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# The REGISTER

LOCAL NEWS | LOCAL STORIES | LOCAL ADVERTISERS

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## VFW presents 8th annual first responders appreciation dinner

By Amanda Munson  
 Staff Writer  
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LUDLOW – In the evening of Jan. 8, the Gremio-Lusitano Club opened their doors for the Eighth annual First Responders Appreciation Dinner, hosted by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Pioneer Valley Financial Group. From a photobooth and a dance area, a friendly competition of battle of the badges, and numerous raffle prizes for adults and toys for kids, the dinner was only a part of the fun!

The night was open and free to first responders who work and live in Ludlow, Wilbraham, Hampden and included police, fire, state police, EMTs, dispatchers, department retirees, and all families. The event by Sgt. Joshua D. Desforges VFW Post 3236, which recently merged with VFW Post 625 in Chicopee and Holyoke last year, had a goal to recognize first responders and



Ludlow VFW Auxiliary Post 3236 Carol Askew, Barbara Hebert, with Maria DeBlois greeted guests at the door while selling calendars for the new year.

their ongoing efforts within the communities.

Speaking with Director of Veterans Services Eric Segundo, he explained how he defines the title first responders and the partner-

ships within the community to make this event happen.

“First responders represent courage under pressure, compassion in crisis, and professionalism in uncertainty. They are the calm

voice on the phone, the steady hands in the chaos, and the reassuring presence when everything feels out

Please see **FIRST RESPONDERS** Page 5

## Superintendent Tiano’s shares outlook on 2026

By Amanda Munson  
 Staff Writer  
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LUDLOW – In the first week of the new year, Jan. 7, Superintendent Dr. Frank Tiano shared his view while working for the Ludlow Public Schools for more than three years and addresses concerns regarding staffing shortages, Fiscal Year 2027 budget limitations, and navigating district-wide obstacles on a daily basis.

What has your time at LPS been like? What were the goals that you implemented in the beginning of your term and what have you now accomplished?

“One major goal was to develop a comprehensive strategic plan for the district that would drive decision making around identified goals and outcomes that would best benefit students and families. Using an inclusive approach to the strategic planning process we have been able to build ownership and engagement

at the outset, we were able to gain an objective look at our school district through the varying values, experiences, wants, and needs of our different stakeholder groups.

Currently, our strategic plan drives our yearly District Improvement Plan and each of our schools’ improvement plans creating a vertical alignment through our district that had been missing. The process of continuous improvement is never ending but we have made strong gains in academic and non-academic systems, communication, training, and professional development over the past three plus years that will lead to better student experiences and outcomes.

Ludlow has always had a good school district that families have, and continue to, appreciate and trust. That being said, that type of support needs to be con-

Please see **TIANO** Page 3

## Select Board discusses Hubbard Library Youth Services staff changes

By Amanda Munson  
 Staff Writer  
 amunson@turley.com

LUDLOW – At the Jan. 6 Select Board meeting, when reviewing the unfinished business portion of the agenda that reviewed employee reclassification and new position requests for Fiscal Year 2027 that was tabled from last year’s Dec. 16 meeting, Member James Gennette questioned the Hubbard Memorial Library’s youth services position and asked for further explanations. The position that was questioned was the Youth Services Assistant part-time position, which is looking to become full-time in the future.

The full-time children’s librarian has since resigned and the library is now looking to fill the youth services assistant full-time position. The current part-time youth librarian has been working part-time, 18 hours per week, and most recently has been filling in the full-time

position until that is covered.

As stated in the meeting, the library is short-staffed and the request is to grant more hours to the part-time position, which has been an ongoing request for several years. Anticipating the library budget will drop due to the high salary the children’s librarian resigned from, in the meeting it was stated that it may help in 2026 with the ongoing budget conversations.

Gennette commented that his biggest concern is budget season, “As far as I was concerned, I’m ready to go into a hiring freeze and I am also ready to stop all training. We’re talking about going over two and a half, everything needs to stop if that’s the case. If that’s the general conversation that we’re having right now, everything freezes. As Chairperson Manuel Silva had said, we keep doing union

Please see **YOUTH SERVICES** Page 6



The volunteers who participated in this year’s gift swap.

## Hubbard Memorial Library hosts gift swap

By Brendan Rooney  
 Correspondent

LUDLOW — On Jan 2, the Hubbard Memorial Library hosted a gift exchange party for their current roster of after school volunteers as an ode of appreciation for all the hard work put in focus from this past year of 2025. Spearheading the party was Youth Services Assistant Kristin Santos who discussed the importance of ensuring the library’s volunteers are recognized for their hard work, as she noted without their support the

scope of the activities and programs offered wouldn’t be feasible.

“Today is their moment, and so to make it run smoothly, we are going to have pizza supplied by the ‘Friends of the Library,’ we’re going to do a gift exchange; it gives them a chance to hang out with each other, because so often they are coming and going,” Santos said. “But yes, this party is a huge thank you for helping out.”

Please see **GIFT SWAP** Page 7



Friends catching up and having fun.

## WMFF fly tying fishing classes dedicated to former instructor, Manuel R. DaSilva Jr.

By Amanda Munson  
 Staff Writer  
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LUDLOW – “Come and have fun, learn a new hobby, and use your creations to catch fish!” Beginning this past Thurs., the Western Massachusetts Fly Fishermen Club, founded in 1971 and dedicated to the sport of fly fishing, held its first session of the fly tying classes at the Ludlow Elks Lodge. Being in existence for over 50 years, the WMFF promotes the art and skills of fly fishing and tying through education, promotes favorable conditions for angling, improves and con-

serves the sport of fly fishing, and highlights their top priorities of education and conservation.

Beginning the class with a Woolley Worm and working towards more complex fly patterns, President of WMFF John LaFrancis explained the basics of fly tying, why he decided to join after retiring, and why the WMFF felt it was important to dedicate the classes to their former instructor.

Being a member for 10 years, vice president for six, and elected last year to president of the WMFF, LaFrancis continued. “When you are fishing for trout and you are using a spinning reel, the

weight of the lure or the hook with some weight behind it, is what sends the line out into the river. When you fly fish, the fly may weigh the weight of a couple of postage stamps so the whole design is different. The fishing line that you are using is heavier when you fly fish to send your very lightweight fly into the river. That’s the basic premise, you are making lightweight flies, the rod and the line is what allows the fly into the river,” said LaFrancis.

LaFrancis shared he was looking for a hobby in retirement and wanted an activity in the summer and wintertime. The WMFF allows mem-

bers and guests to tie flies in the colder months and then they’re all ready to fish in the summer, offering life-long learning like what insects can be found in the waters or what time is best to catch bait.

“The challenge with clubs today is trying to get new members, the average age of our club is high and there are a lot of seniors. Part of the process of aging is that you eventually age out of doing things, so trying to get younger people into the club is a challenge. That’s one of the reasons why we offer this fly-tying class is service for our community, it’s a free class and to attract more

members to come join,” explained LaFrancis.

The 2026 classes are dedicated to former instructor of the WMFF Manuel R. DaSilva Jr., with whom LaFrancis shared a few words on the instructor’s recent passing. “He taught our classes for 30 years and he passed away just recently, so we are dedicating these classes in his memory. He did everything. If you are putting a class on like this, you need materials to give the students and somebody has to gather them, DaSilva Jr. did all of that,” said LaFrancis.

When asked what his most prized catch was, LaFrancis explained a different answer

that people may not expect. “The way I look at it, when you are making a fly and tying it, you are putting something you made into nature is extremely rewarding. I wouldn’t say it’s one particular fish, it’s all of them. When you are tying your own flies and to know that you fooled something in nature where its sole function is to survive and eat, and it takes your fly that you made yourself is rewarding.”

LaFrancis ended with details for anyone who is interested in joining the WMFF, “We meet on the third Mon-

Please see **FISHING CLASSES** Page 6

# LUDLOW

## Local legend Ray Guillemette Jr. rocks and roll at Senior Center

By Amanda Munson  
Staff Writer  
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LUDLOW – On the afternoon of Jan. 8, the Senior Center welcomed a popular and well-known musical guest, following regular lunch service that packed the house with over 240 members in the dining hall. Described as a local legend and Elvis impersonator, Ray Guillemette Jr. serenaded and rocked the center away with his tribute to the King of Rock ‘n’ Roll.

The afternoon of music was joined with dancing, laughter from Guillemette’s jokes, and pure joy from members who were temporarily back in a simpler time. Supported by the Ludlow Cultural Council, the concert also had background about Elvis and described the times, certain pushbacks the legend faced and facts about his most popular hits that can now be streamed anytime.

Activities Director Maria Ardolino and Assistant Director Heather Jolicoeur were dressed up for the occasion, donning the iconic fifties style with leather jackets and ponytails. Members and guests for the event were driving from Town, parts of Massachusetts, and all the way from Connecticut.

Guillemette spoke about Elvis’ movies like ‘Love Me Tender’ and ‘Loving You’, then effortlessly sang popular hits, while walking around the room and dancing along to the beat with members. For more musical events, visit the Senior Center website.



Ray Guillemette Jr., also known as the Elvis impersonator, charmed attendees with his humor and his recognizable singing voice.



Members, family, and friends clapping as local legend Ray Guillemette Jr. rocks the afternoon away.



Ray Guillemette Jr. singing to the crowd at the Ludlow Senior Center.



Serenading a woman in the crowd, Ray Guillemette Jr. ensured everyone in the crowd had a good rock ‘n’ roll time.

## LFD reminds residents to register for the 2026 Ambulance Subscription Program

LUDLOW - Chief Ryan Pease and the Ludlow Fire Department would like to remind residents of the ambulance subscription program for 2026.

Ludlow Fire will be mailing the 2026 Ambulance Subscription form to all households in Ludlow by the start of November. The annual ambulance subscription fee is \$50 per residence. All residents living in the same residence will be covered under one subscription payment.

The subscription fees will cover any remaining balances for emergency ambulance services provided by Ludlow Fire that insurance does not cover.

Residents should be aware that 2025 subscriptions expired on Wednesday, Dec. 31. To ensure continued coverage for 2026, current subscribers should pay online.

The fee may be used as a tax deduction to the extent of the law. All donations from this program are used to help purchase the necessary supplies and equipment for the Ludlow Ambulance Service.

The department also offers online sign-up on our town website. Residents who do not receive a form by mail can print one online or call the Ludlow Fire Department to request one. New members are also welcome

to participate.

Those who wish to drop off payment at the station should deposit it in one of the secure drop boxes located outside the Fire Dispatch Area on the Center Street side or inside the main vestibule of the Public Safety Complex on the Chapin Street side. Cash and checks will be accepted.

