

## Construction begins on new Peck Middle School

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – On Friday, Mar. 8, Mayor Joshua Garcia and Superintendent Anthony Soto hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for Peck Middle School.

This school is anticipated to hold up to 550 students and will help to bring a more modern education to the city.

“We’ve been working together for years to get to this important day, where we are breaking ground on a new middle school building for Holyoke students,” said Mayor Joshua Garcia. “This project shows our city’s commitment to our young residents and the hope we have for our collective future.”

The old building of Peck middle school was out of date and energy-inefficient. This new building will meet the needs of modern education for the students.

“Today marks a big step forward towards offering a well-lit, well-designed, engaging learning

environment for middle school students,” said Superintendent Anthony Soto. “A building like this will provide the infrastructure for us to achieve one of our core beliefs that school is a joyful place of discovery, support, and belong-



Ground has broken on a new Peck School. A ceremony was held last week to get the new construction started.

Submitted photo

ing.”

“This new middle school building will offer so much of what students and the community have said is important to them,” Vice Chair of the School Committee and School Building Committee Erin Brunelle said. “The classrooms are sufficiently sized for collaborative learning and positioned to create a team environment at each grade level. Technology investments

will support student learning and help prepare them for a technology-driven society. The gym and fitness area will be available for community-based programming in the evenings and on weekends. This is the type of learning environment we want for all students.”

Construction has now begun and the school itself hopes to be opened in fall or winter of 2025.

Later in 2025 the school

committee plans to select a name for the new building.

Throughout the 2024 and 2025 school year the district plans to assign the staff to school and make a plan for opening the building.

Fontaine Bros. is the general contractor for the new middle school building. According to a press release, since Fontaine Bros.’ founding in 1933, they have built numerous schools in

the Pioneer Valley, including schools in Holyoke, Chicopee, Granby and Springfield.

Mount Vernon Group Architects is the design firm and AnserAdvisory is the Owner’s Project Manager. American Environmental completed the demolition and site preparation.

This project has been in the works for over a year now. The council had unanimously approved the appropriation of \$85,504,592 for this project at their meeting on June 6, 2023.

The MSBA approved funding of \$46 million of the \$85,504,592 for the school in June of 2023.

The city has also received further support from the MSBA in the form of an additional grant, so the MSBA is now covering about \$58.4 million of the project.

“As I expressed when the City Council voted to support the new middle school last June, I appreciate the inclusive approach that was taken so we could support a new middle school at a price the city could afford,” City Councilor and School Building Committee Member Kevin Jourdain said. “I am also pleased that the Massachusetts School Building Authority decided to give Holyoke a larger grant in order

See PECK, page 5

## Council continues to spin wheels on ballot question

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – At the city council meeting on Mar. 6 the council once again discussed the issue of the CPA ballot question.

Two different residents came forward during citizen speak time to express their desire to have this question on the ballot.

“Please put it on the ballot, let the voters speak,” Resident Lori Belanger said.

All of the council agrees that the people of Holyoke have the right to vote on this question, the main debate is over what the proper procedure for doing this is.

“I don’t think anybody is arguing against the CPA ballot question here as it’s written, I think we’ve all agreed on that,” Councilor Kocayne Givner said. “I hate that it looks like people are trying to stall this because that is not the intention, I really do think there are some legal concerns about how we’ve gone through this process.”

At the council meeting

they were presented with the wording of the ballot question and they were expected to vote to approve the 1.5 to 1% reduction of the CPA tax surcharge and to vote to put the question on the ballot.

They needed to make both votes according to the city attorney.

“Please put it  
on the ballot,  
let the voters speak”

– Lori Belanger

“Before a question can be approved for the ballot, a legislative body must endorse that change,” Attorney Michael Bissonnette said. “So if you want to move it from one and a half to one, you need to endorse that idea, even if you’re only voting to endorse it as part of the ballot question.”

If the council were to have voted to approve this reduction and to then put the question on

the ballot, then it would be left to the voters to decide.

The council had initially taken both the approval of the reduction and to put it on the ballot as one question, which some councilors were hesitant to do, leading to them voting the question down at the last meeting.

They then made a motion to reconsider their actions and lay the discussion on the table to pick up at the next meeting.

Councilor David Bartley proposed that they should then take it up as two separate votes, rather than all in one, as that was one of the main points of contention in the council.

“Until we do separate votes—I will vote yes on both of those separate votes—but I’m not doing the two in one vote,” Councilor Israel Rivera said.

Councilor Patty Divine made an order to send the ballot question to the finance committee as she wanted to discuss it further, as well the idea of taking it up as two separate votes.

Additionally, following

See BALLOT, page 5

## Six HPS teachers honored with Grinspoon Award

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Six teachers from Holyoke Public Schools were awarded the Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award.

The six teachers were: Fourth Grade Teacher Amber Dutton, High School English Teacher Sheila Fallon, Math Coach Nicole Fisher, Middle School English Teacher Christine Lopez, Kindergarten Teacher Suzanne Platinitis and Middle School Spanish Teacher Merly Vega.

The principals of each school were welcomed to recommend several teachers that they thought should be honored with this award. From there, the chosen finalists were nominated by Superintendent/Receiver Anthony Soto based on criteria of the PVETA and their contributions to HPS.

Dutton was nominated for this award thanks to her work in making her classroom a supportive space for all of her students.

Fallon stood out for this award due to her ability to form relationships with each student and her strong ability to give feedback.

“[What made me stand out for this award] could partially be due to my dedication to Holyoke as a community and the time that I dedicate to my students outside of the work day,” Fallon said. “I attend their sporting events, I make sure I’m present for their theater shows or their concerts, and I coach in a recreational league for the Holyoke safe neighborhood initiative.”

Fisher is a math coach and an academic coordinator who works with many of the staff and students in Donahue school and throughout the district. She was selected for this award due to her work in using data to help staff make improvements in the classroom.

Lopez was selected for this award due to her skills as a leader on her team and for her abil-

See GRINSPOON, page 5

# Wistariahurst celebrates Women's History month

HOLYOKE – Celebrate Women's History month by viewing the Nature/Nurture Art Exhibit at Wistariahurst Museum in March. Artists identifying as female or non-binary were asked how they viewed the theme of nature versus nurture. This debate centers around our genes and surroundings, with both factors playing a role in mental and physical well-being while shaping personalities.

This exhibition showcases a variety of viewpoints on the complex interplay between nature and nurture. Some artworks delve into the powerful impact of genetics, examining how

inherited traits and biological tendencies can shape a person's path. Others highlight the nurturing side, underscoring the importance of upbringing, life experiences, and surroundings in defining one's sense of self.

The jury selected five artists to showcase for the Nature/Nurture art exhibit: Anne Bradford Spencer, Deborah Yaffe, Shelsy Rodriguez, Camille Roos, and River Nation. The museum had so many wonderful submissions that more artists will be included as honorable mentions. These talented individuals delve into various mediums from photog-

raphy to sculptures, showcasing their distinctive artwork in our gallery for everyone to appreciate, gather, and explore this year's theme.

This new exhibit will be on display throughout March. Gallery open hours will be Mondays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Tuesdays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Admission to the artist talk and gallery open hours are free and available to everyone, ensuring everyone can enjoy this year's theme for the Women's History Month art show.

To plan a visit, please go to: <https://wistariahurst.org/events/>



## Shuttle schedule for St. Patrick's Day

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke and the Tourism Advisory Committee are pleased to announce the details of the Road Race and St. Patrick's Day Shuttle bus services. Thanks to funding from the Mass Gaming Mitigation Grant, the OPED team and Tourism Advisory Committee is pleased to announce shuttle services for the Road Race and St. Patrick's Day Parade. The Shuttle will run hourly from the MGM Casino to City Hall in Holyoke. The MGM Casino offers free parking so just park your car and enjoy a safe ride to the festivities in Holyoke. Pick up will be at MGM Springfield at MGM Way in front of South End Market, and drop off will be at the Holyoke City Hall parking deck on Dwight St. Shuttle Services will be provided by Michaels Limo. The shuttle will be a 14 passenger ADA minibus. Shuttle Bus details are available via [https://www.exploreholyokey.com/event/free-shuttle-service-from-mgm-casino-to-holyoke-city-](https://www.exploreholyokey.com/event/free-shuttle-service-from-mgm-casino-to-holyoke-city-hall-during-2024-st-patricks-celebrations-in-holyoke/)

[hall-during-2024-st-patricks-celebrations-in-holyoke/](https://www.exploreholyokey.com/event/free-shuttle-service-from-mgm-casino-to-holyoke-city-hall-during-2024-st-patricks-celebrations-in-holyoke/).

