

# the HOLYOKE Sun

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## Budget process timeline laid out

HOLYOKE – Mayor Joshua Garcia issued a press release regarding the upcoming budget process and timeline.

“Our budget planning process has been moving along. Since January when the budget memo with instructions were sent to department heads and a memo sent to City Council kicking off our process, the Interim City Auditor and the Mayor together with our hired finance forecasting consultant Tj Plante have been meeting with departments to go over their anticipated needs for the next fiscal year. We have been reviewing department requests in detail so that it will assist us as well as the City Council Finance Committee and the rest of the City Council body in understanding each department’s essential needs, preferences, and priorities in order to balance all funding requests. At

See BUDGET, page 6

## Lawrence School next target for HPS to improve buildings

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Public Schools are taking steps that could ultimately lead to either renovations of the existing H.B. Lawrence Elementary School or potentially construction of a brand new school at 156 Cabot Street.

Just a short time after Peck Middle School celebrated its grand opening, Lawrence is the latest building school officials are hoping to address.

According to the Holyoke Public Schools, the City of Holyoke, in cooperation with the school district, submitted an official statement of interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for what they describe as a “core building project” for the Lawrence School.

The SOI is the first step of many to enter the MSBA’s program for school building construction, additions, and/or renovations. According to the MSBA website, an SOI “allows dis-



H.B. Lawrence School is the next school public city officials are eyeing to improve.

Submitted photo

tricts to inform the MSBA of deficiencies that may exist in a local school facility and how those deficiencies inhibit the delivery of the district’s educational program.”

The MSBA process is familiar to Holyokers with Peck having just been built after several years of going through the process.

Before the SOI was submitted, the City Council voted in support of the application on March 17, and the

Holyoke School Committee voted in support on March 23. Submitting an SOI does not require a financial commitment at this time. It simply allows the process to move forward through the review stage.

HPS stated Interim Superintendent Anthony Soto and Mayor Joshua Garcia recommended the submission of an SOI to the City Council and School Committee for the following reasons:

- Holyoke’s goal dating back to 2016 was to open a new middle school for every Holyoke student to ensure equity of opportunity and experiences for all middle school students. Holyoke partially met this goal with the opening of the Dr. William R. Peck School in August 2025.

- The current H.B. Lawrence School is the district’s building in the poorest condition and is ill-equipped to meet the needs of a mod-

ern education.

- The project is expected to be financially feasible at this time, in part because the Peck construction project came in significantly under budget, and because there would likely be space for this new project in the city’s anticipated debt schedule in the next 30-40 years. Mayor Garcia is working collaboratively with city leaders to assess the

See SCHOOL, page 6

## Carrie named new principal at Morgan Elementary School

HOLYOKE – William G. Morgan Elementary School welcomes a new principal with a familiar face: Ryan Carrie.

Carrie joined the Morgan community in 2023 as assistant principal and has served as interim principal since late



Ryan Carrie

*“The Morgan community is very special, and I look forward to working with our students, families, and staff to continue to foster a strong sense of belonging,”*

- Ryan Carrie

February following the departure of former principal Sacha Garcia-Mailloux who left for a position with

Springfield Public Schools.

“We have a deep bench of talent in Holyoke Public Schools,” said Interim Superintendent Anthony

Soto. “After undergoing a comprehensive selection process, I am pleased that Mr. Carrie emerged as the top candidate to be the next principal of Morgan. He is a dedicated instructional and cultural leader who is deeply committed to the success and well-being of Morgan’s students, families, and staff.”

Carrie first joined Holyoke Public Schools in 2022 as the dean of man-

agement and operations at Sullivan School. He also served as a grade 5 teacher in Springfield Public Schools and worked in youth development in Springfield and Boston.

“During his time at Morgan, Mr. Carrie has strengthened instructional systems and school culture by promoting high-quality

See CARRIE, page 6

## Earth Day citywide clean-up planned

HOLYOKE – A city-wide, Earth Day clean-up of Holyoke, organized by the Hampden County Sheriff’s Department, will take place on Wednesday, April 22, from 10 am to noon, followed by a thank you cookout from noon to 1 pm.

Volunteers will gather starting at 9:45 at the Heritage State Park parking area on Appleton Street across from the Holyoke Police Department. Tools, T-shirts, and instructions will be provided. There will be free parking in the Suffolk Street parking deck for the Earth Day volunteers. The cookout at noon will also be at Heritage State Park, near the carousel.

Other sponsors of the clean-up are the Holyoke Mayor’s Office, OneHolyoke, Way Finders, Holyoke DPW, and MassMutual, among others.

Volunteers are encouraged to participate. A volunteer registration link can be found at: <https://forms.gle/vVX-KnDdAUzASpNPy5>.



## Spring action heats up



The weather was much warmer this week. In sports action, the Holyoke High School softball team was in action on Tuesday afternoon, hosting Smith Vocational High School of Northampton. For results from Holyoke softball from last week, see more on page 7.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

## Mayor: Flex Squad is back in action

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – This week, Mayor Joshua Garcia announced that the return of warm weather has initiated the return of the Holyoke Flex Squad.

The Squad has been patrolling Holyoke neighborhoods since March, working to ensure the city remains clean, safe, and welcoming for residents and visitors. As of today, the squad has conducted numerous sweeps and issued citations to property owners who are in violation of city ordinances.

According to a press release from city hall, 127 have already been cited by the Flex Squad for violations of city cleanliness ordinances. The Holyoke Board of Health has received 35 trash and litter complaints. Not all citations result in issuance of fines if the violation is addressed in a timely manner. There are now 21 active fines for noncompliance, with additional fines expected as re-inspections continue in the coming weeks.

With an early start, the city is hopeful that areas cited will get cleaned up and brought into compliance.

“While these numbers reflect a strong start, they also highlight the impor-

tance of continued accountability,” said Mayor Joshua A. Garcia. “Our community has made meaningful progress in shifting the culture around cleanliness. Now, we must continue building on that momentum by holding each other accountable and doing our part.”

City ordinances require that all property owners, occupants, and business tenants maintain clean and safe premises. This includes:

- Keeping your property free of trash, debris, and excessive vegetation.
- Maintaining adjacent sidewalks, grass strips, and rights-of-way.
- Cleaning and maintaining one-half of any abutting alley.

Residents are encouraged to report cleanliness issues through the city’s SeeClickFix platform. Reports can include both private and city-owned properties. Accountability applies to everyone.

The Flex Squad will continue weekend sweeps and enforcement efforts citywide. As re-inspections increase, additional fines will be issued



Mayor Joshua Garcia

for continued non-compliance.

The Flex Squad was created in the fall of 2022 by Garcia. It has brought about significant improvements to the visual landscape, particularly in the heart of the city.

The Squad is made up of city personnel drawn from the Board of Health, Fire Department, Police Department, and Department of Public Works. The size of the Squad varies, but the usual number of participants is 12.

The Squad is deployed on Saturdays in sectors and neighborhoods where properties have historically been neglected. Squad members make sweeps through the streets and alleys of designated areas. The teams seek to hold property owners accountable for keeping their properties in compliance with city ordinances and state regulations.

It’s not just graffiti and trash. The Flex Squad enforces ordinances that address unmaintained properties, overgrown vegetation, unregistered vehicles, and over-

See SQUAD, page 6

# Rotary Club announces 'Eat Drink, and Be Holyoke'

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Rotary Club has announced the date of the 2026 Eat, Drink, & Be Holyoke, their premier tasting fundraiser and silent auction on Thursday, April 30, 2026. The event will take place at the Holyoke Council on Aging & Senior Center at 5:30pm and will include live music performed by The Earls & Pearls.

Eat, Drink, & Be Holyoke will feature food prepared by Amedeo's Restaurant & Pizzeria, Day

Brook Village Senior Living, Holyoke Hummus, Sweet Baby Rae's Bakery, Rusty's Place, Choo Choo's, 110 Grill, Pic's Pub & Pizzeria, Daruma BBQ & Sushi AYCE, and Hamel's Creative Catering and Summit View Banquets. Beverage tastings will be provided by Quality Beverage. Tasting samples will include craft beer, seltzers, and wine.

Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased at <https://edbh2026.eventbrite.com>.

Eat, Drink & Be

Holyoke is generously sponsored by Holyoke Medical Center; anonymous donors; D & S Plating Co.; Marcotte Ford; Brunault, Proulx & McGuiness; Greenfield and Northampton Cooperative Bank; Meyers Brothers Kalicka, P.C.; The Dowd Agencies, LLC; and The Greater Holyoke YMCA.

The Holyoke Rotary Club is still identifying additional event sponsors, as well as food vendors. Local businesses interested in supporting and collaborating

together with the Holyoke Rotary Club for this event are encouraged to visit [www.holyokerotary.com](http://www.holyokerotary.com).

Proceeds will go towards supporting Rotary projects, mostly within the Holyoke Rotary district of Holyoke, South Hadley, and Granby, Mass. Ongoing Holyoke Rotary projects include providing several annual scholarships, providing food for those in need through community collaborations, and fostering community engagement with free summer con-

certs, as well as funding international clean water initiatives.