For more information about the ambulance subscription program click here.

For questions or assistance, please call the Ludlow Fire Department at 413-583-8332, ext. 2309, Monday thru Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Friday between 8 a.m. and 12 p.m.

## Town Election nomination papers available

LUDLOW – Nomination papers for the March 23, 2026, Annual Town Election are available in the Town Clerk’s office.

- Assessor, 1 seat; 3-year term
- Board of Health, 1 seat; 3-year term
- Housing Authority, 1 seat; 5-year term
- Library Trustee, 1 seat; 3-year term
- Planning Board, 1 seat; 5-year term
- Planning Board, 1 seat; 4-year unexpired term

- Recreation Commission, 1 seat; 3-year term
- Select Board, 1 seat; 3-year terms
- Town Clerk, 1 seat; 3-year term
- Town Moderator, 1 seat; 3-year term

Town-wide office nomination papers must be signed by at least 50 registered voters in Ludlow. Candidates are advised to collect more than 50 signatures to ensure the requisite number of certified signa-

tures. Town meeting member nomination papers must be signed by at least ten registered voters of the precinct in which the candidate resides.

Voters in each precinct will elect five town meeting members for three years and elect other members as necessary to fill existing vacancies.

Please call the Town Clerk’s office with any questions (413) 583-5600 Ext. 1.

## Reminder to return your 2026 Annual Town Census form

LUDLOW—State law requires that you be sent an annual street listing/census form. Update the information for all individuals who reside in your household, including children, and respond within ten days, even if no changes are necessary.

Warning: Failure to respond to this mailing shall result in removal from the active voting list and may result in removal from the voter registration rolls.

Please return the annual town census form as soon as possible to the Office of the

Town Clerk.

Annual Town Census forms can be mailed to the Office of the Town Clerk, 488 Chapin St, Ludlow, MA 01056 or returned in the Town Clerk drop box located behind Town Hall.

### TOWN OF LUDLOW

#### Community Meeting – Thursday, January 29, 2026, at 6:00 PM Community Development Forum

The Town of Ludlow and the Ludlow Planning Board, in association with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, will conduct a community meeting to serve as a public forum to gather community input on community development activities that could benefit from a potential FY26 Community Development Block Grant application. The meeting will also serve as a forum to gather input on proposed updates to the Town’s zoning map and bylaws. All community members and stakeholders are invited to share thoughts on potential CDBG-eligible activities and potential new zoning bylaw updates. The event will take place at **6:00 PM**, in person at the Harris Brook Elementary School Cafeteria, 209 Fuller Street, Ludlow, MA 01056.

Please submit comments or questions to Evan Mastroianni at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission @ emastroianni@pvpc.org or 413-781-6045. Persons who require special accommodations should contact the Town prior to the event date at 413-583-5600 ext. 1200.

## Polish Junior League of Massachusetts Annual Scholarship

REGION – The Polish Junior League of Massachusetts has announced its annual scholarship program for students of Polish heritage.

The League will be awarding scholarships to undergraduate students, and one scholarship will be granted to a graduate or returning student. In addition to the Undergraduate Scholarship program, there are two memorial scholarships, the Helen Weber Scholarship and the Josephine Karwoski Memorial Scholarship, each offering a focus on specific

areas of study.

The scholarships and services provided by the Polish Junior League would not be possible without funds raised through the League’s Annual Fashion Show and public donations. By contributing, individuals, businesses and corporations are helping to expand the level of awards and positively affect students.

Sheryl Mardeusz, president of the Polish Junior League says, “we are proud to continue helping graduate and undergraduate students throughout New England and are extremely pleased to be able to help even more individuals pursue their educational goals.”

To be eligible, applicants, in addition to being part of the Polish community, must have a permanent address in the Western Massachusetts counties of Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden or Hampshire.

Enrolled in sophomore year (36 credits minimum)

after January 2, 2026 with an application deadline of May 1, 2026 and scholarship criteria can be found on the League’s website [polishjuniorleague.org](http://polishjuniorleague.org).

For 87 years, the Polish Junior League of Massachusetts, a nonprofit organization of women developed as civic leaders, has made a demonstrable impact on their community. True to its mission, the League has worked diligently to help students obtain the best education, so they may contribute to enhance the social, cultural and political fabric of civil society.

\*Scholarship Program Key Information

Applications can be submitted between January 2, 2026 and May 1, 2026

Permanent address in Western MA counties of Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden or Hampshire

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# Sports Bingo draws crowd to Hubbard Library

By **Brendan Rooney**  
Correspondent

LUDLOW —On Jan 2, the Hubbard Memorial Library played host to its first ever ‘Sports Bingo’ activity that drew more than 20 people to their program room upstairs in the building, and it turned out to be a massive success. The activity ran for four rounds and everyone in attendance got a ‘special prize’ such as a plethora of toys, candy, and bouncy balls.

Offering insight while keeping tabs on everything running smoothly was Youth Services Assistant Kristin Santos who explained to the Register that the idea was put into reality by after-school volunteer and Ludlow High Junior and NHS student Christian Kochanek.

“We’re really excited to be debuting this new variation of Bingo, because bingo here at the library it’s such a big draw, and we’re really excited to offer something new,” Santos said. “He designed the program from the ground up, and that includes running the session, creating a trivia slideshow with various questions centered around the element of sports, and we all felt he did a great job,” Santos said.

Santos then pivoted to provide context about their afterschool volunteer program which currently has 47 in total including Kochanek.

“The kids can start to



From Left to Right: Ludlow High and NHS student Christian Kochanek and Youth Services Assistant Kristin Santos.

volunteer right before the summer of 6th grade, so just around entering Middle School, and we train them, we show them how to use the dewey decimal system, they help us prepare crafts, and we also have a wide range of kids of all abilities as well, and they are great and their support and effort goes a long way here,” Santos said. “We allow them to do one hour per week, and there are two kids per shift, so they can come in with a friend and volunteer together.”

In addition, Santos raised the importance of the library in Ludlow, especially being in the center of the town, and accessible for all.

“I think the library is the

heart of the community,” Santos said. “It just adds to the overall value of drawing a new face or family to a town due to the overall tone and feel of the community, especially when people come here (library) it’s obvious we have tons of programs for all, we are addressing people by name and ensuring they feel welcomed.”

Reflecting on the overall success of the event, and echoing similar thoughts was Kochanek.

“I have been a volunteer since 7th grade, and it’s quite surreal for this opportunity to carry over into my high school career but I also feel that a big element and take-away of volunteering is that

this opportunity allows you to become closer with the community,” he said. “Leading to how I feel every kid at some point in their life should volunteer at some point because it allows you to give back to your community which you came from, and overall it’s an experience in my opinion that is truly worth it,” he said.

The next big event and activity at the library is the Movie & Craft event which is set for Saturday 1/10 as it’s a free drop-in gathering for all. Attendees will be greeted with free popcorn and drinks as the film ‘Smurfs’ (2025) will be shown, and a fun smurfy craft will be implemented afterwards.

**TIANO** from Page 1

tinuously earned. Therefore, another goal was for us to further our relationships and increase the trust in us within our community. I believe that we have done that so far in a variety of ways. As the superintendent, I am a board member for both Ludlow Cares Coalition and the Boys and Girls Club, participate in school and public events, communicate directly with staff and parents, and am part of monthly school/town leadership meetings.

In terms of trust, we have increased the level of transparency within the school district, specifically in the area of our finances. I have always believed that town residents have a right to see how their money is being spent and have worked hard to provide that for them. They may not always agree with our final decisions, but they have a right to what they are,” said Tiano.

What were the biggest challenges that faced LPS as a district? When times got hard, who were the people that made your job easier in navigating the obstacles?

“There are always challenges facing public schools so understanding the needs of your district, and plans for

addressing those needs, is absolutely vital with regard to decision making. Addressing students’ increasing mental and emotional needs, post COVID, has been a challenge for most school districts, and Ludlow is no exception.

The impact of these needs have had on classrooms, teachers, staff, and families has been significant and the adjustment to our practice to support our students is continuous. Funding is another challenge that we face, and will continue to face going forward.

Public school districts in MA are primarily reliant on state and local funding for the service that they provide children and families of their town. Costs typically increase faster than revenue resulting in schools continuously in a reduction mode. For the next fiscal year, additional funding such as federal entitlement grants are less predictable which has complicated our budget process and may exacerbate funding issues.

When it comes to navigating obstacles facing our schools, it is a team approach. As superintendent, I am responsible for making final decisions for the district, but not one decision that I

can think of, was made in total isolation.

We have a really talented team of central and building administrators, as well as professional and support staff in our district that I lean on differently depending on the situation. The support of the school committee in my time here has been incredible. Their willingness to engage in the work through subcommittees and doing their own research is invaluable,” said Tiano.

How is the district in regards to staffing? If people are interested in applying, where is the best place to direct them to?

“Staffing has been an issue for schools, at least in Massachusetts, since Covid. We are seeing fewer applicants for each open position than we would have five years ago.

Overall, we are doing well with staffing. Covering temporary leaves has been difficult, but we are managing. Openings are more at the support staff level. People can go to our website, ludlows.org, for more informa-

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# OPINION

## GUEST COLUMN



### Why didn't my friend's wife get all her SS immediately?

Dear Rusty:  
A friend told me about what he believes is a strange thing in the Social Security system.

His wife reached her full retirement age of 66 several years ago. She delayed filing for Social Security past her FRA and claimed on her 68th birthday in June of that year, exactly two years after her FRA. When she filed, she was told she would receive approximately \$300 per month, which, of course, was more than she would have received at her FRA.

She was told however that she would only receive \$300 per month as of Jan. 1 of the following year. Between June of the year she turned 68 and filed for SS until the end of that year, she would receive an amount less than \$300. This lower amount was the amount she would have received if she had filed in December, the year she turned 67. She said she was told that was how SS works. She would never receive the difference in benefits she lost from June through December of the year she filed. If the above is true, can you explain?

Signed: Astounded Friend

Dear Astounded:

What your friend described is, indeed, a unique methodology for how Social Security handles benefit payments for those who choose to wait beyond their Full Retirement Age to claim SS benefits. To understand it, let me first describe how Social Security retirement benefits are calculated.

At Full Retirement Age, a person is entitled to 100% of the SS benefit they have earned from a lifetime of working. That FRA benefit amount is known as the person's "Primary Insurance Amount" and is based upon the highest earning 35 years over the individual's lifetime.