On Road Race day, March 16 and Parade Day March 17, The bus will run on loop at the following times:

- 10 a.m. leave MGM to City Hall
- 10:30 a.m. leave City Hall to MGM
- 11 a.m. MGM to City Hall
- 11:30 a.m. leave City Hall to MGM
- Noon MGM to City Hall
- 12:30 p.m. leave City Hall to MGM
- 1 p.m. MGM to City Hall
- 1:30 p.m. leave City Hall to MGM
- 2 p.m. MGM to City Hall
- 2:30 p.m. leave City Hall to MGM
- 3 p.m. MGM to City Hall
- 3:30 p.m. leave City Hall to MGM - last shuttle

For more information, please contact the Office of Planning and Economic Development at (413) 322-5655, email [vegaa@holyokey.org](mailto:vegaa@holyokey.org) or visit online at [brazeaum@holyokey.org](mailto:brazeaum@holyokey.org).

## HCC to host health careers open house

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College will host an open house at its Center for Health Education & Simulation on Wednesday, March 20, for anyone interested in exploring educational programs and careers in healthcare, animal care, human services, or culinary arts.

Visitors to the Health Careers Open House are welcome to tour HCC's state-of-the-art health education facility from 4 to 6 p.m. and talk to representatives from the college's programs in nursing, radiologic technology, veterinary and animal science, medical assisting, community health worker, direct care, emergency medical technician, Foundations of Health, certified nursing assistant, medical billing and coding, human services, and culinary arts.

The event is free and open to the

public. The building, located at 404 Jarvis Ave., just off the main HCC campus, is home to the college's nursing and radiologic technology programs, and medical simulation labs.

There will also be representatives attending from the offices of financial aid, admissions, advising, and workforce development to talk to prospective students about their educational options and career pathways.

"This is an excellent opportunity to explore all of our health majors at one time, see our state-of-the-art simulation labs, meet our faculty and staff, and learn all about our outstanding student support services," said nursing resource coordinator Dee Westcott.

If individuals can't make it in person, please contact Dee Westcott at [dwestcott@hcc.edu](mailto:dwestcott@hcc.edu) for more information.

# Celebrate St. Patrick's Day

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For Our Menu and Events check us out on

# TIME Magazine spotlights Holyoke businesses

HOLYOKE – TIME Magazine has named two Holyoke businesses, Clean Crop Technologies and Sublime Systems, to its 2024 list of America's Top GreenTech Companies.

This ranking by TIME includes 250 of America's top sustainability-focused companies, based on their positive environmental impact, financial strength, and innovation.

"The City of Holyoke was built on ambition," said Holyoke Mayor Joshua A. Garcia. "During the Industrial Revolution, entrepreneurs took full advantage of the energy produced from the Connecticut River, building the dam and canals to cheaply power industries that were marketing to the world. Fast forward generations later: new industrialists are capitalizing on our assets and

revisiting the resource that attracted the earliest investors to the City. Our city's green hydroelectric resources, which produce over 65 percent of the City's electrical power at some of the lowest utility rates in New England, are now making Holyoke an attractive location for a new kind of industry, the Green Tech Industry. We welcome Clean Crop and Sublime Systems to our city. Green technology is good news for innovators, for communities like Holyoke, and for the planet."

Clean Crop Technologies is an electro-chemical innovation company specializing in food and agriculture solutions at industrial scale based in Holyoke since 2021. Clean Crop's proprietary "Clean Current" technology combines electricity and food-grade gases to

remove contaminants from seeds and foods to increase crop yields, reduce food waste, and increase food safety. The growing company has built a state-of-the-art, 14,000-square-foot facility in the Wauregan Building on Dwight Street. The operation includes high-tech labs and an in-house rapid prototyping shop.

In 2023, Clean Crop was recognized as one of the leading technology innovation companies in the state, receiving the Manufacturer of the Year award at the second annual statewide Manufacturing Mash-Up in Worcester last October. For more information please visit [cleancrop-tech.com](http://cleancrop-tech.com).

Sublime Systems is commercializing a breakthrough process to make low-carbon cement that performs like traditional cement but without the environmen-

tal impacts. Sublime's manufacturing system is based on direct use of electricity rather than the traditional fossil fuel-heated kiln approach. The company announced plans in January to build its first commercial manufacturing facility on Water Street in Holyoke. In January, Sublime was selected for a \$6.7-million award from the U.S. Department of Energy's Industrial Efficiency and Decarbonization Office and was highlighted at Governor Healey's first State of the Commonwealth address as one of two businesses in the state that are prime examples of businesses that are helping Massachusetts' efforts to meet its climate goals, produce cutting-edge technologies, and create a generation of promising careers. For more information please visit [sublime-systems.com](http://sublime-systems.com).

## Pierogi Sale to be held March 23

HOLYOKE – On Saturday, March 23, Our Lady of the Cross Parish will be selling frozen pierogi.

The food sale will take place in the vestibule of the church from 2 to 4 p.m.

Cabbage, apple, blueberry and potato/cheese pierogi will be on sale for \$10.00 a dozen.

The church is located on Holy Cross Ave. Please use the front doors. For more information, call the parish office at 413-532-5661.

## YMCA honors Oldershaw recipient Olisnki

HOLYOKE – The Greater Holyoke YMCA will hold their annual Sneaker Peek event at the Greater Holyoke YMCA in the gymnasium on Saturday, April 6, at 5:30 p.m. The night is a family friendly evening where the YMCA recognize some outstanding volunteers and celebrate the impact the Y has on the community. Come dressed as you are for a sneak peek (sneakers welcome) of the Y and help us kick off our annual campaign. This is a free event however it is asked that individuals RSVP by contacting the YMCA.



Vincent Olisnki

This year the Oldershaw Service

Award will honor a wonderful volunteer. Come and help us honor these wonderful individuals who do so much for the community through their unselfish gift of time and talent.

Vincent Olisnki will receive the Louis F. Oldershaw Community Service Award which is given to an individual who has made significant volunteer contributions to the Greater Holyoke YMCA and the community at large. He has given his time over many years in the community to the YMCA, the Rotary Club of Holyoke, the Holyoke Chamber of Commerce, and many more worthy causes. Olisnki began his Y journey as part of

the Association of Professional YMCA Directors as the Region Treasurer before becoming the CEO of Greater Holyoke YMCA until his retirement. He continued his dedication to our organization through many roles for over 20 years and for that, the YMCA is thankful and proud to award him for his involvement and contributions.

The Greater Holyoke YMCA, Birthplace of Volleyball, has been meeting its mission of "Helping all in the greater Holyoke community achieve their fullest potential in spirit, mind and body" for more than 125 years and is committed to mentoring children and youth to succeed, strengthening and supporting families, and creating a healthier community.

## UCCH announces Easter schedule

HOLYOKE – Spring is right around the corner, and with it Palm Sunday and Easter. That means it's time for the United Congregational Church of Holyoke to announce its annual events and services to observe the end of the Lenten Season.

The first event is a worship service to honor Palm Sunday, which falls on March 24. The service will begin at 10 a.m. (people are encouraged to arrive at 9:45 a.m. to hear music and hymns) and will feature messages of hope. All are welcome to attend.

Every Bunny is invited to join in the fun at our Easter Egg Hunt Eggstravaganza, which is March 30 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. There will be scavenger hunts, crafts, games, pictures with the Easter Bunny and fun for the

whole family. Admission is free.

Easter Sunday is March 31, which will feature a special Worship Service beginning at 10 a.m. The service will feature a message of hope, songs of Christ's resurrection, and will conclude with the sacrament of communion. Again, all are welcome to attend.

The United Congregational Church of Holyoke is an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. All individuals are welcome, regardless of where they are on their journey. If individuals would like to learn more about UCCH, please visit our website at [www.uccholyoke.org](http://www.uccholyoke.org), find us on Facebook or Instagram, or call our office at 413-532-1483 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## Wistariahurst hosts dramatic reading

HOLYOKE – Drop into Wistariahurst Museum this spring to enjoy Yours, Isabella, the dramatic reading of a new play about museum founder Isabella Stewart Gardner written by Ulrika Brand. To be performed by professional actors and UMass Amherst theater students.

Yours, Isabella focuses on the life of Isabella Stewart Gardner from 1887 to 1903, beginning when she commissioned her portrait by John Singer Sargent and made her first major art purchases. The play also explores Gardner's relationship with art advisor Bernard Berenson, showcasing their friendship and Berenson's self-invention. In an era when women were expected to focus on domestic roles, Gardner defied norms by turning her home into a salon for artists

and musicians, and building a museum in Boston that remains a magnificent cultural attraction.

Stephanie Carlson leads the cast as Isabella Stewart Gardner, accompanied by Frank Aronson, Carolyn Cooper, Rebecca Hicks, Michael Jay, Kimberly Salditt Poulin, Kitty Ryan, and Cole Seitz. This event is free and open to the public, supported by a grant from the Holyoke Local Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

On Thursday, April 4 at 3 p.m. an Open Rehearsal welcomes seniors. While seating is limited, registration is appreciated and drop-ins are welcome.