Since 2008 the Holyoke Rotary Club has raised over \$150,000 to fund various projects, including the Miracle League of Western Massachusetts Inclusive Playground at Kennedy Field, the media room at the Holyoke Library, K-9 vests for the Holyoke Police Department, and literacy projects with Kelly School and Holyoke Boys' and Girls' Club, among others.

# National Day of Prayer at City Hall

HOLYOKE – Mayor Joshua A. Garcia will host the 75th annual observance of the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 7, at noon outside City Hall. The mayor will be joined by faith leaders, congregations, and City Officials. The public is invited.

The idea of a National Day of Prayer came up in 1775, when the Continental Congress designated a time for prayer in forming a new nation. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln called for such a day. In 1952, Congress established the National Day of Prayer as an annual event. It was signed into law by President Truman. The National Day of Prayer was established as the first Thursday of May each year.

The 2026 National Day of Prayer theme is "Glorify God Among the Nations — Seeking Him in All Generations," based on 1 Chronicles 16. This 75th annual observance will focus on uniting generations in prayer on the 250th anniversary of the nation's founding.

# HCC hosting 'Fresh Check Day' April 29

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is hosting a day dedicated to promoting mental health and wellness on Wednesday, April 29.

"Fresh Check Day" will run from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the HCC Courtyard.

This innovative program, developed by the Connecticut-based Jordan Porco Foundation, is designed to bring together the campus community to "check in" on the mental health and wellness of college students. The event is free and open to all.

Organized by the Office of the Dean of Student Experience and HCC Student Engagement, with support from other campus partners and student clubs, Fresh Check Day will transform the HCC Courtyard into a vibrant expo-like setting with interactive exhibits, food prizes, giveaways – and friendly puppies.

"Student well-being is an essential part of the overall student experience at Holyoke Community College," said Julissa Colón, HCC dean of student experience. "By increasing awareness of mental health resources and creating opportunities for connection, we remind students that they are supported not only academically but as whole people throughout their time here."

Highlights include interactive exhibits and activities designed to educate and engage students on mental health topics, such as stress management, anxiety, depression, and suicide prevention; community engagement opportunities where students can connect with their peers and to campus resources in a positive, community-focused environment; and prizes and giveaways.

The Jordan Porco Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in

Wethersfield, Conn. It was founded in 2011 by Ernie and Marisa Porco after they lost their son Jordan to suicide when he was a freshman in college.

The goal of Fresh Check Day is to create an approachable and hopeful environment for discussing mental health and supporting student wellness.

"Many of our students are navigating competing responsibilities and an increasingly complex world," said Colón. "Events like Fresh Check Day help strengthen a campus culture where students feel seen, valued, and encouraged to reach out."

In the event of rain, the event will be held inside, on the second floor of the HCC Campus Center.

For more details about Fresh Check Day at HCC, please contact Julissa Colón at 413-552-2508 or [jcolon@hcc.edu](mailto:jcolon@hcc.edu)

# Fabric store collecting excess supplies

HOLYOKE – Paper City Fabrics, a secondhand fabric store in Holyoke, is celebrating Earth Day with a brand-new community event: the Destash Bash, taking place Saturday, Apr. 18 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The shop invites sewists, quilters, and crafters to drop off bags of fabric and sewing supplies in exchange for 10% off their next in-store purchase, valid through May 31.

The Destash Bash is a natural extension of what Paper City Fabrics does every day. The shop runs on a thrift store model, relying on the generosity of the community to drop off fabric and sewing supplies they no longer need. Paper City Fabrics sells all fabric for \$6 per yard, keeping sewing affordable and diverting unused fabric and sewing supplies from landfills.

"The Destash Bash is our way of bringing the community together, celebrating Earth Day, and making sure all the beautiful fabric finds its way to someone who will love it," said Joseph Charles, founder of Paper City Fabrics.

Stop by Paper City Fabrics (330 High St., Holyoke) on Apr. 18, lighten your stash, and leave with a little something extra.

The fine print: Accepted items include fabric, patterns, yarn, notions, and sewing tools. Items that cannot be accepted include fabric with strong odors, stained or moth-eaten fabric, completed or partially completed projects, clothing, curtains, and bedsheets. Coupons are limited to one per customer and cannot be combined with other promotions.

**Donovan's Irish Pub** 80 Jarvis Ave., Holyoke 413-543-0791 [donovanspub.com](http://donovanspub.com)  
Sun. 12pm - 8pm; Mon.-Thurs. 11:30am-9:30pm; Fri. & Sat. 11:30am - 11pm

**Saturday, April 18th**  
**Dee Reilly**

**Saturday, April 25th**  
**Frank Serafino**

**Wednesday Night** 6:30pm  
**Bar Bingo**

**Friday Night** starts at 7:30 pm  
**Trivia Night** \$5 per person

**7 Days A Week**  
**Queen of Hearts Raffle**  
\$1 per ticket - unlimited tickets  
Drawing Wednesdays at 5 pm

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 325**  
22 Sycamore Street, Holyoke, MA  
Find us on Facebook Paper City Post 325

# Library hosts miniature golf and games event May 2

HOLYOKE – We are pleased to announce plans for the annual "Mini Golf and Games at the Library!" on Saturday, May 2 – a series of fun events inside and outside of the Holyoke Public Library at 250 Chestnut St, Holyoke.

• Mini Golf and Games at the Library, free of charge for all players, Saturday May 2, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., 18 holes of miniature golf for people of all ages.

• Games outside in Library Park, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., There will be outdoor activities for all ages

including a chalk artist.

• Also – Vote for your Favorite decorated Hole. We will post the top three Holes chosen by the public. You don't have to play Mini golf to vote.

Since 2016, "Mini Golf in the Library!" has been an important fundraiser for our Library.

The library will be open for regular business while this fun community event is going on. The mini golf holes will be on every floor of the library and wind its way through the stacks and down the stairs. You can see pictures from our 2024

event here: <https://sward.smugmug.com/Libraries/Holyoke-Public-Library/Mini-Golf-and-Games-2024>

Proceeds will be used to augment library services, summer reading, year-round literacy programs, and more. We have set a goal of raising \$15,000 via sponsorships, ticket sales, and auction proceeds. We are happy to announce PeoplesBank as our Top Sponsor. Thank you to PeoplesBank, Orion Protective Services, Conklin Office and all of our Sponsors.

We invite everyone

to join this fun community event, and support this fundraiser at the Holyoke Public Library. Even if people can't attend, we encourage you to donate to support this great cause at <https://www.holyokelibrary.org/Pages/Index/227232/how-to-donate-to-the-library-or-at-the-library>

For more information, volunteer link, or flyers, contact Nancy Kocsmiersky, HPL Development Office (413-420-8109) [nancy@holyokelibrary.org](mailto:nancy@holyokelibrary.org) or visit <https://www.holyokelibrary.org/Pages/Index/227230/library-mini-golf-and-games>.

*Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?*

**We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm to explore these topics and more.**

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

Please contact **Pat James 413-726-8661.**

**"I CAN'T RENT TO YOU BECAUSE OF LEAD PAINT"**



This was the third landlord that refused to rent to us because of lead paint.

**ENOUGH IS ENOUGH**

Lead paint is not a reason to discriminate against my family. We called the Massachusetts Fair Housing Center and found out it was illegal to discriminate against families with children under six years old because of the presence of lead paint.

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If you have been denied housing because of the presence of lead paint, you have options. Contact the Massachusetts Fair Housing Center (MFHC) or the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD).

**MFHC: 413-539-9796**  
**MCAD: 413-739-2145**

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USDA INSP. FROZEN PORK SHOULDER PICNIC.....	\$1.39 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF CHUCK ROAST or STEAK	\$6.59 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG.....	\$2.17 lb
USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN PORK LOIN LOIN END or RIB END ROAST.....	\$1.99 lb	USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY DIET LEAN GROUND BEEF 5 LB BAG	\$5.29 lb	USDA INSP. PEPPERIDGE FARMS CHOCOLATE FUDGE LAYER CAKE 19.6 OZ.....	\$3.99 ea
<b>SLICED IN OUR DELI</b>				USDA INSP. CHICKEN PARMASEAN MINI EMPANADA 9 OZ.....	\$3.99 ea
USDA INSP. WUNDERBAR BOLOGNA.....	\$3.33 lb			USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN COOKED SHRIMP 21/25 COUNT 2 LB BAG.....	\$16.99 ea
USDA INSP. SWISS CHEESE.....	\$3.99 lb				
<b>SOUP'S ON!</b>					
USDA INSP. FRESH BEEF NECK BONES.....	\$3.99 lb				
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## Grinspoon banquets scheduled

HOLYOKE – The Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Awards will honor 90 teachers from over 20 Western Massachusetts school districts at celebratory banquets at the Log Cabin in Holyoke on May 6, 12 and 20.

The program will feature an awards presentation honoring the winners, who will each receive an engraved plaque and monetary award in recognition of their achievement, along with generous tuition incentives and scholarships offered by the following colleges and universities in the region: American International College, Bay Path University, Elms College, Springfield College,

Western New England University, Westfield State University, and the University of Massachusetts.

Winners also receive a 3-month membership to one of the six regional YMCAs and a 1-month membership to the Springfield Jewish Community Center.

The Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Awards program, now in its 23rd year, is made possible by the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation in partnership with the Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation and supported by the American International College, Smith College, Arrha Credit Union

a division of BrightBridge Credit Union, Country Bank, and Meyers Brothers Kalicka.