From those past years, average lifetime monthly earnings are computed, known as the person's "Average Indexed Monthly Earnings." Their AIME is subjected to a formula which yields their Primary Insurance Amount – the benefit the person is entitled to in the month they attain their full retirement age – typically about 40% of the person's average monthly lifetime earnings. However, if the person chooses to do so, they can wait beyond their FRA to claim Social Security to get a monthly benefit even higher than their PIA, by earning Delayed Retirement Credits.

DRCs are applied to the person's PIA when they claim Social Security. For each month after FRA

the person claims, they will have .667% added to their PIA. That means that for each full year of delay, that person will get an extra 8% added to their PIA. For someone (like your friend's wife) who claimed 24 months after her FRA, she would receive a benefit 16% higher than her FRA amount. However, Social Security normally only applies DRCs in January of each year.

So, even though your friend's wife claimed her SS benefits in June, 24 months after her FRA, she would initially only get the DRCs she had accumulated through the end of the previous year – in this case, about 18 months' worth of DRCs or an SS payment about 12% higher than her PIA (her FRA amount).

She would not get her remaining earned DRCs (another 4%) until January of the following year. So, in effect, the wife's initial benefit didn't reflect all her earned DRCs until her later January benefit payment. Thus, the wife essentially lost that extra benefit money for the period between June and December of the year she claimed Social Security. In other words, she wouldn't get the full 16% amount until SS applied the additional 4% DRCs to her benefit payment the following January. And that is why your friend's wife initially received a payment a bit less than the \$300 Social Security said she was entitled to by waiting two years after her FRA to claim.

This surprises many who choose to wait beyond their full retirement age to claim Social Security. But, curiously, this process doesn't apply to those who wait until age 70 to claim their SS benefits. For those who wait until age 70 to claim, Social Security will immediately apply all DRCs that they have accumulated and provide them with their maximum SS benefit immediately.

*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.*

### PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a "people news" form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for The Register, please email [theregister@turley.com](mailto:theregister@turley.com).

### ANNUAL REACTION OF COMMUTERS ...



## GUEST COLUMN

### Baking bread with herbs

There has been a resurgence lately in doing things the "old fashioned way!" I am definitely all for that, since I have often felt I was born a century too late.

People are making their own soap and laundry detergent, growing gardens, and canning and preserving the harvest. Many have also gotten the sourdough itch, and are baking all sorts of breads, rolls and treats using sourdough starter. My niece shared some of her starter with my husband and I! It traveled several states to make it to us and boy was our first loaf delicious.

I don't feel as if I will give up making yeasted bread entirely, though, especially since my favorite bread of all time is a braided bread that incorporates herbs. (You know that eventually I would weave in a gardening topic!) I'm excited to share the recipe with you.

Maybe you will even become inspired to grow your own herbs to use in this or any number of recipes down the road.

This time of year it is likely you won't have fresh herbs on hand, so before we begin, I'd like to give you some tips for using dried herbs.

First, remember to break them up finely just before you incorporate them into any recipe. Honestly, there is nothing worse than coming across a full-size piece of Rosemary foliage, for example. It's like you are chomping on a pine needle!

Besides making the herbs more palatable, the flavor will be released ever so nicely once they are finely ground. Small amounts of herbs can be crushed between your fingertips – larger amounts can be ground up using a mortar and pestle.

Pulverize whole spices in a coffee grinder. Some folks

cup at a time to form a slightly sticky dough, adding up to ½ cup additional flour if necessary.

Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface and knead until smooth and elastic, about 5 minutes. Place dough in a large bowl that has been lightly buttered.

Turn dough to coat entire surface. Cover with a clean cloth and let rise in a warm, draft-free area until the dough has doubled in volume, about 1 ½ hours.

Punch dough down. Divide into thirds. One by one, take each third and knead in the individual herbs. Roll each dough ball between the palms of your hands into a rope about 20 inches long. Taper the ends.

When complete, lay the three side by side and working from the middle, braid each end. Transfer the bread to a buttered baking sheet and cover loosely with a clean cloth.

Allow to rise in a warm place for 45- 50 minutes, until doubled in size.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Brush loaf with remaining 1 tablespoon of melted butter and bake for 20-30 minutes or until golden and loaf sounds hollow when tapped.

Cool for 30 minutes before serving. Serve it warm with a pat of butter or have some olive oil handy for dipping!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

Blend 1 cup water and 1 tablespoon of the melted butter into the yeast mixture. Combine 2 ½ cups flour and salt.

Stir into yeast mixture ½

COUNTRY HERB BREAD TWIST

1 envelope active dry yeast  
1 teaspoon sugar  
¼ cup water (110 degrees)  
¼ stick unsalted butter, melted (2 tablespoons)  
2 ½- 3 cups all-purpose flour  
1 ½ teaspoons salt  
1 tablespoon minced fresh oregano  
1 tablespoon minced fresh thyme  
1 tablespoon minced fresh rosemary

Sprinkle yeast and sugar over ¼ cup warm water in a large bowl; stir to dissolve. Let stand until foamy (approximately 15 minutes).  
Blend 1 cup water and 1 tablespoon of the melted butter into the yeast mixture. Combine 2 ½ cups flour and salt.  
Stir into yeast mixture ½

her feeder on Sunday, Jan. 4. The evening grosbeak is an eight inch long, chunky, thick billed finch, which wanders widely in winter.

The males are yellow and brown with black and white wings. The females are gray with white and black wings. Both sexes have a thick bill. They have notched, square tipped tails and pointed wings.

Often evening grosbeaks visit feeders in large flocks. They inhabit conifer forests and in winter are seen in box elders, maples and fruiting



**Male evening grosbeak**  
A resident of Lake Lashaway saw her first ever evening grosbeak in the morning at

# The REGISTER

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language.

All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

Send letters to: The Register, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email [theregister@turley.com](mailto:theregister@turley.com). The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

### SUBMISSIONS POLICY

Readers, local merchants, institutions, municipalities, non-profit groups, and civic organizations are strongly encouraged to send The Register your hometown news and photos. News items and press releases should be sent via email to [mharrison@turley.com](mailto:mharrison@turley.com) as an attachment AND pasted directly into the email message screen.

Please send photo captions identifying all subjects in your image(s) from left to right. We need first and last name, hometown, title if applicable, and a brief description of what subjects are doing in the photo. Email uncorrected, raw, RGB color digital photos at highest resolution directly off your camera to [mharrison@turley.com](mailto:mharrison@turley.com).

Publicity chairpersons are encouraged to send in news about upcoming fundraising or other calendar events at least three weeks before the event.

If you are having difficulty with a press release or need help, please call (413) 283-8393.

To send submissions by regular post, mail to: The Register, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

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### ELECTION LETTERS POLICY

The Register 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 Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to [theregister@turley.com](mailto:theregister@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 Thursday'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 the editor at 413-283-8393.

### Campaign news

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

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

shrubs. They breed in the coniferous and mixed forests. They are seen in spruce and fir trees in the northern forests and pines in the western mountains. They are seen in winter in deciduous woodlands and semi-open country. Their song is a series of short, musical whistles. Their call note is similar to the chirp of a house sparrow, but louder.

The female lays three to four pale blue to blue green, blotched with brown, gray or purple eggs. The female does all the incubating, but the male may feed the female during this time. Both parents feed the nestlings.

Their diet is mostly seeds and some berries and insects. They prefer seeds of box elder, ash, maple, locust and other trees. At feeders, they prefer sunflower seeds. They also will feed on oozing ma-

# What's Happening at Hubbard Memorial Library

To register for programs or find out more information, visit [ludlow.cwmars.org](http://ludlow.cwmars.org), or call (413) 583-3408. Weather-related announcements for outdoor events will be made on the library's Facebook page the morning of the program.

Library Hours: M, W, F 9-5, TU, TH, 9-8, S 10-2. Closed Saturdays during the summer, Sundays and holidays.

The library will be resuming regular operating hours on September 1. Please note a change in Saturday operating hours of 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. rather than 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## FOR ALL AGES

Friends of the Hubbard Memorial Library, third Thursday of the month, 6 p.m. Get involved! Join the Friends of the Library for their monthly meeting and learn how you can help support the library.

## FOR ADULTS

The Dangers of Online Family Trees Thursday, January 15 16-7:30 PM Join us for a talk by Dave Robison of Old Bones Genealogy discussing with you the dangers of depending on online family trees. He will go over how to tread lightly, what you should and should not trust and how to verify. He will also give you tools to avoid the temptation to believe everything that is so easily at your fingertips while giving you strategies to allow the use of potentially bad or even dangerous information in the right way. Will also be available on Zoom for those who can

not attend in person. Please register on our website or by calling 583-3408 x0.

Sound Energy Healing Series One Saturday per month 10:30 AM. Sound healing brings individuals into a state of relaxation and rest. Enjoy an hour of peace and calm while sitting or laying on a yoga mat, absorbing the healing vibrations from instruments such as the quartz crystal bowls lead by Julia Nadolny. Bring a yoga mat or towel, something to lay on during the program and a blanket to cover yourself up in. Dates: 1/31, 2/28, 3/28, 4/25, 5/23, 6/13.

Please register on our website or by calling the circulation desk. Sign-ups are for the individual session, not the entire series.

Mass Center for the Book Monthly Reading Challenge Each month, you'll be challenged to read a book based on a chosen theme. Those who participate will be entered to win a free tote bag full of books! For more information and to sign up, please visit <https://www.massbook.org/readingchallenge-2>

Chair Volleyball for Seniors, every Thursday, 1:30 p.m. Have some fun and join us for chair volleyball! No running or jumping required. Please sign up on our website or by calling the circulation desk at 413-583-3408. Walk-ins are welcome.

Who picked this book? Book Club Meeting, first Thursday of the month, 3:30 p.m. Join us for this month's Who picked this book? Book Club meeting! You can pick up a copy of the book at the circulation desk.

Happy Hour Book Club Meeting, last Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. Join us for

this month's Happy Hour Book Club meeting! You can pick up a copy of the book at the circulation desk.

## FOR TEENS

Anime Club, (biweekly) Tuesday, January 13, 3:30-5:00 pm. For middle and high schoolers. Registration recommended.

Nintendo Switch Night, (monthly) Tuesday, January 20, 6 - 8 pm. For middle and high schoolers. There's pizza! Please register.

Online Gaming Club for YAs, every Thursday, 3:30 - 5 pm. For ages 10-15. We have Minecraft; for other games patrons need their own account. Please register.

## FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS

Movie: Smurfs (2025), plus craft. Saturday, January 10, 11 a.m. - 12:30 pm. All ages. Drop-in.

Youth Chess Club, Monday, January 12 (biweekly), 3:30-4:30 pm. Ages 9-17. All experience levels welcome. Please register.