For the Saturday, April 6, at 7 p.m. Dramatic Reading seating is limited, registration is required.

### NOTICE

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### HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL CHOICE OPENINGS 2024-2025

Hadley Public Schools – serving grades PK-12 is currently accepting School Choice Applications.

Applications can be found on our website at [www.hadleyschools.org](http://www.hadleyschools.org) or call (413) 586-0822.

The cut-off date for applications is April 17th.

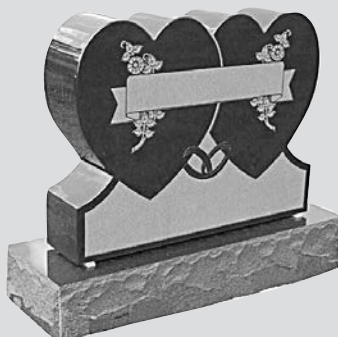
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## Will my benefit increase if I work while collecting disability?



Dear Rusty

I will be 64 in March and currently receive Social Security Disability Insurance payments. My full retirement age is 67, but I'm thinking about trying to return to work.

If I work and my earnings exceed the monthly disability payment limits, but do not exceed the annual limit, how will my disability payments be affected? Will working while receiving Social Security disability payments change my Social Security benefit amount when I reach my full retirement age of 67?

Signed Mending

Dear Mending

Social Security doesn't go by annual earnings when it comes to disability; they go by monthly earnings. If your work earnings in any one month of 2024 exceed \$1,550, that will be a flag to SS that you are no longer disabled (\$2,590 per month if you're blind). If that happens for a few months in a row, they will most likely stop your SSDI payments.

Often, this happens retroactively, they won't find out until sometime later that you repeatedly exceeded the monthly limit, but they will likely cancel your SSDI benefits and require you to repay any benefits you received in months you exceeded the monthly SSDI earnings limit or months they deem you were capable of working without restriction.

I suggest you consider enrolling in Social Security's "Ticket to Work" program. While enrolled, you can work and will have a rolling nine month "Trial Work Period" over five years, during which you can earn more than \$1,110/month in 2024 without jeopardizing your SSDI benefits.

If, after completing your nine month trial work period, you are taken off of SSDI (because you're no longer considered disabled), and you again become disabled and unable to work, your SSDI benefits can resume without requiring you to go through the entire application process again. You can test your ability to work, will be able to work some and can earn more than the limit in some months, which makes the Ticket to Work program your best option. Read more about it here by visiting <https://choosework.ssa.gov/>.

As for whether working while on SSDI will improve your benefit at your Full Retirement Age, that depends. Your current SSDI benefit is equal to your FRA entitlement from your earnings record at your disability onset date, but paid to you prior to your FRA. The method for determining your benefit under SSDI is complex and depends on the age at which you became unable to work and the number of Social Security credits you had accumulated at that time. Although SS retirement benefits normally require you earn at least 40 SS quarter credits and are based on your highest earning 35 years, those approved for SSDI can get benefits with fewer than 40 credits and less than 35 years of lifetime earnings. Since each case is unique, I cannot say whether your earnings while on SSDI will improve your FRA

amount, but Social Security will monitor your earnings and increase your benefit if appropriate.

FYI, your SSDI benefit would normally automatically convert to become your regular SS retirement benefit at your FRA at the same amount you were receiving while on SSDI. It's possible that the limited earnings you may have from working while on SSDI may increase your benefit, but that's impossible for me to predict. Your benefit is based on your lifetime earnings history (adjusted for inflation), not on your contributions to Social Security while working.

So, if you are on SSDI and wish to try returning to work, and you think your monthly earnings will occasionally exceed the SSDI limit, I suggest you contact Social Security (1-800-772-1213 or your local office to explore enrolling in the Ticket to Work program. That would be your best option to avoid jeopardizing your SSDI benefits, and your benefit amount will be automatically adjusted by Social Security if appropriate.

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



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## News from my garden to yours

I received a text from a friend earlier today asking what is covering my strawberry plants.

I answered her with one word: water.

Yes indeed, a good portion of my garden is drowning at the moment, as are various parts of my yard. We have had too much rain in too short of a period and the ground is still frozen partway down.

It's happened before and will likely happen again, but every time it does, I wonder how these areas could possibly rebound and look good come spring. Usually, they do and with little help from me.

The water recedes and spring comes.

Keep in mind that the soil, be it in your garden or yard, will lose some of its fertility because of leaching, and it will be compacted from such excessive rainfall. Give your plants a side dressing of compost this spring; it will be sure to help restore fertility and improve the condition of the soil in general.

According to a soil test, my garden was notoriously low in nitrogen, so I incorporated blood meal into the soil at planting time with another dose a few weeks later. It didn't occur to me at the time, but flooding a couple of times early in the year could be the culprit of the low nitrogen reading.

Soil that is heavy with water literally pushes out the space that was meant for oxygen and becomes compacted. Without oxygen, plants' vascular systems won't function properly.

As I said before, a few days in the off season likely won't hurt much, but if this were to happen during the growing season, your plants may look wilted even though they are sitting in water.

Root rot, perhaps, or simply that the roots are unable to absorb the water around them.

Lawns should be aerated to remedy this problem, and garden soil should be loosened – once it's dry of course – to get some air into the soil. This can be done numerous ways, by use of various hand tools.

Although scratching around with a three tine cultivator will likely bring some weed seeds to the surface, it is one of my favorite things to do in the garden. I find it a great stress-buster, too.

Do remember to try not to walk on saturated soil or it will compound the problem.

Even in the spring when you are working in your garden, place a board under your feet to distribute your weight evenly and prevent more compaction.

Have you noticed that your houseplants have begun to put on an abundance of new growth? Mine sure have! Support this with a dose of half strength liquid fertilizer.

I need to take cuttings of fuchsia and geranium plants that I overwintered. It will sure be great to make cemetery logs with our own geraniums this year.

I will simply cut a terminal (meaning top) stem about 4-5 inches long just after a node (that's where the leaves join the stem). I'll carefully take off all but the top two or three leaves and insert the leafless section into a small pot (say around 2-3 inches in diameter) of good quality moist potting soil.

The two or three leaves you left will be above the soil line. If you have rooting hormone on hand, you can dip the stem into that first, but you don't have to; plants in active growth usually root fine even without it.

I will place my cuttings in indirect light and mist with a spray bottle a couple of times a day to keep them from wilting before they root. Check in about a month, and if you are lucky, roots will have formed.

Depending on the size pot you used, and the size of the roots, it may be a good time to put the plants into a bigger pot and place them in a sunnier window until it's safe to plant them outside.

My daffodil plants are starting to pop up here and there in the yard. I had a little bit of balanced organic granular fertilizer left from last year, so I sprinkled it around the clusters.

Now and once the flowers have gone by are the two best times to fertilize narcissus. I am so excited to enjoy the varied colors and scents from this huge Genus of plants.

To me, they are the epitome of a true spring flower. Soon enough, soon enough!

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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



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## Letters to the Editor Policy

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

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

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

## Free hotel hospitality training at HCC

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is running a free, five-week hotel training program starting March 19 for anyone interested in jump starting a career in the hospitality industry.

The hands-on, in-person classes for hotel front desk workers and hotel room attendants will take place in HCC's hotel training lab on the second floor of the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute on Race Street in downtown Holyoke.

The program runs on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 5:30 to 8 p.m., March 19 through April 18. Each of the 10 class sessions runs 2.5 hours. A second spring training program will run May 7 to June 6.

The course will provide students with up-to-date knowledge of the hotel industry, hands-on experience for front desk and/or room attendant roles, workplace skills, resume building, interview-

ing, job search assistance, and connections to local employers.

HCC's hotel lab is set up like a hotel reception area with front desk and adjoining guest room and equipped with the most modern technology and software. The hotel lab gives students the ability to learn in a model hotel room and reception lobby, gain knowledge about key card access systems, and understand point-of-sale technology.

No high school diploma or GED/HiSET test is required for admission.

Offered as part of HCC's Business and Workforce Development division, the hotel training course is free to qualifying applicants.

For more information, please contact Christine Scott by (cscott1@hcc.edu) or phone (413-552-2561) or fill out the inquiry form at hcc.edu/job-ready.

## PECK, from page 1

to ease the financial strain that important investments like this have on urban communities. I am confident that, as we go through construction, we will continue to find ways to build a high quality school at an affordable price."

Prior to this approval the school building committee, the school committee and the school district had worked hard to ensure that the design for the building would work best for all residents of Holyoke.

"We did have a middle school collaborative study team that worked with a consultant to study middle schools across the nation and to come up with what would be best practiced and what's

state-of-the-art middle school education," Superintendent Anthony Soto had said. "That study team pulled in teachers, pulled in family members and pulled in community members and really looked at what we envision for middle schoolers by the time students graduate from the eighth grade. They looked at what the characteristics are and the experiences that we want them to have had in their time as a middle school student. That plan and that work, all of that heavy lifting that the collaborative study team, with input from the community, helped really shape the design of this."