“Our teachers serve not only as educators, but also as mentors, community leaders, and innovators. They play a fundamental role in supporting families and building communities. It is a great privilege to recognize outstanding teachers in the Pioneer Valley,” Michelle Moon, Director, Excellence in Teaching Awards at the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation.

For a complete list of the 2026 award winners, please visit the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation website: hgcf.org.

## Museum hosts Mother’s Day Plant Sale

HOLYOKE – Wistariahurst Museum welcomes spring with the second annual Mother’s Day Market being held Saturday, May 2, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. This event features a variety of vendors selling locally made products such as art, jewelry, and food. Vendors will be stationed indoors throughout the first floor of the museum. As guests shop and explore, the Brookline Trio will be playing live music for visitors to enjoy. Guests are also welcome inside the Carriage House as well, where they can shop our gift shop, take photos in the carriage, and view the frog circus.

During the event, visi-

tors can also participate in a free hands-on clay experience and cup exchange with Pots on Wheels. The Pots on Wheels truck will be parked in Wistariahurst’s driveway, ready for guests to come on board and get creative. Come make a cup and take a cup home! During the Mother’s Day Market from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, Wistariahurst’s gardeners will be hosting the first on-site plant sale of the season. Wistariahurst has an array of annuals and perennials to brighten up any garden. Best of all, visitors can take home one plant for free thanks to Bank ESB, who is sponsoring this event. There is a limited supply of free

plants, so make sure not to miss out.

Wistariahurst Museum’s Mother’s Day Market offers something for everyone. From plans, to textile pieces and prints, vases, and home decor- you’re bound to find something your parent will love. This event is admission-free and open to the public, so that all can celebrate their beloved maternal figures.

Registration for this event is encouraged. Register on Wistariahurst’s Eventbrite page: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2026-mothers-day-market-and-plant-sale-tickets-1985448051569?aff=oddtcreator&keep\\_tld=true](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2026-mothers-day-market-and-plant-sale-tickets-1985448051569?aff=oddtcreator&keep_tld=true)



Submitted photos

The Holyoke High School theater department performed the Broadway production of ‘Mama Mia’ last weekend under the direction of music teacher Mark Todd.

## Holyoke Community College opens registration for summer and fall classes

HOLYOKE – Registration is now open for summer and fall classes at Holyoke Community College.

Summer classes at HCC begin Tuesday, May 26. Full-term summer classes run for 14 weeks, from May 26 to Aug. 28. Half-term summer classes run in consecutive seven-week

sessions: Summer Session I (May 26-July 10) and Summer Session II (July 13-Aug. 28).

The fall 2026 semester starts Tuesday, Sept. 8. In addition to traditional 15-week semester classes, HCC will run three accelerated fall flex start sessions: Flex Start I classes also begin Sept.

8 but run for seven weeks until Oct. 27; Flex Start II classes begin Monday, Sept. 21, and run for 12 weeks; Flex Start III classes begin Monday, Nov. 2, and run for seven weeks. All fall classes conclude by Dec. 22.

To view course offerings for summer, please visit [hcc.edu/summer-2026](http://hcc.edu/summer-2026) or [hcc.edu/](http://hcc.edu/)

fall-2026 for fall.

To help prospective students get ready, HCC will be hosting a special Walk-In Week May 18-21 when prospective students can apply for admission, take the college placement test, meet with an academic adviser, register for classes, and set up financial aid.

Other Walk-In Weeks are scheduled for June 22-25, July 20-23, and Aug. 17-20.

“Our admissions and financial aid staff members are always available to help guide prospective students through every step of the application process and apply for financial aid,” said Mark Hudgik, dean of recruitment,

admissions and financial aid.

Anyone interested in starting this summer or fall can find more information at [hcc.edu/admission](http://hcc.edu/admission) or by calling 413-552-2321.

To arrange a campus tour, please contact the HCC Admissions office at [admissions@hcc.edu](mailto:admissions@hcc.edu).

## HCC presents annual Student Art Show April 13-May 1

Opening reception and awards ceremony April 16

HOLYOKE – The Taber Art Gallery at Holyoke Community College and the HCC Visual Art Department are presenting the annual Student Art Exhibition Monday, April 13, through Friday, May 1, with a reception and awards ceremony April 16 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the gallery.

The exhibition features artwork created by HCC students from more than 50 visual art classes during the 2025-2026 academic year,

including painting, two-dimensional and three-dimensional design, basic drawing, still photography, ceramics, digital imaging and design, figure drawing, animation, digital photography, illustration, motion graphics, printmaking, and typography.

The exhibition reflects all the artwork done in studio classes during the academic year. Faculty members select the pieces and install them, giving art students the opportunity to see their work displayed in a professional gallery.

The April 16 reception also includes the Excellence

in Visual Art Awards presentation, which recognizes the best student artwork of the year in various categories, as selected by the visual art faculty. Attendees are encouraged to dress creatively, as an award will also be presented for best costume.

“I’m thrilled to welcome the Holyoke community to join us for the 2026 HCC Student Art Exhibition,” said Taber Director Rachel Rushing. “In particular, the opening reception is always a highlight of the year as we celebrate the hard work of the visual art classes and

announce the student award winners.”

Student artwork will be displayed in the Taber Art Gallery, as well as in the display cases outside the HCC Library, along the third-floor corridor of the Fine and Performing Arts Building, and in the Media Arts Center on the third floor of the Campus Center.

The Taber Art Gallery, located off the lobby of the HCC Library on the second floor of the HCC Donahue Building, is free and open to the public Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. during regular school sessions.

## HMC announces new pediatric care location

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Medical Center Pediatric Care has a new location at 596 South Street in Holyoke. This new location is allowing Holyoke Medical Center to provide more convenient parking and accessibility to patients.

“This is a great new location for our patients, especially families that are coming in with multiple children and/or strollers with an expansive, dedicated parking lot. The families we have seen at the South Street location have appreciated the move,” said

Beth Laton Brown, Pediatric Medical Director at Holyoke Medical Center.

The move is part of a comprehensive strategy by Holyoke Medical Center for continued growth and expansion to meet the needs of our community. With the move of Pediatric Care to a nearby, convenient off-site location, the community can expect to see further growth on the hospital campus.

HMC Pediatric Care is accepting new patients. To make an appointment, please call 413.534.2800.

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

**Best Pizza in Town**

# Holyoke Pizza

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**You Ring We Bring**

Dear Holyoke Pizza Team,

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

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

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

Warm regards,  
**Kyle Pittman**  
BEST of 2026 Holyoke Awards



## DAILY SPECIALS (Especiales Del Dia)

Mini Calzone Each Topping (same as Pizza Toppings) Additional \$1.75.....	<b>\$8.95</b>
Any Wrap with Small Bag of Chips and Can of Soda.....	<b>\$10.99</b>
Any Wrap with French Fries and Can of Soda.....	<b>\$12.99</b>
Any 8” Grinder with a Bag of Chips & a Can of Soda.....	<b>\$11.99</b>
Any 8” Grinder with French Fries & a Can of Soda.....	<b>\$11.99</b>
Any Pita Pocket with a Bag of Chips & a Can of Soda.....	<b>\$11.99</b>
Any Pita Pocket with French Fries & a Can of Soda.....	<b>\$11.99</b>
Any 16” Grinder with a Bag of Chips & a Can of Soda.....	<b>\$14.75</b>
Any 16” Grinder with French Fries & a Can of Soda.....	<b>\$15.50</b>
10” Cheese Pizza.....	<b>\$8.95 Each Topping \$1.75</b>
4 Chicken Tenders with French Fries & a Can of Soda.....	<b>\$10.99</b>
Cheeseburger with French Fries & a Can of Soda.....	<b>\$10.99</b>

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## When a spouse dies will the other get a Social Security Survivor Benefit?

Dear Rusty:

I am 79. My husband is also 79 and we both receive Social Security benefits. We were both married before and we married each other at the age of 58. Am I to understand correctly that when either of us dies, the surviving spouse is not eligible to collect the deceased spouse's Social Security benefits? Please correct me if I am wrong.

Signed: Curious Spouse

Dear Curious Spouse:

A surviving spouse only gets one benefit - either their own SS retirement amount, or their deceased spouse's amount, whichever is more. So, the Social Security benefit that the deceased was receiving at death will be paid to the surviving spouse, replacing any smaller SS payment the survivor was already collecting. To be sure you are aware, the surviving spouse will also be eligible for a one-time lump sum death benefit of \$255 (I know it isn't much, but it should be claimed anyway).