Scavenger Hunt: Amy's Favorite Books! Tuesday, January 13. For all ages. Find pictures of all the books and win a prize. Drop-in.

Youth Crochet Club, Tuesday, January 13 (biweekly), 5:30-6:30 pm. For ages 10-17. Beginners welcome. Supplies provided or bring your own. Please register.

Tween Chaos Boardgame Club, (biweek-

ly) Friday, January 16, 3:15 - 4:45 pm. For ages 10-14. Please register.

Martin Luther King Jr. Peace Sticker Making, Friday, January 16, Noon - 3 pm. All ages. Drop in.

Paper Patchwork Art, Saturday, January 17, 10:30 - 1:30 pm. All ages (scissor use required). Drop-in.

Pokemon Club, Wednesday, January 21, 3:30 - 4:45 pm. For grades 3-8. Please register.

Lego Build Challenge, every Wednesday, 12:00 to 5 pm. Pull a Lego Build Challenge Card and try to build it with the library's Legos, or free build just for fun. All creations will be put on display in the Youth Room for the week. Drop-in.

## FOR CHILDREN

Storytime Series for ages 3-5; There's Magic in the Library, Mondays, through February 24 (not Jan. 19 and Feb. 16) 10 am. Stories, songs, games and a craft about dragons, fairies, giants, and other magical beings. Space is limited, please register.

True Tales Storytime for Homeschooled 5-8 year olds, Wednesdays, through February 12, 1 pm. A gently educational storytime about real people and historical events with a craft or activity. Please register.

Storytime Series for ages 2-3; There's

Please see **DATEBOOK** Page 7



VFW Post Members with Auxiliary President Kara Smith, Paul Chrzan, and Linda Collette greeted people and provided raffle tickets for kids and adults.

## FIRST RESPONDERS

from Page 1

of control. At their core, first responders are people who choose-again and again-to place the safety and well-being of others ahead of their own comfort, and sometimes ahead of their own lives. That commitment deserves not only our gratitude, but our respect, support, and care. For the last eight years we have partnered with PV Financial to honor our first responders. Other businesses have provided support to complete the event," said Segundo.

Speaking with Auxiliary President Kara Smith of VFW Post 3236, Smith explained how she got involved within the group and how it soon became a family affair. "The auxiliary are the family members of



Fire Chief Ryan Pease with his son and first responders excited for the night ahead!

the VFW, so we also come and support the event. We are selling calendars and that's for the auxiliary to help raise money and do all this, we come and help out. Auxiliary is mostly the

family members, the daughters, sons, grandchildren, wives, spouses of the people that are in the VFW. We

are here to support them and all the events they do, but we also do our own. I'm part of the auxiliary



From East St. Elementary School in Town, students were asked to draw thank you notes for the table settings.



Provisional Police Chief Mike Brennan with his wife at the appreciation dinner.

because my mother and my father are both part of the VFW. We try to be the family support and these types of events, you have people commending the military and the veterans and also the family behind them," said Smith.

Smith continued, "The event was 100% free and a way to give back and thank them for everything they do. I grew up in the military and the first responders are doing the same thing mili-

tary, they're just protecting closer to home. We want to show them that we support them, just like they support us. We always want to be there for them," ended Smith.

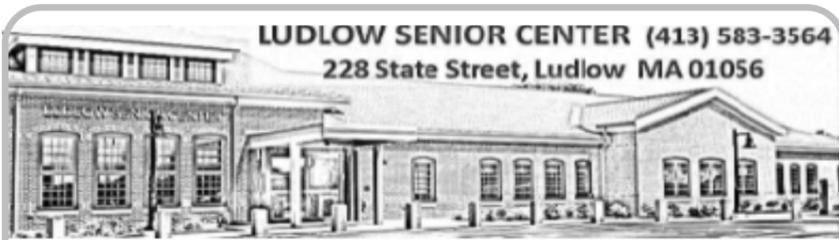
Segundo ended by thanking our first responders, "Thank you to our first responders for your courage, sacrifice, and unwavering service. We are grateful for all you do to keep our community safe-today and always."



The First Responders Appreciation Dinner was proudly hosted by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Pioneer Valley Financial Group of Ludlow.



The room was packed with notable chiefs, sheriffs, officers, firefighters, and all first responders who were able to catch up and eat for free.



**LUDLOW SENIOR CENTER (413) 583-3564**  
228 State Street, Ludlow MA 01056

## Welcome to the Ludlow Senior Center

Don't let winter keep you away from the Ludlow Senior Center! Gather with friends in the Center's beautiful dining room and enjoy a delicious lunch complete with coffee, tea, and dessert. To join us, just call 413-583-3564 a day in advance to reserve your spot (Call Friday for Monday lunch).

Don't miss out on what's happening. Pick up our monthly Newsletter at the Center or share your email with us to have it delivered straight to your inbox. You can also explore programs, find important forms, and learn more about what a Senior Center has to offer at [ludlow.ma.us/coa/](http://ludlow.ma.us/coa/). And for the latest news and photos, be sure to "like" the Ludlow Senior Center on Facebook!

As the days grow colder, we look forward to sharing warm meals, great programs, and good company with you. Please note that if the Ludlow schools are closed or have a delay due to inclement weather, the Center will be closed or have a delayed opening. Be sure to check News 22 or 40 for delays or closings.

### Activities Calendar:

Please register in advance for items with\*

#### Thursday, January 8

9 a.m. Tai Chi  
9:30 a.m. Dominos  
10:15 a.m. Mindful Meditation\*  
10:30 a.m. Friends of the Center Meeting  
10:30 a.m. Sen. Oliveira Office Hour  
12:45 pm. Mahjong  
1:30 p.m. Ray of Elvis Concert  
2 p.m. Writers Block  
2:30 p.m. Active Yoga

#### Friday, January 9

8:45 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp\*  
9 a.m. Reiki by Appointment\*  
10 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp\*  
10 a.m. Blook Pressure Checks  
10 a.m. Shiloh Angels Home Care Info  
1 p.m. Ceramics  
1 p.m. Health Bones & Balance\*  
1 p.m. Decorating Committee Meeting

#### Monday, January 12

9 a.m. Knitting  
9:30 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp\*  
10 a.m. Computer Help  
10 a.m. Post Crossing w/Michael Engel\*  
1 p.m. Scrabble  
1:15 p.m. Pitch  
1:30 p.m. Watercolor Pencil Class\*  
2:30 p.m. Zumba Gold

#### Tuesday, January 13

9 a.m. Quilting  
9 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Cribbage  
10:30 a.m. Gentle Yoga  
10:30 a.m. National Pie Day Treats  
1 p.m. Western Dance Class  
1:30 p.m. Bingo  
Evening Activities Return in Feb.

#### Wednesday, January 14

8:45 a.m. Zumba Gold  
9 a.m. Ceramics  
9 a.m. Mobile Dental Clinic by Appointment\*  
10:30 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance\*  
12 p.m. Lunch & Learn\*  
1 p.m. Dominos  
1 p.m. Movie: King of the Wilderness (2018)  
1 p.m. Healthy Bones & Balance\*

#### Thursday, January 15

9 a.m. Tai Chi  
9:30 a.m. Dominos  
10 a.m. Life of MLK Talk\*  
10:15 a.m. Mindful Meditation  
12:45 pm. Mahjong  
1:30 p.m. Soap Making Fun\*  
2:30 p.m. Active Yoga

\*PLEASE register for Boomer Boot Camp, Healthy Bones & Balance, Foot Care, and other programs as noted by calling 583-3564

Café: Monday – Friday 8-11 a.m.  
Exercise Room: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Open until 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday.  
Walking Club: Monday – Friday 7 a.m. and 8 a.m., leaving from the parking lot.

### Menu:

Thursday, January 8: Lazy Pot Pie  
Friday, January 9: Stuffed Cabbage/Buttered Egg Noodles  
Monday, January 12: Hot Dog/Roll/Baked Beans/Cucumber Salad  
Tuesday, January 13: Cobb Salad  
Wednesday, January 14: Lasagna Rolllet/Caesar Salad/Garlic Knot  
Thursday, January 15: Taco Nachos  
Friday, January 16: Shrimp Scampi/Linguini/Green Beans

Reserve a delicious \$2 lunch by calling a day ahead. all on Friday to reserve lunch on Monday.

For allergy concerns, call the Senior Center to inquire about ingredients at 413-583-3564.

# EDUCATION

## Colleges announce Dean's Lists

### Holyoke Community College announces Fall 2025 Dean's List

HOLYOKE - Each semester Holyoke Community College recognizes superior scholarship through the Dean's List. A student is placed on the Dean's List if their G.P.A. is 3.2 or higher. The students listed below have earned Dean's List honors for the Fall 2025 term:

**Indian Orchard:** A'mariona Anderson, Aida I. Cruz, Jailene Luzmariel Delgado, Shanice Linnehan, Cara Brie Mock, Amanda Marguerite Montalban.

**Ludlow:** Nicholas Antonio Aleixo, Brandon Michael Authier, Nathan Barnard, Alexandra Antosia Bunko, Shalina Chantel Coates, Andrew Joel Doming, Jessica Dosreis, Isabella Marae Eskett, Michael Augustino Gomes, Jonathan Manuel Goncalves, Giana Lyn Hafner, Sarah Kites, Rowan Elise Mateus, Erin Mackenzie Mayou, Annie Murphy, Sabrina Quiterio, Vincent Ribeiro, Keianna Ivalise Rios, Giovanni Rubbo, Melissa Szumski, Cornelia del carmen Taveras III, Agnieszka Zerdecka.

### SNHU Announces

**Fall 2025 President's List**  
MANCHESTER, NH— It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Fall 2025 President's List. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Jennifer Santiago of Indian Orchard

Amber Davissmith of Indian Orchard  
Cora Pray of Indian Orchard  
Jonathan Fortune of Ludlow

### SNHU announces Fall 2025 Dean's List

MANCHESTER, NH— It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Fall 2025 Dean's List. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Lakesha Jordan of Indian Orchard  
Alejandro Stephens of Springfield

Matthew Corbin of Ludlow  
Bonnie Lagerstrom of Ludlow

Taylor Colberg of Ludlow, MA named to Lasell University Fall 2025 Dean's List

NEWTON—Taylor Colberg, a Lasell University student from Ludlow, MA was named to the Dean's List for their academic performance in the Fall 2025 semester.

To be named to the Dean's List, Lasell students must complete at least 12 credits as a full-time student and achieve a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

### STCC announces

**Fall 2025 dean's list**  
SPRINGFIELD, MA – Springfield Technical Community College celebrates the accomplishment of the 1,198 students who were named to the fall 2025 dean's list.