This project is truly promising for the future of Holyoke education, and all involved look forward to seeing how it will evolve.

## GRINSPOON, from page 1

ity to foster a love of learning in her students.

"I think I just really reflect the students and I've built really strong bonds with my students," Lopez said. "I teach in the district I grew up in, so I'm them and they are me...they know they can trust me and my help and my support goes far beyond my classroom."

Platinitis has been crucial for the success of McMahon's transition over the Holyoke rezoning process. It was this work that made her a great candidate for this award.

Finally, Vega was nominated due to her ability to encourage students to achieve and even surpass their goals.

All of the teachers were incredibly grateful to be recipients of this award.

"This award is a great honor," Fisher said. "I've been in the district for 18 years and have really worked hard to learn and grow professionally throughout my time...it really feels like I'm being honored for all the hard work I'm doing throughout the HPS district."

"This award means a lot because when I started my career about eight years ago it was an award that I had heard about and, of the colleagues that I saw get it, they were colleagues that I looked up to, people I really wanted to exemplify and who really...put their students first," Dutton said. "So when I was nominated for the award it meant a lot that it was recognized that I'm here for my kids above all."

Additionally, many of them wanted to give their thanks to all of the people who have supported them throughout their careers.

"Digna Hernandez has been my co-teacher, she has been the teacher next door to me since I started in 2019 and I would not know where I would be without that woman," Lopez said. "If I could rip my award in half and give her half of it, I honestly would."

"I would like to thank the district for always allowing me to share my voice

and believing in me, to put me into positions to allow me to share my voice," Fisher said. "If they didn't believe in me and believe in the work I do, they wouldn't put me in positions where my voice can be shared."

Each teacher was surprised in their classroom with a celebration to announce the fact that they won this award.

The teachers will be honored again at a ceremony on Apr. 30. Additionally, they will receive an engraved plaque, a check for \$250, and tuition incentives and scholarships offered by seven major colleges and universities in the region—Elms College, Bay Path University, Mount Holyoke College, Springfield College, Western New England University, Westfield State University, and the University of Massachusetts.

They also receive 3-month memberships at the Springfield Jewish Community Center or one of the six regional YMCAs.

Many of the teachers hope to take immediate advantage of the tuition incentives and scholarships offered by the colleges and universities in order to continue to pursue their degrees.

"I'm currently attending AIC for my doctorate so I plan to use some of those awards and opportunities to continue my doctorate and complete that in educational leadership and administration," Dutton said.

The PVETA was started in 2003 by Philanthropist Harold Grinspoon.

The goal of these awards is to recognize teachers for all of their hard work, work that often goes underappreciated.

Now in its 21 year, this program has honored thousands of educators, and it hopes to continue to do so for many years to come.

"Oftentimes we get letters or we see a teacher in a video and behind them is the plaque that they received when they won, so it's a memory they treasure for a long time," Director of the PVETA Uli Nagel said. "So we are, in turn, incredibly grateful and happy that we have the opportunity to honor them."

## Holyoke Redevelopment Authority seeking proposals for land

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Redevelopment Authority is seeking development proposals for land located on Race and Main Streets available for commercial and residential uses. The property consists of six adjacent parcels of land that collectively contain approximately .75 acres of land and is zoned General Industry.

For this property, the HRA is seeking a development that would add new commercial development potentially mixed with housing that would add to the vibrancy occurring nearby. The area around the property has seen notable developments over the past few years with more projects under construction or in the planning stage. Adjacent to the south of the property is

the "Cubit" building which is a mixed residential and commercial development while directly to the north is the Armour Building currently being converted to a restaurant and co-working space. Under construction one block away is WinnDevelopment's Appleton Mills Phase 1 creating 88 units of 55+ housing. Phase 2, which would bring an additional 75 units on-line, is in the planning stage. Additional activities are nearby at Open Square and in the Arts & Industry District with nightlife, shops and restaurants. The proposal package is available for download via <https://www.holyoke.org/propertyfor-sale/>. For more information, please contact the HRA oped@holyoke.org or call (413) 322-5655.

## BALLOT, from page 1

this, there was discussion on whether or not the councilors agreed on the wording of the ballot question itself.

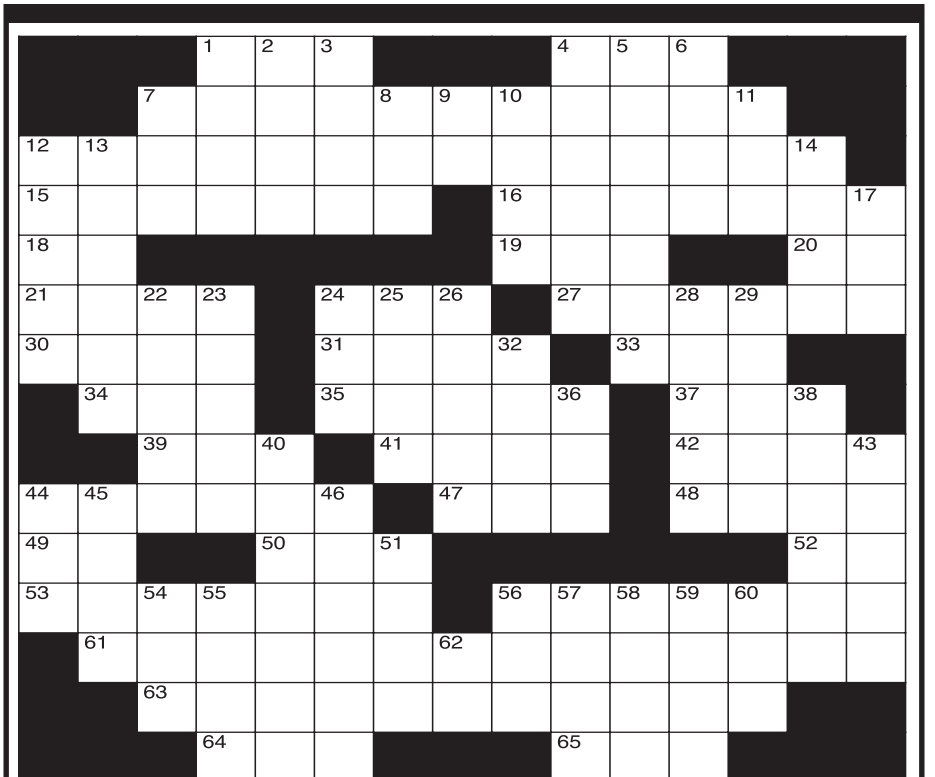
"The city solicitor's office was interested in us looking at the summary language and adding in a chart that would show how a yes vote would affect representative households," Councilor Meagen Magrath-Smith said. "I don't believe we're at a place to say that the summary language is finalized

at this point."

Following this debate, the council put to vote the reduction of the CPA surcharge from 1.5 to 1 percent.

Again the council voted down approving reduction in the CPA rate, with Councilors Magrath-Smith, Murphy-Romboletti, Rivera, Rivera, Sullivan, Anderson-Burgos, Divine and Givner all voting no as they wanted to discuss the issue further.

Following this they made a motion to reconsider their actions and send the issue to the finance committee.



### CLUES ACROSS

- |                                 |                                        |                                  |                                     |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Helps little firms           | 39. ___ school: where to learn healing | seeing                           | 29. Town in India                   |
| 4. Political action committee   | 41. City in ancient Syria              | 2. Czech city                    | 32. Traditional rhythmic pattern    |
| 7. Allowed                      | 42. Gasteyer and de Armas are two      | 3. ___ and Andy, TV show         | 36. Fugitives are on the ___        |
| 12. Olivia Colman played one    | 44. Established practice               | 4. A young pig                   | 38. Type of dance                   |
| 15. Open                        | 47. Thanksgiving side dish             | 5. Removed surgically            | 40. Two letters, one sound          |
| 16. He had a notable lamp       | 48. District in Peru                   | 6. Covered with (slang)          | 43. Having a strong, pleasant taste |
| 18. Promotional material        | 49. It's becoming more prevalent       | 8. Nigerian City                 | 44. Golf score                      |
| 19. Domesticated animal         | 50. State in India                     | 9. Midway between south and east | 45. Mayhem                          |
| 20. Larry and Curly's buddy     | 52. Measure of illumination            | 10. A way to shut                | 46. Drenched                        |
| 21. The best ever               | 53. Raised platform                    | 11. Stop playing                 | 51. River in northeastern Asia      |
| 24. TV network                  | 56. Japanese warrior                   | 12. Marshy places                | 54. Drug to treat anxiety (abbr.)   |
| 27. Checked for                 | 61. R.L. Stevenson novel               | 13. Takes apart                  | 55. Part-time employee              |
| 30. Dry or withered             | 63. Transitory                         | 14. Ten cents                    | 56. A very large body of water      |
| 31. Expression of annoyance     | 64. Advanced degree                    | 17. A gesture of assent          | 57. Aboriginal people of Japan      |
| 33. Dash                        | 65. Fiddler crabs                      | 22. Scent                        | 58. Millisecond                     |
| 34. Fifth note of a major scale |                                        | 23. Teletypewriter               | 59. Forearm bone                    |
| 35. A secret clique             |                                        | 24. General's assistant (abbr.)  | 60. Subway dweller                  |
| 37. Partner to                  |                                        | 25. Hillside                     | 62. Royal Mail                      |
|                                 |                                        | 26. Taxi driver                  |                                     |
|                                 |                                        | 28. Semitic Sun god              |                                     |

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 6

# Carlos Vega Fund now accepting grant applications

HOLYOKE – For more than forty years, Carlos Vega fought for social justice in the Greater Holyoke area. In 2010, a small group of family and friends started the Fund to support the kind of social justice initiatives that were important to Carlos.

