accessible), 500 sq/ft retail space, storage, public restrooms, classroom space, and painting room with a sink.

Proposals will be received at the City of Holyoke's Purchasing Office, 536 Dwight Street, Room 3, Holyoke, MA 01040 beginning at 11:00AM on Wednesday October 18, 2023. Bid documents may be requested via email to tomorrowj@holyo-oke.org or sweeneeye@holyo-oke.org or in person at the City of Holyoke's Purchasing Office. The deadline to submit proposals is November 21, 2023, by 1:30 PM, at which time all submissions received will be publicly opened in compliance with Chapter 30B and the City of Holyoke's Ordinances. No electronic Submissions will be accepted. **THE CITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS** 11/03, 11/10, 11/17/2023

Request for Quotes for Removal & Replacement of Library Community Room Carpet

The City of Holyoke is requesting quotes for the removal of the existing car-

peting with the proper disposal and the installation of new Bolon (or equivalent quality) for their community room which is approx 1,361 Square Feet. Color to be determined later. This project is funded with Federal funds. Respondents will be verified for eligibility to receive federal funds and must comply with all Federal requirements including Part 200. Documents are available on 11/13/2023 at 12PM. Quotes will be received until 11/29/2023 at 3PM, at which time they will be opened and publicly read following MGL 30B & Ch.149 Procurement rules. The city reserves the right to reject any and all bids. 11/17/2023

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. HD21A0094AD & HD21A0095AD
In the matter of:
Anthony Michael Preterotti & Kaylianna Marie Preterotti
CITATION
G.L. c. 210, §6

TO:
John Michael Preterotti, Jr.
 any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented to said court by:
Jason Boire of Springfield, MA
Anabela Boire of Springfield, MA

requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to

Anthony Michael Boire & Kaylianna Marie Boire
If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person.

An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3.10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT **Springfield ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: 12/15/2023.**

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: October 25, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
 Register of Probate
 11/03, 11/10, 11/17/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23C0336CA
In the matter of:
Carolyn Sue Trabulsi
CITATION ON PETITION

TO CHANGE NAME
 A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by **Carolyn Sue Trabulsi of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Carolyn Trabulsi Moore
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 12/07/2023.**

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: November 09, 2023
Rosemary A Saccomani
 Register of Probate
 11/17/2023

LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF HOLYOKE
GAS & ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT
SALE OF LAND PARCEL - WHITING FARMS ROAD, HOLYOKE, MA

Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept. is soliciting purchase offers for a parcel of land on Whiting Farms Road in Holyoke, MA, Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 337 Page 30, also known as Assessor's Parcel 120-45 and Parcel 120-46.

Sealed proposals will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept. until **12:00 p.m., December 22, 2023**, at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St., Holyoke, MA 01040, at which time proposals will be opened.

A Proposal Deposit in the amount of \$500.00 must accompany all proposals and may be in the form of a certified, treasurer's, or cashier's check payable to HG&E from a responsible bank or trust company; cash; or a bid bond from a licensed surety payable to HG&E.

Additional information or copy of the RFP 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 HG&E Commission may be for the best interest of the City of Holyoke Gas & Electric Department.

Please mark sealed envelopes "**Sale of Land Parcel - Whiting Farms Road, Holyoke, MA**" and address them to:

James M. Lavelle, Manager
 Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
 99 Suffolk St.
 Holyoke, MA 01040
 11/17/2023

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

In The News

CAMERAS, from page 1

higher crime.

"These 38 cameras are much more spread out than the initial 28 cameras were...and one of the areas they make sure they cover is the gateways coming and going, which I think is important, especially when you see people coming down from Vermont with Vermont license plates and people coming from other communities into our community," McGiverin said.

While the installation of new cameras has been on the docket to be discussed for months, it also goes hand-in-hand with Mayor Joshua Garcia's proposed safe street plan, also known as Ezekiel's Safe Street Operation Plan.

The hope is that these cameras will help to deter criminal activity in the areas, as the cameras will be constantly recording.

"Cameras will be connected to dispatch...they'll be able to randomly monitor the cameras," McGiverin said. "[The cameras] are recording at all times so if there's a need a recorded video itself can be accessed and brought back for whatever investigation or purpose."

Not only will dispatch be keeping an eye on the cameras, but the patrol officers and the station will also have access to them.