The dean's list is published

each semester to recognize excellence in academic performance. To be considered, degree-seeking students must earn 12 or more college level credits in the current semester, or a total of 12 or more combined college-level credits earned during the fall and spring semesters, and achieve a 3.3 or above grade point average.

Student names are listed under the towns or cities in which they reside.

**Indian Orchard:** Caleb David Ayala, Sasha Marie Diaz, Yulissa Marie Estrella, Shahad Hasan, Carolyn L. Lee, Mai Lee, Sharon Medina, Emelia S. Mensah, Solimar Mojica, Ryanna-Kelly Vizengwa Musambai, Caine Tyler Popowski, Nelyannette Rodriguez, Diego Santiago Reveron, Tequila Taylor-Evans, Vionetta Ailene White, Alisha C. Wright

**Ludlow:** Ana R. Acevedo, Cheryl Alleman, Ashlee M. Bourcier, Aeryanna McKenzie-Anne Bramlett, Gina Marie Cabido, Santiago Ribeiro Cadete, Mya Julianne Carmona, Eric Cave, Nathan R. Conniff, Adam Connors, Bradley DeJesus, Elizabeth Ann Evon, Stephanie Fathi-Ahmed, James Ferrara, Anthony Tyler Fortune, Nayia Angelique Gee, Olivia F. Guerin, Kylie Elizabeth Huse, Monika S. Jasinska, Michael J. Jessmer, Tatiana Maria Lamas, Rayah K. Landers, Megan Lyonnais, Kate Alexandra Mahue, Ixia Marie Maldonado, Rachel May, Davanee Lee McHale, Rion Ezra Mendez, Michael Ernest Michalczuk, Melina L. Nilson, Ashley Otero, Kortney Lace Parent, Carlos Augusto Porfirio, Cory J. Rodrigues, Dharmal Elam Safi, Kristin Ann Santos, Tristin Alexander Joseph Stephens, Eric J. Sullivan, Sofia Melissa Szumski, Haleigh Marie Tauscher, Meghan Taylor, Nathan Christopher Tracy, Jessica Lynn Vautrain, Sokah Lynn Vazquez

## Death by Cupcake murder mystery dinner

BELCHERTOWN—The Belchertown Historical Association is holding its annual murder mystery dinner on Saturday, Feb. 7 at Tony and Penny's Restaurant in Ludlow. The show will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by the dinner buffet at 7 p.m. Guests can arrive as early as 6 p.m.

This year's show, written by Paula Hilton, is entitled:

Death by Cupcake. We look forward, as always, to the hilarious antics of the BUCC Players from the Belchertown United Church of Christ.

Plan a night out of dinner and entertainment while supporting our historical association, the United Church of Christ, Belchertown and a favorite local restaurant business.

The tickets are \$47 each and include the show, dinner and dessert. There will be a cash bar.

Tickets are available at Cold Spring Discount Liquors (on the Belchertown Common) or by contacting Sally Shattuck 413-230-2022 or [sallyshattuck54@gmail.com](mailto:sallyshattuck54@gmail.com).

### YOUTH SERVICES

from Page 1  
contracts and people keep getting raises and the people that are non-union are getting lost," said Gennette. The topic regarding the library positions never came back up into the meeting.

The meeting continued with conversations on the lack of a park and recreation director, the difference between different cuts that will make up the \$1.7 million

deficit the Town is in, and the future Feb. 11 meeting that will present the two budget-saving options that the public is highly encouraged to attend. The Board ultimately tabled the conversation for a future meeting.

## Free HCC line-cook training program begins Jan. 26

HOLYOKE - Holyoke Community College will be running both daytime and evening editions of its free, line-cook training program at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute beginning Jan. 26.

The six-week daytime program starts Monday, Jan. 26, and runs until March 6. Classes meet Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The 11-week evening program runs from Jan. 26 until April 8 on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 5 to 9 p.m.

Additional spring semester line-cook training programs will start on March 30 (daytime), April 27 (evening) and May 11 (daytime).

"HCC tries to meet the needs of its students by offering multiple options for start days and times," said Paul Sheehan, assistant project coordinator for culinary arts programs. "Over the last few years, we have offered our free line cook training as separate day and evening programs to help students find the schedule that works best for them."

The program is designed for those already in the restaurant industry who want to upgrade their skills as well as unemployed or underemployed individuals interested in starting new careers.

"We usually have a mix of young people entering the job market for the first time and people who are re-entering the job market, looking for a second career," Sheehan said. "The course is perfect for anybody who's looking for a job and has a

passion for food and the dining industry."

All classes meet in person at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute at 164 Race St.

Participants will learn all the essential competencies they need to become successful line cooks: knife skills; how to prepare stocks, soups, sauces, desserts, poultry, fish and meat; culinary math and measurements; moist and dry heat cooking methods; as well as workplace soft skills, such as building a resume and searching for jobs.

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

For more information, or to fill out an inquiry form, please go to [hcc.edu/line-cook](http://hcc.edu/line-cook).

**LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET!**

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN ASSORTED PORK LOIN CHOPS..... **\$1.88** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS..... **\$2.11** lb

USDA INSP. GRADE A DOZEN JUMBO BROWN EGGS..... **\$2.49** lb

**SLICED IN OUR DELI**

USDA INSP. TURKEY BREAST..... **\$4.99** lb

USDA INSP. MUIENSTER CHEESE..... **\$4.99** lb

**TAILGATE SPECIALS**

USDA INSP. STORE MADE BONELESS KOREAN BBQ MARINATED PORK BUTT STRIPS..... **\$3.35** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP SIRLOIN PICANHA STEAKS..... **\$7.99** lb

**INFLATION PRICE BUSTERS**

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TENDERLOIN **\$12.99** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP SIRLOIN SPOON ROAST or STEAKS **\$7.99** lb

USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY DIET LEAN GROUND BEEF **\$4.99** 5 LB BAG

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

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF WHOLE EYE ROUND..... **\$4.75** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG..... **\$1.66** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS TRAY PAK.. **59¢** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN FULLY COOKED BREADED CUT UP CHICKEN..... **\$1.99** lb

USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN CAPTAIN AL'S SEAFOOD ENTREES LINGUINE & CLAMS MARINARA LINGUINE & CLAMS WHITE SAUCE..... **\$1.49** ea

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We reserve the right to limit quantities.

### FISHING CLASSES

from Page 1  
day of the month from September until May at the Ludlow Elks Lodge 69 Chapin Street Ludlow MA. The meetings start at 7:00 PM, and we are always looking to have people join us. The meetings start off with Dan Trela from Trela Custom Rods tying

three flies then we usually have a guest speaker followed by our meeting agenda. Our "March Expo" a fundraiser that instead of having a monthly meeting we invite vendors to come in and sell fly fishing related items as well as having raffles items that we raffle off. We also have a guest speaker at this event as well," said LaFrancis.

*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.**



Turley Photos by Brendan Rooney

**The gifts are all lined up.**

**GIFT SHOP** from Page 1

Santos also reflected on the value of community and how the progression of seeing volunteers who once came in as kids and participated in the plethora of programs are now helping create new ideas while assisting where they are required.

"It's kind of surreal to remember that a lot of these

kids started coming here when they were really little, and now they are making an impact on the work being done here, but also finding a sense of community, and building friendships along the way," Santos said. Before adding a final thought, "I just love library kids, I think they are the best, as they make me laugh and smile every day and it's just an honor to see

them grow into these incredible human beings."

In addition, Santos explained that the number of volunteers varies during the seasons, but when it comes to the summer, the expected number will double, and currently it is at 47.

The party consisted of friends rekindling conversation, opening gifts and playing a round of Simon Says.



Simon Says in full effect.

## Lotto calendars are now available

PALMER—Baystate Wing Gift Shop Annual January Lotto Calendars are now available through Jan. 30, 2026. The drawing will be held Feb. 3, 2026.

The price is \$5 for one calendar with 31 chances to

win and \$10 for three calendars with 93 chance to win. The winner need not be present.

Funds are used for scholarship awards for seven local high school graduates and towards the gift shop's

pledge of \$200,000 (in installments) to Baystate Wing to a specific department.

These make great stocking stuffers/gifts or recognition of someone in your daily life.

# DATEBOOK

Do you have a local event or activity to publicize? Please send the information as either a Word doc or plain (no bold text or other formatting) email text (no PDFs, please and do not use all uppercase (i.e. UPPER CASE) by 5 p.m. Friday. At least two weeks prior to the event is encouraged. Send your community events to [theregister@turley.com](mailto:theregister@turley.com)

**ONGOING**

**VOLLEYBALL** at E Street School began Sept. 16th at 5:30 p.m. They play Tuesday and Thursdays.

Call the Ludlow Senior Center for more information 413-583-3564.

**BI-MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE** On the first Saturday of each EVEN month (February, April, June, August,

October, December) First Church in Ludlow, 859 Center St, collects non-perishable foods. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., drive through the back parking lot. We will take your donations out of your car & bring them to the Community Survival Center to be distributed to those in need.

**FREE CLOTHING.** Every Tuesday from 9 to 11 a.m., in the school building located behind Crossway Christian Church, 2230 Main St., Three Rivers. Clothing from baby through adult. Current, seasonal clothes in all sizes. Bags are provided for easy shopping. For more information call Donna, (413)478-0768.

**SENIOR BINGO:**

Hosted by the Indian Orchard Citizens Council 3:30-5 p.m. every Monday. Free to play with great prizes. For more information, call 413-209-8240.

**CHESS CLUB:** Open to residents of all surrounding communities 5:30 p.m. every Tuesday at the Indian Orchard Citizens Council, 117 Main St. For more information, contact the IOCC at 413-209-8240 or [indianorchardcitizenscouncil@gmail.com](mailto:indianorchardcitizenscouncil@gmail.com) or stop in during operating hours. Follow the IOCC on Facebook and Instagram.

**AQUACISE AT THE CLUB:** The Ludlow Community Center/Randall Boys & Girls Club, at 91 Claudias Way, continues to offer Aquacise throughout the week. Aquacise is a low-impact, full-body workout performed in the water to put less stress on your joints and muscles while building strength. Classes are open to all members with pool-inclusive memberships and do not require prior registration. Classes are held 8:30-9:15 a.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. For questions, call 413-583-2072, ext. 124.

**SUPPORT FOR FAMILY MEMBERS:** The Michael J. Dias Support Group meets 6-7:15 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at Our Lady of Fatima Par-

ish Center. Education, resources, peer support, and hope for parents and family members coping with a loved one with a substance use disorder. Anyone needing help is welcome to attend. Masks are required and we will be seated six feet apart. For more information, call Maureen at 413-563-6226.