Local non-profits and individuals are invited to apply for funding between March 19 and the April 19 at 5 p.m. deadline, by completing the application form available at [www.carlosvegafund.org](http://www.carlosvegafund.org). All applicants must have either 501(c)(3) status or be fiscally sponsored

by a 501(c)(3) organization.

This year, the Carlos Vega Fund for Social Justice has increased the grant amount to up to \$2,000, used for a specific, one-time program or project that focuses on the fundamental primary causes of injustice, fosters change, and promotes self-help and empowerment.

The purpose of the grants is to support the efforts of those who are addressing issues of poverty and oppression and involve people who are socially and economically marginalized in the greater Holyoke area.

The CVFSJ has funded a wide variety of organizations and projects over the years. Here are just a few examples of the projects they have supported: The purchase of educational materials for migrants and refugees learning English at The Gray House in Springfield; The creation of a Puerto Rican and Latinx History, Culture, and Social Movements collection at the Holyoke Public Library; Holyoke Safe Neighborhood Initiative's Back To School event, which provides backpacks and school supplies to Holyoke youth; Plunge Arts, an arts summer camp for girls involved with Girls, Inc.; Granby-To-Go, a food pantry for students in the Granby Public Schools; Support for a community garden remodeling project for Nuestras Raices.

Previous mini grants have supported a variety of other organizations including: Clinical and Support Options, Enchanted Circle Theater, Girls Inc. of the Valley and Plunge Arts, First Shift Productions, Granby Public Schools, The Gray House, Holyoke Public Schools, Holyoke Safe Neighborhood

Initiative, Holyoke Senior Center and Western Mass Elder Care, Home City Development, OneHolyoke CDC, The Performance Project, Lorraine's Kitchen in Chicopee, Treehouse, Seeds of a Father, and Wistariahurst Museum.

The Carlos Vega Fund for Social Justice is administered through the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts and is overseen by an advisory committee. Since 2012, the Fund has awarded over \$63,000 to fifty-two organizations in the greater Holyoke area.

In addition to our spring grant cycle, the Carlos Vega Fund advisory board is looking to the fall of 2024 to name our 10th Carlos Vega Social Justice Award.

The expected date to award grant funding is May 12. Grantees are expected to participate in the awards ceremony.

For further information and/or to obtain an application, please visit the Carlos Vega Fund for Social Justice website at <http://www.carlosvegafund.org/> or contact Aaron Vega at [carlosvegafund.413@gmail.com](mailto:carlosvegafund.413@gmail.com).



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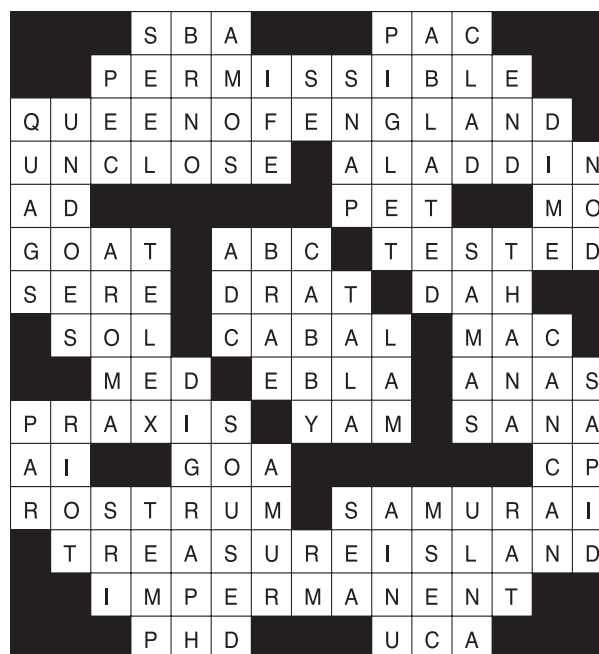
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## Holyoke BikePed looking for volunteers

HOLYOKE – As the warm weather approaches, the Holyoke BikePed is looking for motivated individuals looking to participate in efforts to improve biking and walking within the city of Holyoke. The committee works closely on city infrastructure projects, Safe routes to School initiatives, and fun events including the Bike Ride with the Mayor and Bike Night at the Armor Yard.

Join BikePed every first Monday of the month at 6 p.m. via zoom or in person in the City Hall Annex 4th floor.



## 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 \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

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## St. Patrick's Road Race set for this Saturday

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – The weekend of St. Patrick's Day is synonymous with the popular parade in the streets of downtown Holyoke. But equally tradition is the 10K St. Patrick's Day Road Race.

The road race was disappointingly cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and again in 2021 when COVID-19 rates rose due to the vaccine not being as widely available at the time.

But last year, the race returned to the joy people throughout the region and beyond and Holyoke once again became a hub of activity beginning with "Race Day."

And the sights and scenes of St. Patrick's Day weekend were also back in the Paper City

See RACE, page 7

## Holyoke Youth compete in Suburban playoffs

CHICOPEE – Last week, Holyoke's 7-8 Youth girls basketball team participated in the Suburban Basketball League playoffs.

Holyoke would enter the playoff phase of the season last week with games throughout the week. Holyoke was scheduled to participate in a championship game last Sunday.



Bella Lachat gets ready to shoot.



Olivia Athas surveys the court, looking to start a play.



Aliana Almodovar concentrates as she shoots.



Yami Perez makes and off-balance shot.

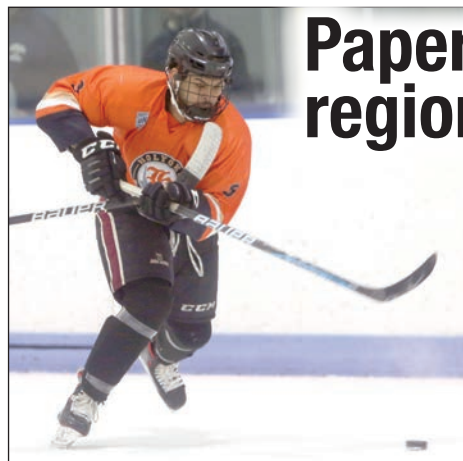
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Nick Cambria looks to center the puck.



Zach Paisley heads up the left side.



Vinnie McAllister sends a pass away.

## Papermen represent region in new league

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Papermen, an amateur adult hockey team, was in action last Saturday afternoon. The Papermen are brand new adult team participating in the Union Hockey League, a new adult league in the New York and New England region. The new team got started in January and is playing a 32-game season with seven other teams that joined the league. Home games are played at Fitzpatrick Rink in Holyoke.



Mark Laviolette makes his way up the right side of the ice.



Nick McNally comes into the ice and immediately takes control of the puck.



Gaetano Delonge receives a pass.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

# Worcester Railers suffer loss to Trois-Rivières Lions

TROIS-RIVIÈRES, QC – The Worcester Railers HC (25-25-4-2, 56pts) lost to the Trois-Rivières Lions (23-26-3-3, 52pts) on Saturday afternoon by the final score of 3-1 in front of a crowd of 2,224 at the Colisée Videotron. The Railers head back home to play the Reading Royals for their second school-day game of the year on Wednesday, March 13th at 10:05am.

Trois-Rivieres notched the game's first two goals from Jakov Novak (1-0-1) and Justin Ducharme (1-0-1) to go up 2-0 entering the second. Nicolas Guay (1-0-1) extended the Lions lead to 3-0 with an

early goal in the second. Trevor Cosgrove (1-0-1) scored the final goal of the game in the second on the power play as the Railers would go on to lose 3-1 to Trois-Rivières to wrap up the weekend.

Jakov Novak (21st) continued his hot play against the Railers with his 13th point against the team this year. Novak found the puck loose in front on a chaotic play in front of Ceci and proceeded to pat it past him to Put the Lions ahead 1-0. While short-handed, Cory Thomas airmailed a puck from his own corner into the neutral zone. Justin Ducharme (14th) skated past the Railers defense and scooped up the

puck en route to scoring blocker side on a breakaway past Ceci to make it 2-0 Trois-Rivières going into the second.