The majority of the councilors strongly supported this project. They hope that having the threat of cameras will ease the process of catching people who have committed crimes and will also deter new criminal activity.

"I'm strongly in support of this for obvious reasons," Councilor Kevin Jourdain said. "This city has a crime problem...we need to do everything humanly possible to run these criminals the hell out of Holyoke. We are going to watch you, we're going to bring you to justice, every single one of them, and this provides evidence in order to prosecute these people and put them right

where the hell they belong, which is in jail."

Jourdain hopes the cameras will work to drive criminal activity out of Holyoke. He also asked if it would be possible to get additional cameras to place in other locations that have frequent criminal activity.

"If necessary, we should have additional cameras in areas where people are pedaling drugs and doing other nefarious activities, until they realize that it is extremely uncomfortable and not business friendly and then they will go to Springfield or Chicopee or Vermont or wherever the hell they want to go to, but it will be the hell out of Holyoke," Jourdain said.

Councilor Linda Vacon also asked if it would be possible to move the cameras once they are in place, so that once criminal activity went down in one area, they would be able to move to new ones.

McGiverin responded that this would not be easily done, as they would have to install the hardware elsewhere and then move the cameras around.

Councilors Israel Rivera, Juan Anderson Burgos and Jose Maldonado Velez all expressed doubt over the efficacy of these cameras.

They emphasized that many of the problems seen in the streets of Holyoke are due to poverty. By continuing to address the issue with increased monitoring, rather than going after the root cause, these councilors do not see a future where progress is made.

"We need to try a more preventative approach," Rivera said. "This is a war on poverty, not a war on drugs and crime. It's a war on poverty because the people who are being policed are the people that live in the most impoverished communities of Holyoke."

These councilors suggested that they should focus their funds on trying to support the people and trying new strategies to improve this issue.

"We continue to go down the road

of repeating things that we have tried in the past and yet we still have the same problem that we keep trying to deal with," Rivera said. "It'll be the day that we try to do something different in this community."

Rivera suggested new potential options, such as investing in after school and youth programming to try to get kids off the street and involved in the community, rather than focusing solely on policing.

He also encouraged looking into other communities with lower crime rates to see what they are doing and to take inspiration from what they are doing to successfully keep crime rates low.

"Right now I'm feeling like we're shooting from the hip rather than actually doing some research and getting some background to make sure how we take our approach with public safety in this community is effective," Rivera said.

Maldonado Velez further emphasized that a lot of the people involved in crime are people who grew up in Holyoke who have been failed by the system in some way. He warned against painting them all with the same brush.

"We sort of paint this photo of these dealers being the worst people in the world and some of these dealers were people who grew up in our own community...that we as a community and as leaders have failed them at some point or another to where we are today," he said.

While these councilors agreed that the cameras could be effective, they felt they are only a temporary solution to a larger problem.

The council voted 10-2 to approve these cameras, with Israel Rivera and Maldonado Velez voting no.

In order to see the planned locations of the new cameras, go to https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/1/edit?mid=1_xQa2-iACjx0k-PJzBBK-gtx3Hkdsrli&usp=sharing.

SCHOOL, from page 1

make these improvements and we're getting effectively 90% reimbursement from the state...so now the city is only going to have local responsibility for \$1.2 million; that is fantastic for the city," Councilor Kevin Jourdain said.

Jourdain also asked that the city investigate ways to pay the \$1.2 million without having to bond for it. He hopes they could use a mix of other methods to pay for the costs, so as to save the city some interest funds.

"This is a good opportunity for the city also to save some funds if we can do that," Jourdain said.

This project comes at the same time as additional good news from the MSBA.

In the state budget for fiscal year 2024, the senate led initiatives for increased funding to the MSBA.

Due to this, the MSBA was able to grant Holyoke around an additional \$12 million for the Peck Middle School Project, according to Jourdain.

These funds are greatly appreciated by the council.

Councilor David Bartley also asked that, given the amount of funds the city is saving on these two projects, that they spend some of the saved funds on fixing the sign outside of Maurice A. Donahue Elementary School.

"The condition of the sign at the Maurice A. Donahue School...the paint's peeling off for all the letters in Mr. Donahue's name, the sign is ancient, it gets hammered by the sun," Bartley described. "Maybe somebody from the school department could take a look at it and maybe put up something more appropriate to honor one of Holyoke's greatest legends."