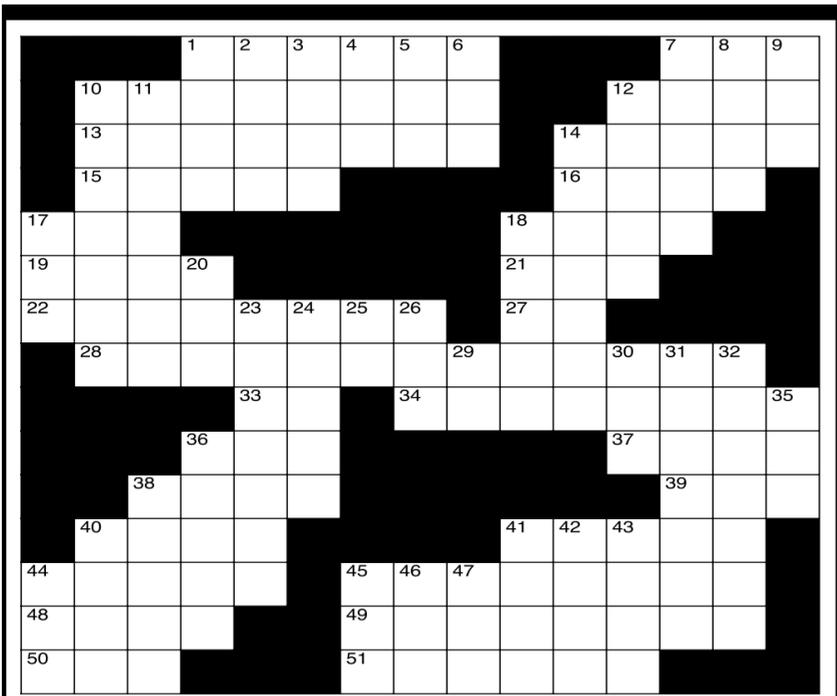
**QUABBIN VALLEY TWIRLERS** If you missed the first lessons in the fall, now is the time to give yourself a gift of dancing enjoyment for the coming holiday time. Do you want some exercise, mental acuity, and lots of fun with great people? Try our national folk dance, square dancing with the Quabbin Valley Twirlers. They dance in Belchertown and Ludlow with Sunday and Wednesday evenings available. For more information, call Gloria or Fran at 413-467-3352.

**BIBLE STUDY:** A weekly Bible study led by Ludlow resident Hank Bastos takes place at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays at 485 East St., Ludlow. Call 413-348-6487 for more information.

**SHARE YOUR SIGHT:** Volunteer to read, shop or walk with a blind or vision impaired person in your community. Call the Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired at 1-888-613-2777 for details.

### NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Mechanical lever
- 7. Rocky peak
- 10. Leave a country
- 12. Discount
- 13. D.C. ballplayer
- 14. Partner to "oohed"
- 15. Engine sound
- 16. Japanese ornamental box
- 17. Fido is one
- 18. Amounts of time
- 19. DiFranco and Phyo are two
- 21. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
- 22. Make secret plans
- 27. "Tiny Bubbles" singer
- 28. "His Airness"
- 33. Morning
- 34. Perfected
- 36. Winger guitarist

**Beach**

- 37. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician
- 38. Self-immolation by fire ritual
- 39. A way to save money
- 40. Pulpit
- 41. Make ecstatically happy
- 44. Once more
- 45. Works on
- 48. Nocturnal S. American rodent
- 49. State again
- 50. Expression of disappointment
- 51. Type of door

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Yugoslavian communist leader
- 2. Exchange rate
- 3. High school dance

- 4. Peter's last name
- 5. When you anticipate arriving
- 6. Israeli city \_\_ Aviv
- 7. Goat-like mammals
- 8. Margarine
- 9. End-of-the-spectrum color
- 10. Make poisonous
- 11. Popular beverage
- 12. Actress Lathan
- 14. Where planes land and depart
- 17. Political fundraising entity
- 18. The distinctive spirit of a people or an era
- 20. Buffer used in microbiology
- 23. Light, open carriage
- 24. Metrical feet
- 25. Email subject line feature

- 26. A street with lots of nightmares
- 29. Rapper Rule
- 30. River in Scotland
- 31. One who settles a dispute
- 32. Most chummy
- 35. We all have our own
- 36. Arab tribe
- 38. Slap
- 40. Ottoman military commanders
- 41. Scottish or Irish Gaelic language
- 42. Emit coherent radiation
- 43. Sun or solar disk (Egyptian mythology)
- 44. Inclined to
- 45. Olfactory reference syndrome
- 46. Chest muscle (slang)
- 47. Body part



**WEDNESDAY**  
All Pastas \$20!  
Try one in our House Made Bread Bowls



**THURSDAY**  
Prime Rib Night  
served with potato, veg

**Our Famous Brunch!**  
Saturday & Sunday 9:00am-Noon



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Mon-WED 11:00am - 9:00pm  
THURS-SAT 11:00am - 10:00pm  
Bar Open Late



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# OBITUARIES

## DEATH NOTICES

**Kenneth B. Alves**  
Died Jan. 5, 2026  
Services  
Jan. 31, 2026 at  
Christ Community  
Church, Belchertown  
Ludlow Funeral  
Home

**Jeannine Dube**  
Died Jan. 8, 2026  
Services  
Jan. 22, 9:15 a.m.  
Ludlow Funeral  
Home

**Steven Carroll**  
Died  
December 14, 2025  
Services are private.

## Kenneth B. Alves



Kenneth B. Alves passed away peacefully on Monday, Jan. 5, 2026. Ken was a devoted member of Christ Community Church in Belchertown. His church family played a central role in his daily life; he eagerly anticipated weekly services and social gatherings. His contributions to the church extended beyond attendance—he gave of himself through song, service, and baked goods that warmed many hearts.



He was also a veteran of the United States Air Force and served honorably. Gifted with a deep baritone sing-

ing voice Ken was a member of the Ludlow High School Concert Choir during his time there. Beyond high school he sang with the Springfield Symphony Choir for years. Ken shared a special bond with his beloved cat Samantha, whom he adopted as a kitten ten years ago. She was a constant companion and remains a beloved furry family member to him.

He is lovingly remembered by his sister, Dorothy McKeon; brother, David Alves and David's wife Lisa Alves; nieces Megan McKeon (and her husband Noah McKeon) and Rachel (McKeon) Blessing (and her hus-

band Alex Blessing); grandnieces Stevie McKeon, Flora Blessing, and Emmie Blessing. Ken was preceded in death by his parents Elizabeth (Alves) Humber and David Alves; brother-in-law Joseph McKeon; and sister-in-law Marcella (Marcy) Alves.

A Service celebrating his life will be held on Jan. 31, 2026, at 11 a.m. at Christ Community Church, 1255 Federal St., Belchertown. If you wish, in lieu of flowers we ask that you donate in Ken's memory to any animal rescue or shelter of your choice or the adoption center where he rescued Samantha: Thomas J O'Connor Animal Control & Adoption Center 627 Cottage St, Springfield, MA 01104.

## Jeannine Dube, 95

LUDLOW – Jeannine Dube 95, of Ludlow, passed away peacefully on January 8, 2026, surrounded by loved ones. She was born in Ludlow on August 14, 1930, to the late Telesphore and Evelina Dube and was a graduate of St John the Baptist School and Cathedral High School. Jeannine was a lifelong member of St. John the Baptist Church/St. Elizabeth Parish in Ludlow where she was a devout Catholic and a member of Ladies of St Anne. Jeannine spent her entire working career at Ludlow Savings Bank. She will be remembered for her love of family, and kindness she showed toward others.



er Dube and his wife Tillie, Florida Ackerman and her husband George, Edna Ackerman and husband Albert and Anita Maurice and husband Gilbert. She was also an adored aunt to the late Janet Granger, Susan Tremble, Richard Duby, Kathy Ackerman and Kevin Ackerman. Jeannine will be remembered by nieces and nephews Marion Nummy, Kenny Duby, Sherry Shaffer, David Dube,

Although Jeannine did not have any children of her own, she was a devoted sister to the late Eugene Duby and wife Rita, Adre-in Duby, Alphonse Duby and his wife Shirley, Rog-

er Dube and his wife Tillie, Florida Ackerman and her husband George, Edna Ackerman and husband Albert and Anita Maurice and husband Gilbert. She was also an adored aunt to the late Janet Granger, Susan Tremble, Richard Duby, Kathy Ackerman and Kevin Ackerman. Jeannine will be remembered by nieces and nephews Marion Nummy, Kenny Duby, Sherry Shaffer, David Dube,

Harold Ackerman, Jimmy Ackerman, Gerald Ackerman, Michael Ackerman and Christopher Maurice, along with their spouses and children. She was blessed to have Christopher and Karen Maurice; David and Annette Dube and Lynn Casimiro to assist with her care.

Funeral Services for Jeannine will be held on Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026, from the Ludlow Funeral Home. Visiting hours will be from 9:15-10:15am at the Funeral Home, with a Liturgy of Christian Mass celebrated at 11 a.m. in St. Elizabeth Church followed by burial in St. Aloysius Cemetery, Springfield. For additional information please visit: Ludlowfuneralhome.com

## Senior Center Armchair Travel Series: Travel Poland

WILBRAHAM – There's more than one way to travel. Join your fellow travelers for a virtual adventure fueled

by authentic Polish cuisine, music and fun! Feb. 26, Noon to 2 p.m. at your leisure.

Call 596-8379 to register, walk-ins also welcome. Sponsored by the Friends of the Wilbraham Senior Center.

## BACKYARD from Page 4

ple sap. They extended their breeding range eastward in the 19th century and early 20th century. The population declined in the east in recent years.

### Other birds at Lake Lashavy

The Lake Lashavy resident also had red cardinals, blue jays galore, gold finches and a red bellied woodpecker. She said bald eagles are very common visitors on the lake.

### Brimfield birds

I received an email from a Brimfield resident on Jan. 5. He said, "Not much happening in the yard. We've seen one white-throated sparrow after recent snow storms and a group of about a dozen house finches show up often. Yesterday there was a group of American goldfinch in a birch tree eating seeds but they didn't come to the feeder."

### Christmas bird count

He said, "My wife and I did the Christmas Bird Count with the Allen Bird Club again this year. We cover the town of Ludlow. The weather was fine but the birds were not cooperating. We managed 26 species which is a few below our average. Woodpeckers (only 1 downy) and sparrows (3 junco) were hard to find."

He also said, "At the Ludlow Reservoir there was a good amount of open water but few birds, eight

hooded mergansers and four mallards. Curiously last year there was a lot less open water at the reservoir but a lot more birds. Go figure."