Trois-Rivières picked up in the second where they left off in the first with a goal just 3:57 into the frame. Nicolas Guay (6th) entered the Railers zone on a three-on-one rush with Tyler Hylland and John Parker-Jones. As the puck bounced around the attacking zone, Guay placed a perfect shot bar-down past Ceci for his second goal in two games to make it 3-0 Lions. Worcester went to the power play for the second time off a trip from Nicolas Lariviere. Trevor Cosgrove (7th)

hammered a one-timer off a pass from Keeghan Howdeshell and made it 3-1 Railers on the man-advantage. The Lions continued to pressure in the second, but Cole Ceci was strong the rest of the period as Worcester was outshot 13-7 in the second.

Worcester woke up in the third, outshooting the Lions 18-2 in the frame. Worcester tested Strauss Mann heavily in the period, but the Greenwich, CT native was strong in net as he turned all 18 shots aside. He secured the third star of the game for the Lions, along with the win for Trois-Rivieres.

## Pitkat gets new ride as he returns to Stafford

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT – Woody Pitkat announced today that he will return to competition in the Open Modified events at Stafford Motor Speedway during the 2024 season. Pitkat will drive the No. 8, a Chassis Pro machine, owned by Mike and Makayla Holmes.

Pitkat will run all of the Open Modified events, including the \$20,000 to win NAPA Spring Sizzler to open the season, April 27-28.

"Mike has been a friend over the years and driving for him in this new car is a great opportunity," Pitkat said. "The team will remain very similar to our team with Dunleavy Racing, with Cam McDermott as the crew chief and many of our crew members. We're looking forward to getting back to Stafford, a

place I am lucky enough to call home. They have done a great job with their short-track racing program and we're excited to chase wins in these major events."

The team may also run additional events in New England if time allows. Pitkat announced last week he will return to Dunleavy Racing to compete for the full Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series schedule driving their No. 88.

Mike Holmes & Son Excavating includes services like septic installation, septic repairs, complete house lots, additions, yard expansions, drainage work, gravel driveways, trucking and more. They also have a 24-hour emergency service available.

"We're beyond excited to finally be a car owner, especially with having

a driver like Woody Pitkat behind the wheel," Mike Holmes said. "Woody has become a great friend over the years and I'm blessed to have Cam and his wife, Lauren, who have become family to my wife Makayla and I, along with our entire crew. I can't thank Todd Owen, the Chassis Pro team, and all of our sponsors and crew members enough. We're looking forward to Stafford and some other races we will have scheduled to chase checkered flags and have a fun year."

Pitkat is second on the all-time Stafford Motor Speedway wins list with 83 career victories, the most recent in 2023. He's also a two-time Stafford Late Model champion and a former SK Modified champion at the Connecticut half-mile.

## Pioneers 2024 schedule released

LUDLOW – Earlier this week, the Western Mass. Pioneers have released their 2024 schedule. It includes potential participation in the U.S. Open Cup, which begins on March 19. The Pioneers have won an Open Cup match in the past. Later, the Pioneers have their "friendly" exhibition game scheduled for May 10.

They will face 3rd Eye FC prior to the start of their USL-2 League schedule. Their opener for the regular season is against the Boston Bolts on the road May 14. Their home opener is scheduled for May 18 against Pathfinder FC of New York. The schedule continues through July 13 and includes a total of 14 games.

## Registration now open for Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to infuse new talent into its league for the 2024 season.

Registration for the 2024 season is now open and any interested players can go to [www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org](http://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org) to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league. The league website will also be updated over the next month with information about the upcoming season.

There are many open roster spots available in the league for the 2024 season, which is tentatively scheduled to begin on Sunday, April 21. The league plays most Sunday from late April through late August with playoffs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically fields six teams each year. Games are usually played at 10 a.m. with fields in Easthampton and

South Hadley normally used.

The Quabbin Valley league is an all-abilities league and all are welcome to join. Eligibility is players who are age 28 and over. You must be 30 to be eligible to pitch in the league. Your age for eligibility is whatever age you will turn in 2024. The league is also able to entertaining taking in an entire group as a team to add to the league. Please email the league board for to inquire about entering a team.

The league is currently in the process of preparing for the 2024 season and held a meeting on Feb. 18 to discussion plans for the upcoming season. The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday March 24 at 11:40 a.m. at the Hangar Pub & Grill in South Hadley. All are welcome to attend the meeting, ask questions and express interest in joining.

## T-Birds suffer shutout against Bruins

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (26-26-3-2) threw everything they could at the net of the Providence Bruins (35-17-3-2) without success in a 5-0 defeat on Sunday at Amica Mutual Pavilion.

It was evident from the onset that the goaltenders were not going to allow anything easily, as both Colten Ellis of Springfield and Brandon Bussi of Providence came out with laser-like focus. Bussi was exceptional from the get-go, as he turned away a trio of point-blank chances in the opening 10 minutes off of Will Bitten, Joey Duszak, and Zach Dean.

Operating on the first power play of the afternoon, the T-Birds instead saw the scoreless deadlock broken when Jayson Megna intercepted a pass and beat everyone up ice to beat Ellis on a backhand breakaway, giving the P-Bruins a 1-0 lead at 11:23 of the first period.

Megna's tally, which began Providence's Teddy Bear Toss, proved to

be the only shot to beat Bussi or Ellis for the next period and a half. The T-Birds peppered the Providence net from all angles and in all situations, but Bussi continued to bamboozle his division foes.

With Springfield still pushing hard to equalize, Oskar Steen finally afforded Bussi and his defense some insurance when he elevated a wrist shot past Ellis 3:58 into the final period. Joey Abate and John Beecher would follow suit, setting each other up for odd-man rush goals at 13:45 and 15:37 respectively. With the game well in hand, the Bruins' top power play unit added one more for good measure as Georgii Merkulov potted the Bruins' 5th goal at 19:28.

The T-Birds get some well-deserved rest before a crucial two-game series in Charlotte next Saturday and Sunday against the Checkers inside Bojangles' Coliseum. Puck drop on Saturday is set for 4 p.m., with a 1 p.m. matinee on tap for Sunday.

### RACE, from page 7

the past two years as the downtown area around Maple and High Streets were lined with patrons. Bars and restaurants were filled with people going in and out, the Mummers gave their performance, and children and others were able to participate in the Kids Walk and Fun Run prior to the "main event" taking place at 1 p.m.

This year's race, the 47th running of the tradition, will take place this Saturday, March 16. Once again, many will be looking to add their name to the list of winners of the 10K.

In 2023, it was the ideal day for Jenna Gigliotti, an Amherst woman who won the 10K Road Race for the second consecutive year. She crossed the finish line at 35:29.

This year's male and overall winner was Michael Norberg, who also is from Amherst. He finished with a time 30:50. He was more than 30 seconds ahead of the second-place finisher, Bradley Mish, of Hadley.

There were more than 5,000 participants in this year's event, which is part of

a big weekend in Holyoke, going along with the parade that took place on Sunday. It also is viewed as a practice course for runners participating in more races later in the year, including the Boston Marathon. There are harriers who will run 6.2-mile course multiple times to simulate 26.2-mile marathon distance, including participating in the main race.

Of the more than 5,000 harriers signed up, 3,813 registered finishes.

Benjamin Lasky, of Ludlow, was a top local finisher, coming in 14th at 33:41. Lasky has been a top 10 finisher in the past.

The race continued traditions of participants running for various charities and other causes, in honor of deceased loved

ones, and of course, the running of the race in costume.

The current cost, as of press time, to enter the race, is \$35. The two-mile walk price was \$25 as of press time, but was expected to rise on March 13.

The weather, as of press time, is expected to be warmer than in previous years, near 60 and sunny.



The first wave of harriers are off in the 2023 St. Patrick's Road Race in Holyoke.

File photo





# Summer Camp

## Register Now & Save!

**DON'T MISS OUT! REGISTER EARLY! MORE INFO AT BEMENT.ORG/SUMMER**

### Adventure Awaits You!

Summer camp at The Bement School

Bement camps are a unique day experience for children entering grades K-8.

Arts and crafts, swimming, nature programs, hiking and more. Lunch is included. Before and after care is available.



**ENROLL IN ALL WEEKS AND GET 7TH WEEK FREE!**

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SESSION 2: JUNE 24-28  
SESSION 3: JULY 8-12  
SESSION 4: JULY 15-19  
SESSION 5: JULY 22-26  
SESSION 6: JULY 29-AUG 2  
SESSION 7: AUG 5-9

Visit [Bement.org/summer](http://Bement.org/summer) for more information and to register. Register early!