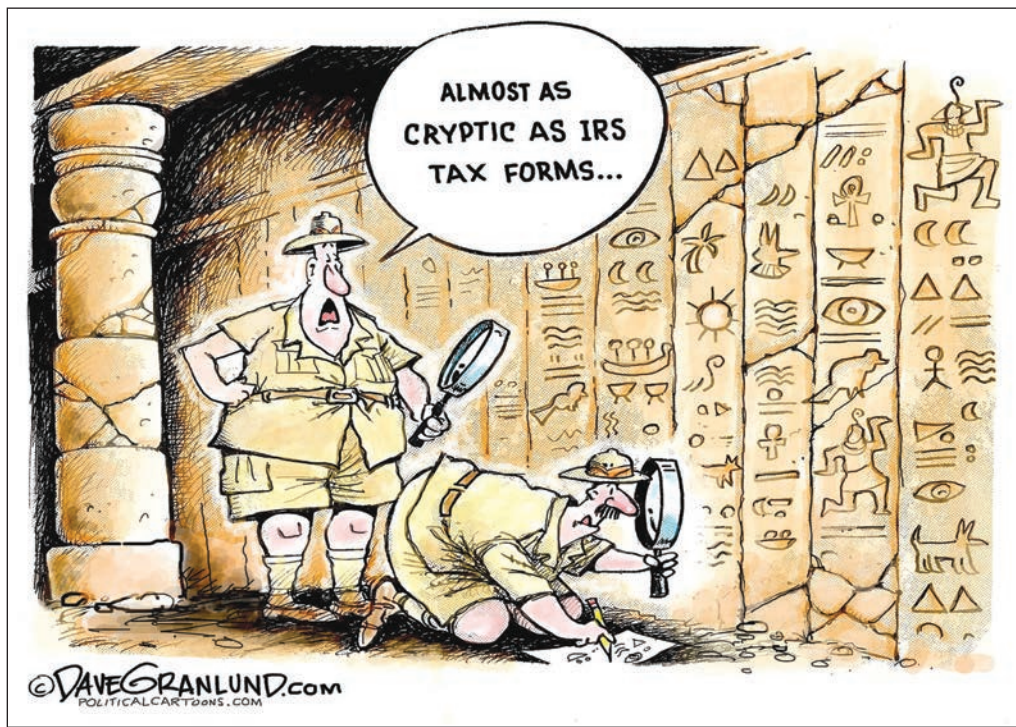
Also, unless the surviving spouse was already receiving a spousal benefit while both partners were living, the surviving spouse will need to contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 or at the local SS field office to make an appointment to apply for their survivor benefit.

One other thing to be aware of since you were both married before: if either of you die, and your first marriage lasted at least 10 years and your ex-spouse has also died, the surviving spouse will have a choice to collect a survivor benefit from either the ex-spouse or the most

recently deceased spouse, whichever amount is more. But, again, you can only collect one benefit payment as a surviving spouse either from your ex-spouse or from your recently deceased spouse, whichever benefit is higher.

FYI, survivor benefits are a confusing area of Social Security, so you might also find informative this article I recently published, as it goes more deeply into surviving spouse benefits including benefits for surviving minor children and surviving adult disabled children. Read the article titled "Demystifying Social Security Survivor Benefits" at [www.amacfoundation.org/demystifying-social-security-survivor-benefits/](http://www.amacfoundation.org/demystifying-social-security-survivor-benefits/). Of course, if you have any further questions, please contact us at 1-888-750-2622 or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). There is never a fee for our services.

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



Guest Column

## What I did last weekend in the garden

I was so looking forward to last Saturday, a day in which I did not have to drive anywhere. I could simply stay put and work on getting the yard in shape.

Boy, was it a long winter, and there was proof of that no matter where I turned.

Read on to learn which outdoor and indoor gardening activities kept me busy.

First I decided to tackle the perennial and shrub borders that I walk by the most often. Half of the reason we garden is because we like to stand back in admiration, so I figured if I cleaned those up I'd have something to feel good about on my way to the car or the chicken coop.

I leave many perennials standing through the winter, especially those with seed heads the birds might like to dine on.

So, before I got out the rake, I went plant by plant with my hedge clippers, cutting the dead and brown stalks to about "fist" height from the ground. Hedge clippers make fast work of this task. After that came the rake, with which I carefully cleaned the bed of matted leaves and the plant parts I just cut back. As I was working, I weeded out clover, and



by Roberta McQuaid

in as many plants as you can into the space you've got... Anyway, ten foot long canes jumped the wall into the bed where I have a few bulbs and biennials at the base of the Redbud.

I was able to give the canes a strong yank and lo and behold I have three new blackberry bushes free for the taking. I separated them from the mother plant, potted them up and will delight a friend with them, just as my friend Kelly's husband had done for me some years back.

These berries are so wonderful. Even with a small patch I am always able to freeze a couple of quarts for use in the offseason. Yum! With stems cut back, leaves raked, weeds and suckers removed and the beds given a crisp edge, I felt good enough about leaving outlying gardens for another day. It was time to turn my attention to tomato seedlings that had long since outgrown the seed packs the seeds were sown in the third week of March.

Typically we transplant when the first true leaves form. I am maybe a week late.

Carefully I lifted out the clumps of seedlings and

Some perennial grasses that appeared within the bed, and although I am nowhere near ready to apply bark mulch, I got out the spade and did my best to put a crisp edge on the border with the lawn. Looking good.

While I was putting tools away I found (gasp) some hyacinth and daffodil bulbs that never got planted in the fall. I cannot even believe that there were green tips on these bulbs that sat in an empty pot in my unheated subarctic garden shed over the winter months.

I figured that after that torture they deserved to be planted. I sunk them twice their height deep and watered them in. Say a prayer.

My "Redbud garden" shares a stone wall with some thornless blackberry bushes. It may not have been smart on my account to have an ornamental garden opposite plants that like sucker like crazy but such is life when you want to squeeze

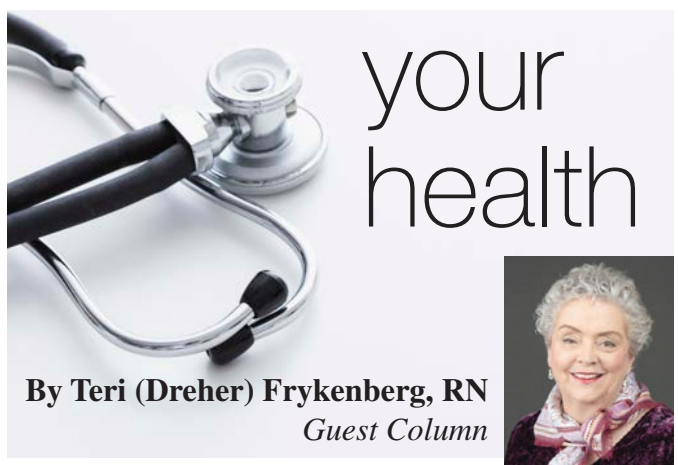
See GARDEN, page 6

## Smoking cessation is beneficial at any age, tips on the benefits of quitting

If there's one habit every doctor wishes you would break, it's smoking. Quitting significantly improves health and reduces the risk of diseases.

And this is true no matter what age you are, from your 20s right into your 70s. While some older adults may believe it's "too late" to change, evidence shows that about one-third of older adults who attend specialized clinics successfully quit and stay off cigarettes for at least a year.

Research has also found that even 75-year-olds who are able to stop cigarettes gain an average of one year of life expectancy. That's one more year to do some of the things you enjoy, like visiting with grandchildren (and not being relegated to the patio to light up).



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN  
Guest Column

Besides life expectancy, other benefits for older quitters are

- **A lower risk of disease:** Older adults who quit have lower rates of death from heart attacks, strokes and cancer compared to those who continue to smoke.
- **Reduced frailty:**

Stopping smoking is associated with a lower degree of "frailty" (a measure of increased vulnerability and weakness) over time, promoting healthier aging and better physical function.

- **Cognitive and sexual health:** Quitting smoking can lead to improved brain

function and has been shown to improve long-term sexual function recovery following procedures like prostate surgery.

• **Surgical success:** For older adults facing surgery, quitting at least eight weeks prior can significantly decrease the risk of lung-related complications. If you can go eight weeks, you can keep going.

Quitting cigarettes is really, really hard because of the addictive properties of nicotine, which has been shown to boost dopamine in the reward circuits of the brain, but causes cravings and withdrawal symptoms when it's stopped. This is true whether your source of nicotine is a cigarette or a vape.

Most adults who smoke say they want to quit. A 2022

survey found that more than half of adult smokers tried to quit in the previous year. If you fall into that group, don't go it alone, especially if smoking is a decades-long ingrained habit. Chances of success improve with support from doctors and family.

Support for smoking cessation is everywhere you look. The National Cancer Institute hosts a website, [smokefree.gov](http://smokefree.gov), which is chock full of tips and techniques to help you on your journey to becoming a former smoker.

For example, there's guidance on nicotine replacement therapy (NRT), which has been shown to increase the success rate, especially when several forms are used, such as a nicotine patch sup-

See HEALTH, page 6

## The Holyoke Sun welcomes election letters to the editor

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

newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call 413-283-8393.

### Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspa-

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

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

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EDITOR/SPORTS  
Greg Scibelli  
aan@turley.com  
sports@turley.com  
ADVERTISING SALES  
Wendy Delcamp  
wdelcamp@turley.com  
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WEB  
sun.turley.com  
PHONE  
(413) 283-8393  
ADDRESS  
24 Water Street  
Palmer, MA 01069  
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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.

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# Local photographer's exhibit on display at State House

By Ben Hernandez  
Staff Writer

BELCHERTOWN – The Quabbin Reservoir is on display at the Massachusetts State House Senate Gallery. The exhibit, entitled “Quabbin – Yesterday and Today,” is a photography collage of the Quabbin, which is a combination of old archival photos of the region as well as photos taken by local nature photographer and Friends of the Quabbin board member Ed Comeau.