People may visit <https://netapp.audubon.org/CBCObservation/CurrentYear/ResultsByCount.aspx> to obtain Christmas Bird count results. Enter the county and state to get Massachusetts counts. He said he did not know the Springfield count results, but the Worcester count had 78 species.

### Snowy owls

He also heard there have been two snowy owls in Northampton for a few weeks now. Initially they were seen in fields north of Route 9, but lately have been seen in the fields near the airport.

### Barred owl and pileated woodpecker

I saw a barred owl and a pileated woodpecker in the same day, Jan. 6. The barred owl was perched in a tree and stayed awhile before flying off. When I went to pick up my grandson at the bus stop, I saw a pileated woodpecker on Lincoln Road.

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

## DATEBOOK from Page 6

Magic in the Library, Fridays, through February 14, 10 am. Stories, songs, games and a craft about dragons, fairies, giants, and other magical beings. Begins with 15 minutes of free play. Space is limited, please register.

Massachusetts Children's Book Award Book Group (MCBA), monthly, Thursdays, January 8, February 12, 6 - 6:45 pm. Read 5 nominated books and vote! Celebration with ice cream and photos in the

Register in April! Please register.

Grow, Play & Learn Playgroup for 0-2 year olds, Thursdays, 9:45 - 10:30 am. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents CFCE. Please register.

Grow, Play & Learn Playgroup for 2-5 year olds, Thursdays, 10:45 - 11:30 am. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents CFCE. Please register.

Sing With Me, every Tuesday, 10:30 to 11 a.m. For 0-5s. Drop-in.

# Church DIRECTORY

### THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

584 West St., Ludlow  
413-583-8454  
Sunday services  
Sacrament Meeting 10- 11 A.M.  
Sunday school for adults,  
Young single adults (18-30) and teens (11-18)  
1st & 3rd Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon  
Adult Religious/Marriage and Parenting for Women- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon  
Adult Religious/Marriage and Parenting for Men- 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon  
Classes for Single Adults (18-30) 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month -11- 12 noon  
Classes for Young Men (11-18) 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month 11-12 noon  
Classes for Young Women (11-18) 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month - 11-12 noon  
Children's classes: Sunday school & singing time every Sunday (3-10) 11- 12 noon  
Nursery provided for ages 18 month- 3 yr

### CHRIST THE KING CHURCH

41 Warsaw Ave., Ludlow  
413-583-2630  
Pastor Rev. Raymond A. Soltys  
Saturday Vigil Masses – 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.  
Sunday Masses – 7:30 a.m.; 8:45 a.m. (Polish); 10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Mass – 5:30 p.m.

### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

25 Parker St, Indian Orchard,  
413-543-3627  
Very Rev. Piotr Kalik  
Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
CLOSED FRIDAY  
MASS SCHEDULE  
Monday 8:00am  
Tuesday 8:00am  
Wednesday No Mass  
Thursday 6:00pm  
Friday 6:00pm  
Saturday 4:00pm  
Sunday 8:30am (English) 10:15am ( Polish)  
Confessions: Saturday - 3:15-4 p.m.

### ST. ELIZABETH PARISH

191 HUBBARD ST., LUDLOW  
413-583-3467  
PASTOR - REV. MSGR. HOMER P. GOSSELIN  
IN RESIDENCE - REV. NORMAN BOLTON  
DEACONS: NORMAND GRONDIN, KEITH DAVIES  
OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY 8 A.M. - 4 P.M.  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.STELIZABETHLUDLOW.ORG  
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK CHECK OUT OUR PARISH APP

Wednesday, Jan. 14 – Daily Mass – 7:30 a.m. (C),  
Scouts – 6 p.m. (ER), Cub Scouts – 6 p.m. (FLBH)  
Scripture Enrichment – 6:30 p.m. (JR)  
Thursday, Jan. 15 – Daily Mass – 7:30 a.m. (C)  
Friday, Jan. 16 – Daily Mass – 7:30 a.m. (C),  
Saturday, Jan. 17 – Confessions – 2:30 p.m. (C),  
Saturday Vigil Mass – 4 p.m. (C)  
Meatloaf Dinner – 5:30 p.m. (FLBH/S/K/F)  
Sunday, Jan. 18 – Daily Masses at 7:30 a.m., 9:15 a.m.,  
11 a.m. and 5 p.m. (C), Take & Eat – 8 a.m. (FLBH & K),  
Faith Formation – 1 p.m. (K),  
Candle Ceremony Reception – 6 p.m. (FLBH)  
Monday, Jan. 19 - Daily Mass – 7:30 a.m. (C)  
Tuesday, Jan. 20 – Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C),  
Middle School Youth Ministry – 3:30 p.m. (JR),  
St. Rita Choir – 4 p.m. (C)

### FIRST CHURCH IN LUDLOW

859 Center St. Ludlow  
413-583-3339  
Reverend Darcy Borden, Pastor  
Office hours Monday & Wednesday 10 am to 2 pm  
Available by appointment at other times  
Sunday worship at 10 am alternating weekly with  
Grace Union Church, Wilbraham  
Call or check Facebook or the website for the schedule of  
worship and events  
Service live-streamed at 10 am on Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/firstchurchludlow>  
Website: [www.ludlowfirst.com](http://www.ludlowfirst.com)

### ORCHARD COVENANT CHURCH

95 Berkshire Street  
Indian Orchard, MA 01151  
413-543-4204  
Revs. Karen and Nick Munn, pastors  
Sunday School for all ages, 9:45 a.m.  
Worship in person, 11 a.m.  
Or watch our livestream.  
See our website for more information:  
[orchardcovenant.org](http://orchardcovenant.org).

### OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

438 Winsor St., Ludlow  
413-583-2312  
Father Pedro DeOlivera  
Office hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., closed 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.  
Sunday Masses – 9 a.m. (Portuguese); 11 a.m. (English)  
Monday and Wednesday Morning Masses – 8:30 a.m. (Portuguese)  
Tuesday and Friday Masses – 5:30 p.m. (Portuguese)  
Saturday Vigil Mass – 4 p.m. (English)  
First Saturday of the Month – 8:30 a.m.  
For more information, visit [ourladyoffatimaparish.org](http://ourladyoffatimaparish.org).

### FAITH COMMUNITY CHAPEL

A Church of the Nazarene  
485 East Street, Ludlow  
(413) 583-7875  
Email: [FCCPastorLisa@gmail.com](mailto:FCCPastorLisa@gmail.com)  
Lead Pastor: Rev. Lisa Morrison  
Associate Pastor: Gary Coombs  
Sunday Morning Discipleship Groups meet at 9:45am  
Worship service meets at 11am  
OTHER MEETINGS  
Tuesdays: Zoom Bible Study 7pm  
Fridays: After School Club for Children 5pm  
AA Group 7pm

### STS. PETER AND PAUL UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

45 Newbury St.  
Ludlow, MA 01056  
Phone: 413-583-2140  
Pastor: Father Andriy Krip  
Liturgy schedule:  
Wednesday 9 a.m., Friday 9 a.m.  
Rosary for Peace in Ukraine on Wednesday at 6 p.m.



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# SPORTS

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## Ludlow falls to rival Belchertown in boys action

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW — The Belchertown boys' varsity basketball team won their first meeting with Ludlow since 2023 by the final score of 60-49 before a large crowd at Mullins Gymnasium, last Wednesday night.

"This was our first game of 2026 and it's a very big win for us because we have a very tough upcoming schedule," said Belchertown head coach Jim Hart following his team's non-league road victory. "The atmosphere in this gym was outstanding, and it was a very exciting game."

The two neighboring high schools used to be hockey rivals before forming a co-op a year ago.

The Orioles boys' basketball team, who defeated the Lions three times between 2018-2023, made the trip home on route 21 with a 4-3 overall record. Their first three losses of the regular season were by five points or less.

The Lions (5-2), who began the regular season with five straight victories, suffered their second home loss of 2026. The last time that they defeated the Orioles on the hardwood was a 63-49 road win on February 21, 2017.

"I thought we would match up well with Belchertown and we had a very good gameplan coming into tonight's game," said Ludlow head coach C.W. Zimmer. "We had a chance to win the game in the fourth quarter, but we just ran out of gas."

Because of the matchups, the Lions head coach decided to make a couple of changes in the starting line-up.

Senior Cam Lyman, who's normally a starting small forward, was the starting point guard against the Orioles. Ju-



Cameron Lyman is pressured near the sideline.



Jadiel Rodriguez sends a pass over his opponent.

nior Jadiel Rodriguez, who's listed as a guard on the roster, defended against junior forward Brice Letendre, who's the Orioles leading scorer.

"Jadiel is our best defender, so we had him guard against Brice Letendre, who's a very good basketball player, in tonight's game," Zimmer said. "In order to do that, we had to move Cam to the point guard position."

Senior Ethan Love, who's normally the Lions starting point guard, came off the bench against Belchertown. He didn't score any points.

Letendre, who's a forward, had scored more than 130 points in the first seven games of the regular season. He netted 13 of his game-high 18 points against Ludlow during the first half. He scored three field goals in the first and second quarters on inside hoops.



Mason Morace takes the jump shot.



Filipe Fernandes looks to advance the ball toward the hoop.

Please see **LIONS** Page 10

## Girls basketball falls to Ware

LUDLOW — It was a low-scoring matchup as Ludlow High School girls basketball fell to visiting Ware 27-21 last Tuesday evening. Ware is now a perfect 9-0 on the season and got eight points from Naomi Torres while Ludlow fell to 2-7 on the season with 11 points from Aneysha Donais.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Ava Friese watches her teammates advance up the court with her.



Madelyn Riley tries to pass out of pressure.



Karley Roman looks to make a pass from the top of the arc.



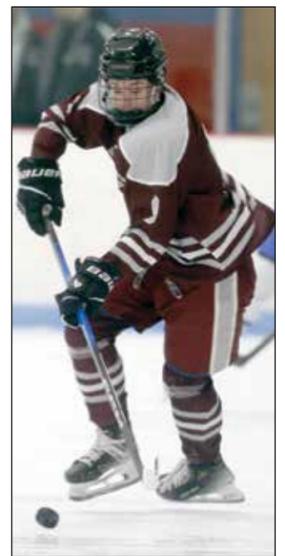
Aneysha Donais gets ready to shoot.