### Enrichment Camps!

Led by faculty and staff from Bement as well as local area experts, enrichment camps are open to campers in a variety of grades. Check the website for specific offerings each week.

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Please contact [oneal@bement.org](mailto:oneal@bement.org) with questions.

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in Performing Arts, Debate & Public Speaking

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**Greene Acres Equestrian Center L.L.C.**

### April Vacation Riding Camp - April 16-18

### 2024 Summer Riding Sessions

June 25-28 • July 22-25 • July 29-Aug 2  
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9AM - 3PM LUNCH NOT PROVIDED

Basic Horse Care, Daily Riding, English & Western, Ages 5 & up

Call to Register (413) 813-9291  
53 Ware Road, Belchertown  
Email: [Amanda.greeneacres@gmail.com](mailto:Amanda.greeneacres@gmail.com)



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**TODDLER • PRESCHOOL • SCHOOL AGE**  
Offering Flexible Care Programs For Kids Ages 18 mo. - 12 yrs.

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10 Themed Weeks • Full & Part Time Options/Single Weeks or All Summer!  
Swimming • Field Trips • Close walk to Playgrounds & CHCS Pool  
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\*Start of camp based on Belchertown School Schedule

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[belchertownkidzclub@gmail.com](mailto:belchertownkidzclub@gmail.com)

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EEC LICENSED PROGRAM #177446



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July 1 - August 16

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Be part of this year's camps and discover the true meaning of summer...having fun and making friends!

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**Camp MacDuffie offers seven weeks of exciting camp experiences:**

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**Camp programs include:**  
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The MacDuffie School • 66 School Street • Granby, MA 01033 • 413.255.0000 Ext.110

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Fresh cut & split \$200.00  
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**4 YEAR OLD MYERS PLOW,** 3 sets of tires with rims 15". Call **413-967-7118** or **413-658-8513**.

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## WANTED

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We load it & take it.  
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## SERVICES



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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.**

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Lawn mowing, Spring thru Fall clean-ups, mulching, pruning. Holyoke, South Hadley, Chicopee, Hadley and Amherst. Call **413-536-3697**.

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## PETS

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## HELP WANTED

**CLASS A DRIVER.** Triaxle dump trailer work. Local deliveries, minimum 40 hours, rate based on experience. **RB Enterprises, Ludlow, MA. 413-583-8393.**

**HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC.** Construction equipment and trucks. Experience required, full time. **RB Enterprises, Ludlow, MA. 413-583-8393.**

## HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

The Town of Brookfield is seeking an experienced full-time Highway Superintendent. Full job description at **brookfieldma.us**. Please submit resume and cover letter to **selectmen@brookfieldma.us**. Application review will begin after March 28th. Resumes accepted until position is filled. Brookfield is an equal opportunity employer.

**SQUIER & CO.** is looking to hire an oil truck driver. \$40,000-\$60,000 full time. Squire will provide CDL school for the right candidate! Email: **squeroil@verizon.net. Call 413-267-3184** or visit us at 5 Squier Ave., Monson, MA. Monday-Friday.

The Town of Huntington is seeking a part-time **HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** for 16 hours per week. Applicants must be proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook. Hours are flexible, but must be worked during the regular highway department hours of Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to assist the Highway Superintendent. Application and complete job description are available online at **www.huntingtonma.us** or by emailing **admin@huntingtonma.us**. Position is open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

# FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

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

DEADLINES: **MONDAY 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**CITY OF HOLYOKE**  
**Office of Purchasing**  
**REQUEST FOR**  
**PROPOSALS**  
**2024-44 OPEL CANNABIS**  
**CONSULTANT SERVICES**  
 The City of Holyoke is seeking sealed proposals for a consultant to assist the City in navigating CCC regulations. This would include but not be limited to Host Community Agreements (HCA), Special Permits, Business Analysis of current license holders, and completion of equity provisions in compliance with CMR regulations. The city is looking for a 1year Agreement to start on or before **3/31/2024**. There will be an option to renew for up to 2 years based on Vendor performance and satisfaction of the city. All renewals are dependent upon appropriation.

Documents are available starting 3/4/2024 at 10AM from the Purchasing Office or you can request electronically from [Sweeney@holyoke.org](mailto:Sweeney@holyoke.org) or [morrowj@holyoke.org](mailto:morrowj@holyoke.org).

Sealed Responses ARE DUE BY 2:00 PM ON 3/19/24 EST, where they will be publicly opened.

**EMAIL SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED,**

**THE CITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT AND AND ALL SUBMISSION**  
 03/08, 03/15/2024

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**CITY OF HOLYOKE**  
**GAS & ELECTRIC**  
**DEPARTMENT**  
**2024 ELECTRIC**  
**DISTRIBUTION**  
**TRANSFORMERS**

Sealed bids for the above-named contract will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept. until **2:00 p.m. April 2, 2024** at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St., Holyoke, MA 01040, at which time proposals will be publicly opened and read.

Additional information may be obtained from:

Chi Wong  
 Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.  
 99 Suffolk St.  
 Holyoke, MA 01040  
[cwong@hged.com](mailto:cwong@hged.com)  
 (413) 536-9308

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 in the best interest of the City of Holyoke.

Please mark sealed envelopes "Bid for 2024 Electric Distribution Transformers" and address them to:

**James M. Lavelle, Manager**  
 Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.  
 99 Suffolk St.  
 Holyoke, MA 01040  
 03/15/2024

**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. HD24C0077CA**  
**In the matter of:**  
**Percilla Jones**  
**CITATION ON PETITION**  
**TO CHANGE NAME**

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Percilla Jones of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Percilla Ashley Pagan-Thomas**  
**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 04/05/2024.**

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: March 08, 2024

**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
 Register of Probate  
 03/15/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Hampden Probate and Family Court**  
**50 State Street**  
**Springfield, MA 01103**  
**Docket No. HD23P2086PM**

**In the matter of:**  
**Janat D. Langevin**  
**Of: Holyoke, MA**  
**RESPONDENT**  
**(Person to be Protected/Minor)**  
**CITATION GIVING**  
**NOTICE OF PETITION**  
**FOR APPOINTMENT**

**OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 & §5-405**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Roger Langevin of Holyoke, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Janat D. Langevin** is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that Roger Langevin of Holyoke, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

**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 **03/29/2024**. 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. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
 Date: March 01, 2024

**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
 Register of Probate  
 03/15/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Hampden Probate and Family Court**  
**50 State Street**  
**Springfield, MA 01103**  
**Docket No. HD24P0280GD**  
**In the interests of**  
**Izabella M Marinello**  
**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 **02/08/2024** by **Carrie Gwozdzik** of Holyoke, MA will be held **03/25/2024 10:00 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing**. 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. 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: February 23, 2024  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
 Register of Probate  
 03/15/2024

**City of Holyoke**  
**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**NOTICE**

The Holyoke Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, March 28, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.com**; ID: 878 0431 1703; Call In \*67 646 558 8656 to hear the petition of Nilsa Laboy, who is requesting a variance from Section 4.4.6 (2) for a principal structure for the property located at 475 Northampton Street, Holyoke, MA. (223-00-012).

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.

Applicant: Nilsa Laboy  
 Board of Appeals:  
 Josh Knox  
 03/08, 03/15/2024

**CITY OF HOLYOKE**  
**PURCHASING**  
**DEPARTMENT**  
**INVITATION FOR BIDS**  
**2024-45DPW**  
**INTEGRATED PEST**  
**MANAGEMENT**  
**PROGRAM**  
**SEALED BIDS ARE DUE**  
**BY 2:00 PM ON 4/11/2024.**  
**EMAIL SUBMISSIONS**  
**WILL NOT BE**  
**ACCEPTED**

The City of Holyoke requests Bids for a comprehensive Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program for seventeen city and school buildings.

Documents will be available from the City of Holyoke's Purchasing Office, 536 Dwight Street, Room 3, Holyoke, MA 01040 beginning at 10:00AM on Wednesday, March 13, 2024. Bid documents may be requested via email to [sweeney@holyoke.org](mailto:sweeney@holyoke.org) or in person at the City of Holyoke's Purchasing Office. The deadline to submit bid proposals is April 11, 2024, by 2:00PM, at which time all bids 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 BIDS.**

APPLICANT:  
 Volta Charging, LLC  
 BOARD OF APPEALS:  
 Josh Knox, Chair  
 03/08, 03/15/2024

**CITY OF HOLYOKE**  
**PURCHASING**  
**DEPARTMENT**  
**INVITATION FOR BIDS**  
**2024-41DPW**  
**PLUMBING REPAIR**  
**SERVICES**  
**SEALED BIDS ARE DUE**  
**BY 2:00 PM ON 4/4/2024.**  
**EMAIL SUBMISSIONS**  
**WILL NOT BE**  
**ACCEPTED**

The City of Holyoke is seeking sealed bids for the provision of plumbing repair services as needs at twelve municipal buildings. Documents will be available from the City of Holyoke's Purchasing Office, 536 Dwight Street, Room 3, Holyoke, MA 01040 beginning at 10:00AM on Wednesday, March 6, 2024.