“It’s just amazing,” said Comeau as he reflected on the three pictures featured in the gallery that were taken by Bert Brooks, a well-known photographer from the 1800s. “Back in those days, cameras were pretty substantial pieces of equipment. Every day he was out walking around taking pictures just like that of everyday life in the valley.”

The reservoir today is the largest unfiltered public water source in the region, supplying about 2.7 million people across Massachusetts with clean drinking water. The majority of the supply feeds into the metro Boston area; with Wilbraham, South Hadley, and Chicopee also getting their water from the reservoir.

The region is protected by a stewardship between the twelve towns that remain in the area, as well as the Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Division of Water Supply Protection. This partnership also protects thousands of acres of open space, which are used for both public recreation and land conservation. Comeau’s main reason for the exhibit is to raise legislative awareness. While working with Senator Oliveira on “some quadrant related legislation,” Comeau saw an opportunity to educate Boston politicians on where their city’s drinking water comes from.

“Many people in Boston have no idea where their water comes from,” said Comeau. “So I said, well, what if we had some sort of exhibit at the State House to educate the other senators from the Boston area about the Quabbin?”

The Quabbin was constructed between the years of 1930 and 1946 through the damming and intentional flooding the Swift River Valley. Four towns, Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott, were flooded for the



A vintage photo taken by Bert Brooks shows a boy with a fresh caught fish.



Charming vistas bring the region to life.



Local fisherman keep the tradition alive in the valley.

sake of the project. The clearing of the valley moved and razed town buildings, as well as relocated over two thousand five hundred residents through eminent domain land reclamation.

“The whole thing is very well documented because they had teams going out and just taking photographs of everything,” explained Comeau.

Comeau also explained that a massive tunnel was dug between the Quabbin and Wachusett reservoirs, a key engineering project when developing the region. The stark contrast captured in the exhibit between the modern day area and the valley before the project is striking. The exhibit includes snapshots of past everyday life in the Quabbin. From a young boy displaying a caught fish to a group of children returning home from school, the archival photos offer a rare glimpse

into the valley’s past.

“We didn’t want it just to be a nice collection of nice photos of the Quabbin,” said Comeau on his intent. “The idea is for them to be educational in nature too. Senator Oliveira chose my photos to be there for the month of April and I’m extremely grateful to him.”

The exhibit includes photos of regional wildlife, landscape portraits of the reservoir itself, and slice of life pictures taken from the region. The exhibit will be hosted throughout April and May at the Massachusetts Senate Gallery located in the State House in Boston. A virtual tour of the exhibit may also be accessed on photographer Ed Comeau’s website at [www.ComeauPhotography.com/StateHouseExhibit](http://www.ComeauPhotography.com/StateHouseExhibit) and was possible by a Mass Cultural Council grant to the Friends of the Quabbin.



Local natural wildlife is on display as part of the Quabbin Reservoir Exhibit.



Workers loaded muck cars bottom of shaft #2 depicted during the project showcase the amount of work performed to create the Quabbin Reservoir.

## Spring clean up is for the birds

SPRINGFIELD – This Earth Day, the Allen Bird Club of Springfield offers tips to make your spring yard cleanup beneficial for birds.

- **Clean out any bird houses on your property.** A mouse may have moved in over the winter. If the house was used last year, remove old nesting material. It could harbor parasites detrimental to new nestlings.

- **Western Mass’s Ruby-throated Hummingbirds typically return in late April or early May.** Be ready for these fairy-like wonders by cleaning your hummingbird feeders with hot water (no soap). Fill with a cooled solution of ¼ cup refined white sugar fully dissolved in 1 cup boiling water. Clean twice weekly thereafter.

- **In warm weather, feed birds not bears.** In place of bird feeders, plant native plants, trees, and shrubs that produce nectar, seeds, or fruit. These natural food sources will attract birds to your yard year round.

- **In addition to planting native plants, learn to tolerate caterpillars.** Birds rely heavily on caterpillars to rear their young. Many caterpillars require specific, native

plants to survive. A yard without native plants means fewer caterpillars and fewer birds.

- **Get lazy about your lawn.** Perfect lawns are the “empty calories” of the ecosystem. By letting go of a green-carpet ideal, you’ll add color to your landscape by allowing dandelions, violets, and white clover to decorate your grass. More important, these “weeds” feed pollinators which, in turn, feed birds.

- **Offer a water source.** Maintaining a clean, fresh water source in your yard will make birds frequent visitors, especially on dry summer days.

- **Keep chemicals on the shelf.** Rather than being upset at signs of insects eating your plants, just remind yourself that the plants are doing their job—taking energy from the sun and channeling it to the next layer of the food web. Remember, birds are part of that food web – and so are we.

The Allen Bird Club is a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing Greater Springfield area birders together since 1912.

For more information, please visit [www.AllenBirdClub.org](http://www.AllenBirdClub.org).

## ‘The Victorian Lady’ presents Fan Language

HOLYOKE – Wistariahurst Museum is excited to welcome historic performer Kandie Carle- The Victorian Lady- for a presentation on fan language in the Victorian era. This performance is scheduled during the opening reception of the exhibit Fans, Fashion, and Feminism. This exhibit showcases Wistariahurst’s collection of hand fans and garments from the Victorian era to the early 20th century. Carle’s performance will add to the narrative of this exhibit, showing visitors the secret language of the Victorian hand fan.

Kandie Carle has been working in the theatre for over 35 years as an actress, dancer, singer, and direc-

tor, throughout the US and abroad. She has experience both on stage and researching social history and fashion. Ms. Carle is based in East Haddam, CT, and serves as the Producing Artistic Director of the East Haddam Stage Company. She also tours throughout the country as The Victorian Lady.

Carle created The Victorian Lady to share her passion for history, culture, and social reflection. She has performed at venues including historical societies throughout New England and beyond, as well as numerous house museums, universities, libraries, churches, and many other public and private organizations.

Her presentation is

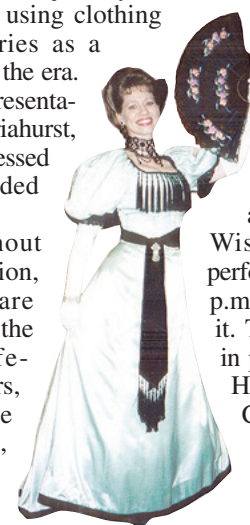
not a fashion show; rather, Carle dresses from corset to gloves, in authentic as well as reproduction garments she has made herself, taking her audience on a journey of discovery by using clothing and accessories as a tool to reflect the era. During her presentation at Wistariahurst, she will be dressed in 1890s Gilded Age fashion.

Throughout the presentation, she will share insights into the fashion, life-style, manners, and etiquette of men, women, and chil-

dren. The performance is full of audience interaction and is geared toward audience members of all ages.

Join The Victorian Lady at Wistariahurst Museum on Tuesday, Apr. 21 at 5:30 p.m.

This one-hour long performance will occur during the opening reception of Fans, Fashion, and Feminism. Visit Wistariahurst before the performance as early as 4:30 p.m. to explore the exhibit. This program is funded in part by a grant from the Holyoke Local Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.



## Harmony House hosts All-You-Can-Eat Pizza fundraiser

CHICOPEE – Local nonprofit Harmony House of Western Massachusetts invites the community to its upcoming Pizza for a Purpose fundraiser on Thursday, April 23 from 5 to 8 p.m. at View Street Tavern, 92 View Street in Chicopee.

This family-friendly

event will directly support Harmony House’s mission of providing a home with compassionate end-of-life care and companionship to hospice patients in need. Guests can enjoy all-you-can-eat pizza, along with raffles, a cash bar with local celebrity bartenders, and a 50/50 drawing.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for children ages 3–17, and free for children 2 and under.

Tickets can be purchased at the door or online in advance. View Street Tavern is generously donating the pizza and space for this event, ensuring that funds raised directly support

Harmony House and its residents.

Harmony House is seeking additional sponsors to help meet its fundraising goal. Visit [HarmonyHouseWMA.org/PizzaNight](http://HarmonyHouseWMA.org/PizzaNight) to purchase tickets, become a sponsor, or learn more about the event and the nonprofit.

**BUDGET**, from page 1

the same time, the Interim Auditor and Tj Plante are working with the Treasurer to update the city's revenue receipts so we can forecast our anticipated budget parameters based on our available revenue sources. Once the Mayor know what the funding limits are, at that time he will be working with departments to cut back on their requests in the attempt to have the budget balanced before presented to the City Council. More details to follow soon.

By now, the mayor has met one-on-one with most of the City Councilor's to go over their own priorities. His goal in this process with Councilors is to understand what the neighborhood expectations are citywide in their perspective and also see where the Councilor's share overlap in their respective priorities. This information helps him make sure that as we work with the departments with crafting the budget, that we get close as we are able

to help achieve the shared objectives we have across the city.

**Audit and Accountability Update**

Over the past several months, the City of Holyoke has been making steady, measurable progress in strengthening our financial systems and completing overdue audits, maintaining the mayor's commitment from when he first started office. This work is important in so many ways and confronting these long-standing challenges head-on continues to be the administration's top priority.