The council noted this issue down and it will likely be addressed at a future time.

The council then unanimously voted to appropriate these funds so that work on these projects can get started.

BUDGET, from page 1

council voted 8 yes, 5 no for the proposed sewer rate at their special meeting on Sept. 20. The rate needed a two thirds majority to pass, so with only eight votes in favor of the change it failed to go through.

"That left me a combined shortfall of both FY23 and 24 of \$1,557,012," Garcia explained.

In order to cover this shortfall, in his proposed supplemental budget Garcia raised an appropriated taxation.

However, this raise may not be needed. A new appropriate sewer rate is currently in committee, if the council votes on that rate before the tax rate is set then this will change drastically.

"If the council votes before the tax rate is set...we won't have to raise an appropriate tax rate," Garcia said.

Also included in this supplemental budget is the fire local union contract. This contract has an increase of \$723,005 and is the second hardest hitting on the supplemental budget, following on the sewer operation expenses.

The budget also includes ARPA revenue replacement and interest revenue. This includes funds to support Garcia's proposed street safety plan, also known as Ezekiel's Plan.

This plan was put in place following the devastating shooting on Oct. 4, in which an unborn child named Ezekiel was killed.

Additionally, according to

Garcia the assessor's office is currently encountering an issue with their system, Patriots, which manages values.

The assessors are working with the company in charge of the system to get it fixed quickly. However, as a result of this issue, the supplemental budget does not currently include new growth as they don't have the numbers from the system.

Ideally, this system will be fixed shortly and the supplemental budget numbers will be adjusted accordingly.

"If the council does not vote to increase the sewer rate and we don't know what our new growth will be, you're looking at a 7.5% tax increase," Garcia said. "But once those two things get fixed, it is going to be much less of an impact."

A supplemental budget like this is proposed by the mayor and the finance office every year, as implemented by Garcia when he took office.

"When I took office I proposed a process that the city had never done before which was a little cleaner," he explained. "Rather than submitting a series of transfers to balance the budget, we just submit a supplemental."

A municipal budget is proposed to the city council at the end of each fiscal year, it includes the projected expectations of what needs will be in the upcoming fiscal year. The council will vote on this budget and it will go into place for July 1.

However, oftentimes the expected numbers will shift over time, and this is what brings about the need for a supplemental budget.

"You have to monitor the budget," Garcia said. "It's anticipated, it's what you think you might need and then things happen and you realize 'oh, we're underfunded here or we're over funded here,' and you have to move money around."

Before the tax rate for a fiscal year is set, the city is well within their rights to look at the budget holistically, make the needed changes and resubmit the budget to the council for them to approve.

"We submit a supplemental before the tax rate is set so that we're a little closer to our budgetary target needs," Garcia said.

Once the tax rate is set, that budget is finalized for the rest of the fiscal year and planning begins for the next fiscal year.

Garcia's proposed supplemental budget went before the city council on Nov. 9, where they sent it to the finance committee.

The finance committee will discuss it further and make their recommendations. Depending on the result of those, it will either go to the city council for them to take a final vote on it or it will be sent back to Garcia and his finance team for changes to be made.

This budget needs to be finalized by the end of the calendar year so that the FY24 tax rate can be set.

"No later than Dec. 31, we need to get this done," Garcia said.

For more information on the proposed supplemental budget go to <https://www.holyoke.org/mayors-proposed-fy24-supplemental-budget/>.

NOTICE

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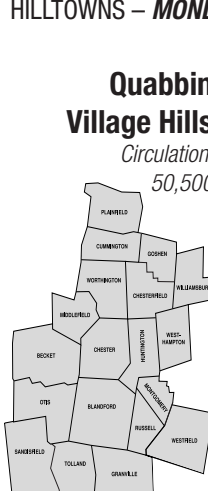

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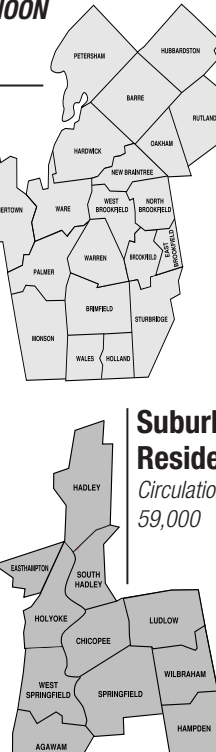
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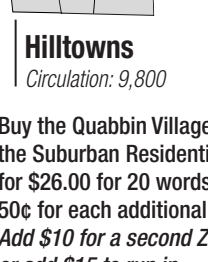
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HCC fall theater explores break room culture

HOLYOKE – In 2016, Holyoke Community College theater professor Tim Cochran directed “The Whale” for HCC’s spring production. That show won an ensemble award at the New England Region Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Since then, the play, about a morbidly obese man trying to reconcile with his estranged daughter, was adapted into a feature film that earned three Academy Awards in 2023, including one for lead actor Brendan Fraser.