Bid documents may be requested via email to [sweeney@holyoke.org](mailto:sweeney@holyoke.org) or in person at the City of Holyoke's Purchasing Office. The deadline to submit bid proposals is April 4, 2024, by 2:00PM at which time all bids 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 BIDS**  
 03/08, 03/15/2024

**City of Holyoke**  
**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**NOTICE**

The Holyoke Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.com**; ID: 878 0431 1703 CALL IN \*67 646 558 8656 to hear the petition of Volta Charging, LLC who is requesting a variance from Section 6.4.3.6 (Electric Signs) and Section 6.4.6.8 (a) (Off-Premises Signs) for the property located at 28 Lincoln Street, Holyoke, MA (073-00-034).

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.

APPLICANT:  
 Volta Charging, LLC  
 BOARD OF APPEALS:  
 Josh Knox, Chair  
 03/08, 03/15/2024

Classifieds

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REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT



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# Area fire chiefs stress importance of smoke/CO detectors

By Dalton Zbierski  
dzbierski@turley.com

EAST LONGMEADOW – Led by State Fire Marshal John Davine, fire personnel from across the state gathered at the East Longmeadow Fire Department on the morning of Feb. 22 to emphasize the significance of maintaining working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

“We have carefully reviewed the recent data from fatal fires and have noticed some trends,” Davine said. “A total of 45 people lost their lives from fire in Massachusetts last year, and nearly 70% of those deaths took place in the home. Two-thirds of those fire victims were older adults ages 65 and up. Tragically, more than half of those homes that had fatal fires did not have working smoke alarms.”

There was a time in the state’s history where a single fire could take the lives of 492 people, as occurred during the Cocoanut Grove nightclub fire in Boston in 1942, so 45 fire fatalities statewide in 2023 represents generational progress, but more progress could be made if all residents installed working detectors.

Westfield Fire Chief Patrick Egloff noted that 30% of the state’s residential fire deaths last year occurred in Western Massachusetts. Egloff is vice president of the Western Massachusetts Fire Chiefs Association, which represents more than 100 communities west of Worcester, ranging from larger urban centers to small rural towns and everything in between.

“No matter where we work, we all agree on one thing: working smoke and CO alarms are vital, lifesaving tools that belong in every home, apartment, moving house and dorm,” Egloff said.

Egloff relayed that fire personnel are realistic and know fires will occur as long as people are cooking, heating their homes, smoking and using electricity. However, almost every fire death can be prevented if residents install, test and maintain their smoke detectors and alarms.

“Smoke alarms alert you to the danger and give you time to escape safely, especially in the overnight hours while you’re sleeping,” Egloff said. “The sooner you know about the danger, the faster you can escape, and the sooner we’re notified, the faster we can be there to help.”

Davine, formerly the Northampton fire chief, said that in the case of several dozen fatal fire incidents last year, investigators found smoke alarms disabled, outdated or altogether missing.



State Fire Marshal John Davine takes to the podium at the East Longmeadow Fire Department on Feb. 22 to talk about the importance of having working smoke and CO detectors and alarms.

Turley photo by Dalton Zbierski

Springfield Fire Commissioner B.J. Calvi spoke of a tragedy that occurred in the city on March 30, 2023, during a structure fire. Multiple people were trapped in the residence and couldn’t escape.

“When (firefighters) made entry and knocked down the fire, they found two elderly adults who never made it out of their bed. The subsequent investigation showed that there were no smoke detectors present in the house,” Calvi said.

Calvi noted that there were five fire fatalities in Springfield last year, of which four had no smoke detectors present.

“These are tragedies that could have been averted and need to stop,” Calvi said, noting that all the fatal fires in Springfield last year occurred between midnight and 8 a.m.

“Please don’t spend a single night in your home without a working smoke detector,” he said.

Easthampton Fire Chief Christopher Norris encourages residents to check their detectors and alarms when they change their clocks, as the devices don’t last forever. If you don’t remember when you installed your smoke detector, the manufacturing date is printed on the back.

“Smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years. If your alarm was made before February of 2014, or if there’s no date at all, it’s time to replace it,” Norris said. “We recommend alarms made by

well-known, national brands. You should be able to find most of these at your local hardware stores.”

Chicopee Fire Chief Dan Stamborski said smoke detectors and alarms are the first line of defense against a fire in your home and that everyone should know what to do when the alarm goes off.

“That’s where your home escape plan comes in,” Stamborski said. “First and foremost, take a look around your house on a daily basis, be sure to keep furniture and clutter away from your doors, windows and stairways because you don’t want anything blocking your way out during an emergency. And, when we respond to your home, you certainly don’t want to impede our access to get to you.”

Stamborski encourages families to practice their escape routes and choose two or more ways to leave the building, which can include windows if you are on a lower floor. Pick a meeting place outside; it should be a safe distance away where everyone can gather.

“Once you’re at the meeting place, never go back inside, not for anything. Call 911 and let the firefighters enter with their protective equipment,” Stamborski said.

Once you create your escape route, practice it often, both during the day and at night until it becomes muscle memory. Also, sleeping with your bedroom door closed is the simplest way to keep fire,

smoke and carbon monoxide out.

“You’d be amazed how much protection a simple closed door offers,” Stamborski said.

Wilbraham Fire Chief Michael Andrews spoke about CO, a poisonous gas created by burning fuels that is often produced by home heating equipment. CO is harmful and potentially fatal, especially for young children or older adults.

“What makes CO so dangerous is that you can’t see it, smell it or taste it. Carbon monoxide is a silent, invisible killer,” Andrews said. “Carbon monoxide poisoning is one of the leading causes of accidental poisoning deaths in the country. Here in Massachusetts, more than 350 people end up in the emergency room each year because of CO poisoning.”

Last year, in Massachusetts, there were more than 5,000 calls reporting carbon monoxide, and the vast majority ended safely because people had working alarms.

Andrews said be sure to have CO alarms in every level of your home, test them every month and replace the batteries twice a year. The alarms themselves need to be replaced every five, seven to 10 years; one can check the manufacturer’s instructions or look up the make and model online to find out.

“Finally, if you hear it going off, get outside and dial 911. Don’t disable them or write it off as a malfunction. Let us check to see if it’s safe,” Andrews said.

## Easter Egg Hunt set for March 23



HOLYOKE – Holyoke Parks and Recreation cordially invites the community to Holyoke’s annual Spring Celebration and Easter Egg Hunt. This community event will take place on Saturday, March 23, from 10 a.m. to noon at Holyoke Heritage State Park.

Enjoy unlimited free rides at the Holyoke Merry Go Round and take pictures with the Easter Bunny.

Music, spring crafts, pony rides and balloons will also be available.

Easter Egg Hunt Times: 10 a.m. - Toddlers; 10:30 a.m. - 4-6-year-olds; 11 a.m. - 7-9-year-olds and 11:30 a.m. - 10-12-year-olds.

This event is free of charge and will occur rain or shine. In the event of rain, all activities will be moved inside the Holyoke Merry Go Round.

The Holyoke Children’s Museum will also be open. Children are encouraged to bring their own baskets for egg collecting.

For more information visit our web site at [www.holyoke.org](http://www.holyoke.org) or call the Parks & Recreation Department at (413) 322-5620.

## Sensory-friendly egg hunt to be held at Wistariahurst

HOLYOKE – Join Wistariahurst Museum and hop in for a sensory-friendly egg hunt that focuses on gentle exploration and enjoyment. Designed for families with sensory sensitivities, this egg-ceptional event is tailored so every bunny feels comfortable and welcome. Weather permitting, the egg-stravaganza will take place in the gardens but will be relocated indoors in the event of inclement weather. Each child will be able to gather six eggs and choose from a selection of prizes ranging from candy to fidget toys. This event is the first of its kind at Wistariahurst, and staff members are ready to crack open the fun.

“We saw an opportunity for the museum to offer this city tradition to kids who may not thrive at the large-scale egg hunt downtown. We wanted to be a space that could offer some more inclusion for this fun event,” Megan Seiller, museum director,

enthus. “And we are thankful for the support from Holyoke’s Parks and Recreation Department on this event.”

Families can sign up for ten minute time slots between 10 and 11:30 a.m., and will be limited to two at a time. The egg hunt will continue until noon to allow children to explore at their own pace and enjoy a stress free experience. Stay and search as long as the child wants, time slots are only meant to ensure a calm and seamless check-in process. If families would like to explore the museum and/or gardens ahead of the event, open hours are on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Tuesdays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. and the gardens are open every day from dawn until dusk.

Please visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sensory-friendly-egg-hunt-at-wistariahurst-museum-tickets-840159588947?aff=ebdshoporgprofile> to learn more about this event.