Beyond just our monthly finance team meetings, we also have weekly coordination meetings to assess the progress on closing our audits. The team in these weekly meetings includes the mayor, local

finance staff, City Council President, state partners from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue Division of Local Services, and external experts including CliftonLarsonAllen, CBIZ, Open Architects, and Mass MuniFin Inc.

The city's priority is straightforward, and the administration appreciates the support of the public who has understood what needs to be done in order to get the city's 20+ years of fiscal disorganization in order to improve how we protect resources, reduce liabilities, and maximize on our potential to invest in the services the public deserves.

On the city's website, you can look up several updates on the city's progress to update the finances dating back to FY2023.



**SCHOOL**, from page 1

city's complete infrastructure needs at this time.

The MSBA now has Holyoke's SOI. The school district is expecting a decision sometime early next year. If the project is accepted, Holyoke would then need to decide whether to enter a 6-9 month eligibility period that would include a number of steps that include appropriating funding for a feasibility assessment. A feasibility study is estimated to be \$2 million, of which Holyoke would be responsible for 20% of the cost, or an estimated \$400,000.

If the project is approved and Holyoke decides to proceed, the earliest that renovations or construction of a new school could be completed would be fall 2033. If Lawrence School became a middle school, then Sullivan Middle School would be transformed into an elementary school, and the district would need to redraw school boundary lines for a portion of the city.

The improvements to the various school buildings in the city have been done with reconfiguration of the grade levels also taking place.

**CARRIE**, from page 1

teaching and learning, leveraging data to inform instruction, and implementing systems that support student belonging, attendance, and family engagement," Mr. Soto added.

Carrie is thrilled to continue his leadership as Morgan School's new prin-

icipal. He recognizes the importance of building systems that support both academic and social-emotional growth and having a mindset of continuous improvement.

"The Morgan community is very special, and I look forward to working with our students, families, and staff to continue to foster a strong

**SQUAD**, from page 1

flowing dumpsters. This enforcement also highlights and augments enforcement of nuisance properties. These are vacant and blighted properties/buildings that attract trespassers and other unlawful activities.

When a violation is observed, Squad members post or send a notice. If the notice is not complied with, fines are issued to the property owner or permit holder. The amount of the fine varies, however, most violations written up incur a \$100 fine, per city ordinance.

**HEALTH**, from page 4

plemented by lozenges or gum. Some studies suggest that older adults may actually have higher success rates using NRT compared to younger smokers.

You can also find apps, texting and social media sites that offer support, along with how to build a quit plan.

Medicare wants you to quit smoking, too. After all, it will save them money. Medicare covers counseling sessions to help you stop

smoking under Part B, allowing up to eight sessions every 12 months at no cost if your provider accepts Medicare. Additionally, Medicare Part D covers certain prescription medications to assist with smoking cessation.

Medicare Advantage Plans are required to cover counseling and some medications as well, though benefits vary by plan.

Here in Massachusetts, 1-800-QUIT-NOW is Massachusetts' tobacco and nicotine Quitline, where you

can connect to a free trained quit coach by phone or line. They share

strategies to curb cravings, handle life's big and small stresses and tackle. You can track your progress and learn how to access free NRT supplies.

Talking to your healthcare provider is also important, both as a source of support and advice on using certain prescription medications to curb smoking such as varenicline (Chantix). This medication can be used by

older adults, but caution is advised because of a higher likelihood of age-related kidney issues. Your doctor may also recommend cognitive behavior therapy (CBT).

What does a quit plan look like? Pick a date you're going to quit and rid the house of cigarettes, ashtrays and other smoking paraphernalia. You might need to take some things to the dry cleaner to get the cigarette smell out. Tell everyone that you've made a quit plan and you need their help.

Be proud of what you're accomplishing! Let people know when you've been smoke-free for a week, a month, a year. If you do happen to light up, don't give up. Tomorrow is another day.

And you may have more tomorrows when you've become an ex-smoker. Good luck!

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, R.N., a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. A Monson, MA resident, she is the author of "How to Be a Healthcare Advocate for Yourself & Your Loved Ones" and her new book, "Advocating Well: Strategies for Finding Strength and Understanding in Health Care," available at Amazon.com. Contact her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com to set up a free phone consultation.

sense of belonging," he said. Carrie holds a master of education in special education and a bachelor's degree in youth development from Springfield College. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling, cooking, and time with his two goldendoodles, Oliver and Olivia.

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

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

**Our Lady of the Cross Catholic Parish**  
Pastor: Fr. Albert Scherer, OFM Conv.  
Email: pastor@ourladyofthecross.com  
Holy Cross Ave., Holyoke  
Parish Offices are located at:  
15 Maple Street, Holyoke  
(413) 532-5661  
parish@ourladyofthecross.com  
OFFICE HOURS:  
Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
WEEKEND MASSES:  
Saturday 4 p.m.  
Sunday 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m. (Polish), and 10:30 a.m.  
DAILY MASS:  
Monday - Saturday 8:30 a.m.  
Legal Holidays Mass 9 a.m.  
Reconciliation (Confession)  
Monday - Saturday 8 a.m.  
Saturday 3:15pm  
Anytime by Appointment  
DEVOTIONS  
Monday - Saturday  
Divine Mercy Chaplet - 7:50 a.m.  
ROSARY 8:05 a.m.  
www.ourladyofthecross.com

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**Your Community Church**

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

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

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

**GARDEN**, from page 4

gently pried the roots apart. Tomato seedlings can be sunk deeply, almost up to their leaves; new roots will form on the stems.

After a gentle watering they will go back under the grow lights they until they are big enough to be moved from the six packs to a four inch pot. Probably by May 1.

What is next on the agenda? Next weekend I have to assess my potato patch. I'll probably pull up old red raspberry canes nearby to expand the bed.

Blueberry bushes need some fertilizer. Asparagus could use lime and compost, probably some weeding as well.

There is never a dull moment this time of year, and I am not sure I'd want it

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

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**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Greek goddess of marriage
5. Tropical American blue jay-like bird
10. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician
14. Dark olive black
15. Light, crinkled fabric
16. Notre Dame has a golden one
17. Leaked blood
18. Confronted
19. Negligible amount
20. Facilitated
22. Hill or rocky peak
23. Minneapolis suburb
24. Songs to one's beloved
27. Brake horsepower
30. Angry
31. Children's game
32. Spelling is a type of one
35. Obtained in return for labor
37. Indicates center
38. Chinese dynasty
39. Old World buffaloes
40. Slang for time off

41. Fabric
42. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
43. Defunct regional economic organization
44. Philly footballers
45. Female sibling
46. Peter Griffin's daughter
47. Digital audiotape
48. Insecticide
49. Scientific instrument
52. Pages may be dog-\_\_
55. Israeli city \_\_ Aviv
56. Type of sword
60. Middle Eastern military title
61. Wise individuals
63. French Polynesian island
64. Popular shoe type
65. One of 50
66. Divulge a secret
67. Dish of cooked meat mixed with potatoes
68. Actress Zellweger
69. Romanian city

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Greek cupbearer of the Gods
2. Ancient Syrian city
3. Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
4. Range of mountains
5. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
6. Spoke
7. City in Georgia
8. Theatrical
9. CNN's founder
10. Icelandic poems
11. Bjorn \_\_, tennis player
12. Bowfin genus
13. One point north of northeast
21. Political divisions in ancient Greece
23. Electroencephalograph
25. Cool!
26. Male parent
27. Where some gymnasts work
28. Capital of Vietnam
29. Sailboats
32. Shelter (Scottish)
33. Completed

34. Discharge
36. Arrest
37. Partner to cheese
38. Coffee receptacle
40. Stagnate
41. Satisfies
43. Snake-like fish
44. Consume food
46. Type of school
47. Erase
49. Inform
50. Girl's given name
51. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
52. Every one of two or more things
53. Northern India city
54. Seventeenth stars in a constellation
57. Weapon
58. Amounts of time
59. Isodor \_\_, American Nobel physicist
61. Soviet Socialist Republic
62. Witness

**CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 9**

# SPORTS

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## Knights shut out Pacers

HOLYOKE – Last Thursday afternoon, Holyoke High School baseball defeated Chicopee 10-0 in a five-inning mercy-rule shortened game. For the Knights, who scored in each of the first four innings to finish the

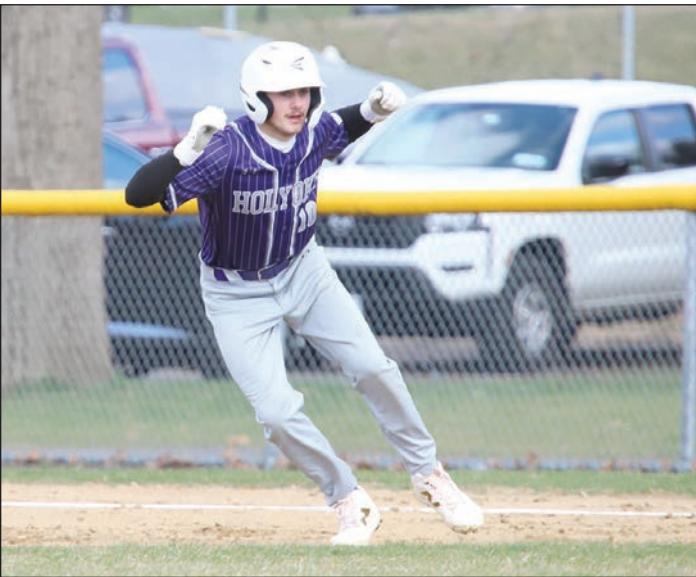
game off early, Nolan Judd had two hits and two RBI. Jeremy Francisco had a 2-for-2 day with an RBI and a run scored. Aiden Robinson and Carter Felsentreger had two runs scored each. Holyoke is now 4-1 on the season.