Cochran hasn’t yet seen the movie, but the Oscar buzz inspired him to return to the work of the playwright, Samuel D. Hunter.

“It reminded me how much I liked working on ‘The Whale,’” Cochran said. “Samuel D. Hunter writes plays that are really intimate and really put the acting front and center. You really feel like you’re sneaking a peak at somebody’s life unfolding before you.”

The play that Cochran picked for the HCC Theater Department’s fall 2023 production is Hunter’s “A Bright New Boise,” which, while lesser known now, debuted first and won an Obie Award in 2011.

The HCC show runs Nov. 16-18 with performances at 7:30 p.m. and a 2 p.m. matinee on Sat., Nov. 18. The Friday, Nov. 17, show will be ASL-interpreted. All performances will be held in the Leslie Phillips Theater on the second floor of HCC’s Fine & Performing Arts building. Tickets will be \$5 (HCC students, staff, and faculty); \$10 (general admission); \$8 (seniors). Available one hour before each show at the Leslie Phillips Box Office, or call 413-552-2528 to reserve. Due to language and situa-



Student-actors Tora Mateo of Holyoke, left, and Matthew Haughton of Springfield review cash register receipts in the Hobby Lobby break room in a rehearsal scene from the HCC Theater Department’s fall 2023 production of “A Bright New Boise” by Samuel D. Hunter.

Submitted photo

tions, this play is not recommended for viewers under the age of 13.

Like “The Whale” - and Hunter’s other plays - “A Bright New Boise” is set in Idaho, the playwright’s home state. But Cochran, citing Hunter himself, says the location is not necessarily significant to the play’s themes and insights.

What is significant, though, is the location of individual scenes. Aside from a few set in a parking lot near an interstate highway, the rest of the “action,” such as it is, takes place in the break room of a Hobby Lobby retail store. That, by its very nature, invites commentary about religion, consumerism, and capitalism.

“It’s really a play about people in confrontation with others who are not like them,” said Cochran. “How do we negotiate extreme points of view in everyday life?”

Even though the play debuted in 2011, Cochran says it makes even more sense today, given the political climate and how divided American society has become.

“It’s seriocomic, or what some people call a dramedy,” said Cochran. “It’s funny, but it’s also really powerful and heavy at times. If people like ‘The Whale,’ if they liked the movie, this is going to be a great play to see.”

Yuletree Jubilee starts Nov. 20

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Starting Friday, Nov. 20, the Red Thread Network for the arts will host the Seventh Annual Yuletree Jubilee in the West Springfield Public Library Community Room, 200 Park Ave. Admission is free.

Twenty two trees, decorated and donated by local businesses, organizations and individuals, will be displayed and raffled off for 10 days to the delight of visitors. The hours are Thursday, Friday, Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. The drawing will take place on Sunday, Dec. 3 at 2 p.m. For More information contact Jane at jane-trompe@comcast.net or log on to the web page www.redthreadnetwork-forthearts.org or visit our Facebook page Yuletree Jubilee.



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This offer is available to all babies born in 2023. Pictures will be published the week of December 18-22, 2023.

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June 5, 2022
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Deadline for photos and forms is Friday, December 6, 2023

CRAFT FAIR

THE Arbors
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929 MEMORIAL DRIVE

Saturday, December 2nd
from 9AM-3PM

Stop by and shop with our local vendors, take a chance on raffles, buy a great lunch, and be sure to save room for homemade bake sale goodies!

VENDORS INCLUDE but are not limited to Tupperware, Color Street, Sir Barks a Lot Dog Treats, Papparazzi, Bayhorse Soaperie, Wooden Holiday Crafts, Paper Pie Books, Brodester's Bandanas ... and more!

Proceeds from this event will be donated to the
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