Aiden Robinson sends a pitch to the plate for the Knights.



Justin Rivera gets a base hit for the Knights. Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Carter Felsentreger takes a lead off first base.



Ryan Greaney looks to flip the ball to first.



Jeremy Francisco pops the ball foul.

## Holyoke softball falls to 0-3

HOLYOKE – Last week, the Holyoke High School softball team suffered a pair of losses, falling to Granby and Southwick by a combined score of 44-1. The Knights found themselves blown out of both games early. Holyoke searches for its first win on Apr. 17 at Mt. Everett at 4:30 p.m.

Bella Lachat runs for first base. Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Above, Zomaris Robles smotheres the ground ball to third base.



Kiersten St. Lawrence swings and makes contact.



Alo Colon tries to pick up the short hop.



Leon Tapion sends a pitch to the plate.

## Cougars cruise to home victory

HOLYOKE – Cougars baseball battled their way to an 11-1 home win on Monday Apr. 6, defeating non-regional opposition Great Bay CC (NH). Holyoke was strong at the plate, racking up their 11 runs by the seventh inning and ending the game early by amassing a ten-run lead.

X a v i o n Maldonado (Chicopee, MA / Chicopee HS) led the charge for the Cougars, hitting 3 for 5 from the plate. Maldonado drove in four RBIs and scored a run. Elijah Villanueva (Stamford, CT / AITE HS) and Nathan Kaczuwka (Ware, MA / Ware HS) both hit 2 for 3, with Villanueva scoring two runs and Kaczuwka one. Gavin Williams (Chicopee, MA / Chicopee Comprehensive HS) earned the win, pitching five innings, and Zack Oldenburg (Chicopee, MA / Chicopee HS) entered in relief to earn the save. The pair combined to throw five strikeouts.

Men's baseball improves their overall record to 5-11. They are 3-2 in the region.



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## MISCELLANEOUS

**ST. JUDE THANK YOU FOR** answering my prayers. P.F.

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## HELP WANTED

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Holyoke Wilds, a licensed cannabis cultivation facility in Holyoke, MA, is seeking reliable individuals for general cultivation and product manufacturing positions. Duties include assisting with plant care, trimming, cleaning, product manufacturing and other general tasks within the facility.

**Start Date:** Within the next few weeks to months

**Pay:** Varies based on experience. Ranges from \$16 to \$20 per hour.

**Requirements:** Applicants must be 21 or older and eligible to work in the United States. Background checks are required under state cannabis regulations.

Interested candidates should email [holyokewilds@gmail.com](mailto:holyokewilds@gmail.com) with their contact information and brief work history.

Holyoke Wilds is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or veteran status.

## HELP WANTED

**SEASONAL FACILITIES CREW** wanted at Norcross Wildlife Foundation. For a full job description, please visit [www.norcrosswildlife.org](http://www.norcrosswildlife.org) or email [info@norcrosswildlife.org](mailto:info@norcrosswildlife.org)

The Town of North Brookfield is looking for a **part-time Program Assistant** for the Council on Aging. Please submit a resume with a letter of interest to the **Selectmen's Office, 215 Main St., North Brookfield, MA 01535**; or by email to [selectmen@northbrookfield.net](mailto:selectmen@northbrookfield.net).

**WANT TO WORK THIS SUMMER** part or full-time? Help wanted for assisting in landscape maintenance and installation projects. Liberty Orchards Landscape, 413-283-6408.

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## FOR RENT



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

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

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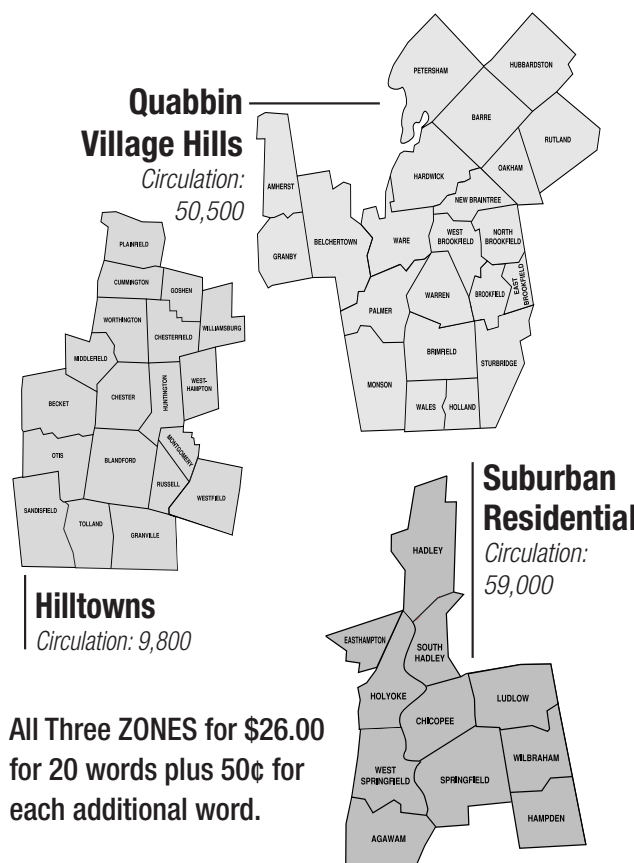
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**Holyoke Conservation Commission Notice of Public Meeting**  
Pursuant to MGL Chap. 131 §40 and the Holyoke Wetlands Ordinance, the Holyoke Conservation Commission will hold a **Public Meeting on Thursday April 23rd, 2026 at 6:15 p.m.** remotely via zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89934115730?pwd=Lub32w5G4BBZZqjea7r4wDj3ZRP10e.1> to review a **Request for Determination of Applicability** filed by Hilda Roque for the creation of a rain garden at 24 Jones Ferry Road (MBP: 118-00-013) within the 200-foot Riverfront Area and 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland.  
Signed,  
Jeffery Horan, Chairperson  
04/17/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD26P0749GD In the matter of: Peter Bruneau Of: Holyoke, MA RESPONDENT**  
**Alleged Incapacitated Person CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Valley Springs Behavioral Health H of Holyoke, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Peter Bruneau** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

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

**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **05/07/2026**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely

take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.  
WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: April 08, 2026

**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
04/17/2026

**CITY OF HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) Engineering Design Services RFQ 2026 La Placita Project 290 Main Street, Holyoke**  
The City of Holyoke, Massachusetts, through its Purchasing Department, is requesting Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) from qualified engineering firms to provide professional engineering design services for the La Placita Project located at 290 Main Street in downtown Holyoke. This procurement is conducted in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30B. The project area includes:

- A municipally-owned parking lot located at 290 Main Street
- An adjacent section of Spring Street intended to support programming and potential temporary or periodic closure.

Approximate dimensions: 48 Acre Parcel ID # 030-05-015. The City of Holyoke is developing the La Placita Project, a community-centered public space intended to serve as a culturally representative gathering area in the downtown Main Street corridor. The project seeks to transform an underutilized municipal parking lot and adjacent street segment into a flexible public plaza that supports community gathering, cultural expression, and economic activity. An initial conceptual design has already been developed. The City is seeking a qualified engineering consultant to translate the concept into detailed engineering plans suitable for permitting and construction. **Interested respondents can request documents electronically from [morrowj@holyoke.org](mailto:morrowj@holyoke.org) starting on 4/13/2026.**

A non-mandatory highly recommended site visit will be held on 4/21/2026 @ 10am at the site, 290 Main Street, Holyoke, MA 01040.

**Qualification submissions will be received until 2:00 PM on 4/30/2026.**

We will not accept late submissions. Submissions are to be emailed to [morrowj@holyoke.com](mailto:morrowj@holyoke.com) and please use "SUBMISSION RFQ 2026-41 LA PLACITA" in the subject line.

The city reserves the right to reject any and all submissions if in the city's best interest. This project is being supported using Federal Funds. Respondents

must be eligible to receive Federal Funds and will be verified for their eligibility.  
04/17/2026

**Holyoke Conservation Commission**  
Pursuant to MGL Chap. 131 §40 and the Holyoke Wetlands Ordinance, the Holyoke Conservation Commission will hold a **Public Meeting on Thursday April 23rd, 2026 at 6:15 p.m.** remotely via zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89934115730?pwd=Lub32w5G4BBZZqjea7r4wDj3ZRP10e.1> to review a Request for Determination of Applicability filed by MassDOT District 2 for vegetation maintenance, pavement preservation, and adjustments and repairs to existing drainage structures within the State Highway Layout in Holyoke, MA. The proposed project includes work within the 200-foot Riverfront Area, Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands, and Bordering Land Subject to Flooding.  
Signed,  
Jeffery Horan, Chairperson  
04/17/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD10P0727PM In the interests of Elba Rosario Of: Holyoke, MA RESPONDENT Incapacitated Person/ Protected Person CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR RESIGNATION OF A CONSERVATOR**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Kari M Nykorchuk of Northampton, MA** in the above captioned matter requesting that the court:

Accept the Resignation of the Conservator of the Respondent.

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the Guardian and/or Conservator should be allowed to resign; or should be removed for good cause; or that the Guardianship

and/or Conservatorship is no longer necessary and therefore should be terminated. The original petition is on file with the 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 **04/29/2026**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court

Date: April 01, 2026  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
04/17/2026

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION**  
Swinging Bridges Auction Company Lic #2755  
A Public Auction will be held **04/25/2026**. Unclaimed items to be sold at **9 A.M.** Pawn Depot Inc., 448 Appleton St., Holyoke, MA 01040. 20% buyers fee, 6.25% MA Sales Tax.  
04/10, 04/17/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street**

**Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD10P0274GD In the interests of Elba Rosario Of: Holyoke, MA RESPONDENT Incapacitated Person/ Protected Person CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR RESIGNATION OF A GUARDIAN OF AN INCAPACITATED PERSON**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Kari M Nykorchuk of Northampton, MA** in the above captioned matter requesting that the court:

Accept the Resignation of the Guardian of the Respondent.

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the Guardian and/or Conservator should be allowed to resign; or should be removed for good cause; or that the Guardianship and/or Conservatorship is no longer necessary and therefore should be terminated. The original petition is on file with the 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 **04/29/2026**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer,

one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court

Date: April 01, 2026  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
04/17/2026

**City of Holyoke Notice of Public Hearing**  
The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing to hear a special permit application of Riverside Cannabis for a cultivation facility at 1 Cabot Street (048-01-010). Public hearing will be held on **Tuesday, April 28th, 2026 at 6:30pm** at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via zoom.us Meeting ID 814 2916 9049 Meeting Passcode 749060 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For a copy of the application or to provide comments to the Ordinance Committee, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at [Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org](mailto:Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org) or by phone 413-322-5525.

Ordinance Chair,  
Meg Magrath-Smith  
04/10, 04/17/2026

**City of Holyoke Notice of Public Hearing**  
The DGR Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing to hear a Special permit application of Wrights Block LLC at 106-120 High St (013-01-006) to reconstruct a non-conforming structure to built two egress staircases at the rear for the commercial storefront units into the rear alleyway in footprint of existing staircases per 4.7.3. Hearing will take place on **Monday, April 27, 2026 at 6:30 pm** at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) Meeting ID 864 2739 0225 Meeting Passcode 652755 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For a copy of the application or to provide comments, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at [Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org](mailto:Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org) or by phone 413-322-5525.  
DGR Chair, Richard Purcell  
04/10, 04/17/2026

## PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to [notices@turley.com](mailto:notices@turley.com)
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

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

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

## The Holyoke Sun OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

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## HELP WANTED

- Produce news and/or feature stories of local interest for various towns and cities.
- Must be dependable, professional and able to meet strict deadlines.
- Salary based on a flat rate by story and photo.

## EXPERIENCED WRITERS & JOURNALISTS

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Publications, Inc.  
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## Send writing samples with resume to:

GREG SCIBELLI  
24 Water Street  
Palmer, MA 01069  
or email directly to:  
[gscibelli@turley.com](mailto:gscibelli@turley.com)



## Parents, Grandparents & Friends SPECIAL! Congratulate YOUR Graduate

Class of **2026**

We are offering a great deal for you to **CELEBRATE YOUR GRADUATE** in your community graduation issue. Submit a photo and a brief message.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION MAY 29th  
EMAIL YOUR AD TO:  
[wdelcamp@turley.com](mailto:wdelcamp@turley.com)

**SPECIAL! \$55.00**

MAIL YOUR AD WITH PAYMENT TO:  
**Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069**  
Pay by check or credit card: Checks Payable to Turley Publications, Credit Cards be sure to include: Paper, Name, Address, Phone, Credit Card Number, Exp. Date & CVV

## 2x3 Black & White Grad Ad

Congratulations Karly Smith! We are so very proud of you and your accomplishments. Good luck at Springfield College!



Love, Mom & Dad

# Spring has sprung



Submitted photo

Spring flowers like this sunny daffodil seemed to have sprung into full bloom overnight.

## Stanley Park announces Whimsical Fairy Walk

WESTFIELD – Join us for a magical opening weekend at Stanley Park’s Whimsical Fairy Walk, where creativity and the beauty of nature come together in an enchanting outdoor experience. This family-friendly event invites visitors of all ages to stroll through the Woodland Wildflower Garden, where charming fairy houses line the path and lead to the Enchanted Oak Tree.

Handcrafted by dedicated volunteer builders, these whimsical fairy and gnome homes are made from nat-

ural materials, encouraging a deeper appreciation for nature while sparking imagination and wonder.

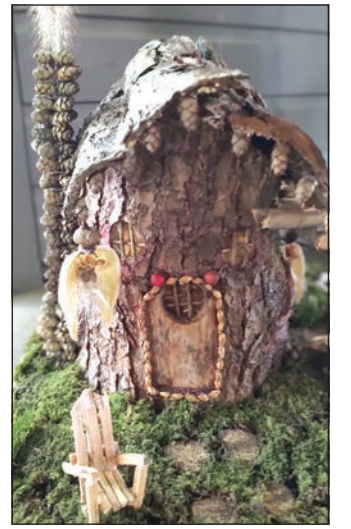
Guests can enjoy delicious offerings from The Pit Stop BBQ and What’s Your Brew food trucks, which will be on site both days serving a variety of food and beverages.

Peacock’s Nest Studio will also be in attendance throughout the weekend, offering face painting with a variety of design options available for purchase. In addition, Stanley Park will offer Fairy Hair Extensions

for a \$5 donation, which includes two extensions available in a variety of color, perfect for adding a touch of magic to your visit.

Arts and crafts activities will be available in the Beveridge Pavilion both days, providing an opportunity for attendees to create their own magical keepsakes.

There is still time to be part of the magic. Those interested in sponsoring the event or building a fairy or gnome house are encouraged to register by emailing development@stanleypark.org.



## Memory Loss conversation at South Hadley Senior Center

SOUTH HADLEY – Remembering Together: A Dinner & Conversation on Memory Loss will be held on Thursday, May 7 at 4 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Insight and guidance on supporting loved ones who are experiencing memory loss will be the focus of this valuable and informative program being hosted at the Senior Center. A short documentary titled “Taking Care, The Legacies We’ll Accept, And Those We Won’t” will

be shown during the meal, followed by an engaging panel discussion focused on understanding memory loss and conditions such as Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia. Cost is \$5, payable upon registration at the Senior Center. Meal includes chicken & broccoli penne in garlic & olive oil, salad, rolls, dessert, and beverage. RSVP by May 1. All are welcome. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors.

## Arbors of Chicopee hosting talks with Sean Terwilliger

CHICOPEE – Join us for an inspiring talk at the Arbors of Chicopee on Tuesday, Apr. 28 at 6 p.m. with Sean Terwilliger.

This event is free and open to the public. Sean Terwilliger, a former technology leader and teacher, will share his own inspiring story about how being diagnosed with Alzheimer’s led to writing, advocacy and a sense of purpose.

Learn about how his



Sean Terwilliger

experiences with clinical trials, newly approved medications and lifestyle change led to his belief that he could outpace the progression of the disease, and how he is now an advocate through founda-

tions like the Walk to End Alzheimer’s.

This event is free and open to the public, but space is limited. Please RSVP by calling or texting 413-530-5916 to reserve your spot.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER



## FIVE ISLANDS

Georgetown, Maine  
2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathroom  
Washer/Dryer, Fully Equipped  
• Walk to Five Islands Wharf and Ledgewood Preserve Beach  
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\$1200/week

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## Now Hiring! Advertising Sales Representative



▶ Do you want to work in your community helping local businesses connect with their customers?

▶ Do you want a career supporting local journalism, which tells the unique stories of our communities?

▶ If so, then join our team! Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers and supplements. The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

▶ You must be a self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills. Basic computer skills are required. Previous print sales experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate.

**Turley Publications** is a locally owned family business, offers a competitive commission structure, 401k, and health plan.

Send resume & cover letter to:  
Jamie Joslyn  
24 Water Street  
Palmer, MA 01069  
Email: jamie@turley.com

# Send Us Your Community Summer Events



Turley Publications will print your Summer event **FREE OF CHARGE** in our **Summer Fest Supplement** which will be published June 3, 2026. Total circulation of 85,000 which reaches over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley. **Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public**

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

Event Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Time \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Description \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cost \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name & phone number for more information \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Deadline for Calendar submissions is May 6.**

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

# The Jack Rome Memorial 5K & Fun Walk

**May 2, 2026 • 11 a.m.-3 p.m.**  
Fountain Park, 883 Tinkham Road, Wilbraham

*A community event to raise funds for TJO Animals in need. Fun family activities and goodies for the pups. Their Second Chance Begins With You!*

To Benefit The Foundation for TJO Animals



**Register at TJOFoundation.org**

*Not all superheroes wear capes. Some wear sneakers. Some have paws.*