## Lions rise above .500

LUDLOW — There was been a lot of back and forth for the Ludlow High School ice hockey team, which co-ops with Belchertown. The Lions opened the 2026 portion of its schedule on New Year's Day with a rare holiday matchup, which was a win over West Springfield 4-1. The Lions then dropped two straight, falling to Blackstone Valley and Greenfield, both on the road. Ludlow return to Olympia Ice Center, it's home ice, and defeated Hopedale last Saturday 4-1. Four different Lions scored in the win, Teddy Iwasinski, Andrew Lambert, Sean Kefalas, and Tannar Severyn. The Lions are 5-4 this season.



Evan Dias heads into the offensive zone for Ludlow.



Nathan Ribeiro tries to settle a bouncing puck.

Turley photos by David Henry  
www.sweetdogphotos.com



Nathan Ribeiro tries to settle a bouncing puck.



Connor Kokosa makes his way up the ice.

# SPORTS

## T-Birds stunned by Phantoms

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (13-15-4-2) were snakebitten by a three-goal third period rally as the Lehigh Valley Phantoms (19-11-2-2) came away with a 3-2 win on Saturday night before a sellout crowd of 6,793 inside the MassMutual Center on Indians Throwback Night.

Entering the game having allowed only two total goals in their prior three victories, the Phantoms and their netminder, Carson Bjarnason, made it clear goals would not come easily for the T-Birds, as the rookie backstop turned away all 10 first period attempts from the home side.

At the other end of the rink, Georgi Romanov had a relatively quiet first period, making all seven saves asked of him in the Springfield crease. Neither team

could connect on a power play chance, and each goalie came up with a timely save off an odd-man attack, with Romanov stoning a Phil Tomasino 2-on-1 bid and Bjarnason rejecting a Juraj Pekarcik breakaway.

The T-Birds' power play wasted little time getting to the lead in the opening minute of the second, as Calle Rosen gathered a pass from Matthew Peca at the top of the left circle and picked the top corner over Bjarnason's glove to make it a 1-0 Springfield lead just 52 seconds into the frame.

That same man-up unit added to their tally at 16:53 on a gorgeous three-man passing play, as Alek Kaskimaki slid a pass to Chris Wagner at the left post. From there, Wagner stuffed a perfect between-the-leg pass over to Matt Luff, who fired

home his team-leading 12th goal to make it a 2-0 game into the intermission.

The third period began at 4-on-4, and the Phantoms finally got on the board as Lane Pederson curled to the middle of the ice before snapping a perfect shot upstairs over Romanov at the 27-second mark, cutting the Springfield lead to 2-1. On a power play just 2:40 later, Christian Kyrou dissected the T-Birds' defense and chipped a forehand over Romanov's glove, bringing Lehigh to a rapid tie, 2-2.

The 2-2 tie made it all the way to the game's final seconds, but a bad-angle shot from Anthony Richard at the bottom of the left circle somehow found its way home with 11.9 remaining, and Lehigh Valley escaped with the victory.

LIONS from Page 9

The Orioles' other three double digits scorers were senior guard Austin Raymer (12 points), junior center Shea MacLean (11 points), and senior guard Jacob Pacunas (10 points).

Senior guard Jackson Mateus, who entered the home contest as the Lions leading scorer this season with more than 120 points, finished with 11 points against the Orioles.

Raymer guarded against Mateus most of the game.

"I thought Austin did a very good job of guarding Jackson Mateus," Hart said. "We also used our full-court press defense for the first time in this game."

Mateus, who has scored more than 750 career points, is trying to become the Lions first boys' basketball player to score 1,000 career points since Mike Kane reached the elite milestone in 2005.

The duo of senior forward Mason Morace and Lyman picked up the slack offensively for Ludlow.

Morace, who was the starting quarterback for the Lions football team, scored 10 of his team-leading 17 points before halftime.

"This was probably Mason's best game of the season," Zimmer said. "He was outstanding at both ends of the court."



Lyman added 14 points.

With less than two minutes remaining in regulation, Mateus was fouled while making an inside hoop, which sliced the Lions deficit down to 52-48. He missed the bonus free throw.

Down at the other end of the court, MacLean did make a pair of free throws with 1:24 left.

He then scored an inside basket and a foul shot, which

extended the visitors lead to 57-48 with 45 seconds remaining.

"They double teamed Brice, which left Shea open," Hart said. "He played very well down the stretch."

Following a Letendre steal, Pacunas made two more foul shots, which pushed the Orioles lead into double digits for the first time.

The Lions, who held an early 10-5 lead, were outscored 10-7 during the final five minutes of the opening quarter.

A Letendre lay-up closed the gap to 14-13 before Mateus buried a 3 pointer.

Then Pacunas made two free throws, and the Orioles were only trailing by two points (17-15) entering the second quarter.

Belchertown retook the lead at 19-18 for the first time since early in the first quarter following a driving MacLean lay-up in the middle of the second stanza.

The Lions were trailing, 27-22, late in the first half when junior forward Kobe McKay knocked down a 3-pointer, which was his only points of the contest.

The third quarter was evenly played, but the Orioles held a 47-41 lead, entering the final eight minutes.

The Lions got within four points of taking the lead before the Orioles pulled away.

### Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature sam-

pling photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all

11 of our sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Hampden Probate and Family Court**  
**50 State Street**  
**Springfield, MA 01103**  
**Docket No.**  
**HD25P2580GD**  
**In the matter of:**  
**Deborah Ann Gauthier**  
**Of: Ludlow, 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 **Allyson A Gauthier of Ludlow, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Deborah Ann Gauthier** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Allyson A Gauthier of Ludlow, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appoint-

ment 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 **02/06/2026**.

This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named**

**person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.**

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: January 06, 2026  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
 Register of Probate  
 01/14/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Hampden Probate and Family Court**  
**50 State Street**  
**Springfield, MA 01103**  
**Docket No. HD25P2581PM**  
**In the matter of:**  
**Deborah A Gauthier**  
**Of: Ludlow, MA**  
**RESPONDENT**  
**(Person to be Protected/ Minor)**  
**CITATION GIVING**  
**NOTICE OF PETITION**  
**FOR APPOINTMENT OF**  
**CONSERVATOR OR OTHER**  
**PROTECTIVE ORDER**  
**PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B,**  
**§5-304 & §5-405**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Allyson A Gauthier of Ludlow, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Deborah A Gauthier** is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that **Allyson A Gauthier of Ludlow, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve **With Personal Surety** on the bond.

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

**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney

must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **02/06/2026**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

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

Witness, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: January 06, 2026  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
 Register of Probate  
 01/14/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Hampden Division**  
**Docket No.**  
**HD25P2670EA**  
**Estate of:**  
**Paula M Leblanc**  
**Date of Death:**  
**September 12, 2025**  
**NOTICE OF**  
**INFORMAL PROBATE**  
**G.L.c. 190B § 3-306**

To all persons who have or may have some interest in the above-captioned estate and, if interested, to the Office of the At-

torney General and the Department of Veterans Affairs, notice is hereby give on **Dec. 3, 2025**

**James E Baker of South Hadley, MA** intends to file with the above-named

Probate and Family Court, not sooner than seven (7) days after this notice, a Petition for Informal Probate of a Will

Petition for informal Appointment of Personal Representative, to serve without surety on the bond

**James E Baker of South Hadley, MA**

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
 01/14/2026

**Frassinelli of Manchester, CT.**

**Cheryl Ann Frassinelli of Manchester, CT** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
 01/14/2026

**Town of Ludlow**  
**Massachusetts**  
**LEGAL NOTICE**

The Select Board opened the Warrant on December 16, 2025, for the May 11, 2026, Annual Town Meeting held at 7:30 p.m. at Ludlow High School. All Articles should be submitted to the Select Board's Office, 488 Chapin Street, Ludlow, MA no later than Friday, April 3, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. The Select Board will close the Warrant on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at their regular meeting.

Manuel Silva, Chairperson  
 Select Board  
 01/07, 01/14/2026

**Legal Notice**  
**Town of Ludlow**

Ludlow Special Town Meeting of October 6, 2025—Case #12032 Warrant Articles 4 and 8 (General) and 10 and 11 (Zoning) were approved by the Attorney General's office. "Such Bylaws have been posted according to the Bylaws and copies are available at the Town Clerk's Office".

\*\*see full context of text in Town Clerk's office.

Posted in all 6 polling locations and at the Ludlow Town Hall.

Precinct 1: Harris Brook Elementary School

Precinct 2: Paul R. Baird Middle School

Precinct 3: Ludlow High School

Precinct 4: East Street School

Precinct 5: First Church in Ludlow

Precinct 6: Paul R. Baird Middle School

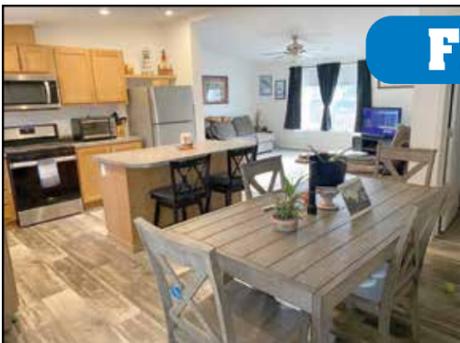
1/14, 1/21, 1/28/2026

## 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 Friday at 3 p.m.**

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



### FIVE ISLANDS

Georgetown, Maine

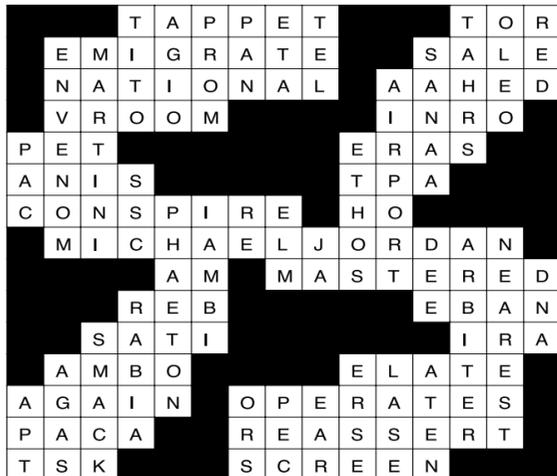
2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathroom  
 Washer/Dryer, Fully Equipped

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



\$1200/week

**207-607-9333**





# CAREER Education

## HCSS: Empowering students for a brighter future

Are you searching for a school where academic excellence meets a supportive community? Hampden Charter School of Science (HCSS) is a top-ranked, tuition-free public charter school serving grades 6-12 in Western Massachusetts. Since its founding in 2009, HCSS has been dedicated to preparing students for college, careers, and a lifetime of success.

### Why Choose HCSS?

HCSS stands out as a premier choice for families because of its unique combination of academic rigor, personalized attention, and community spirit. Our two campuses—the Middle School in West Springfield (Grades 6-8) and the High School in Chicopee (Grades 9-12)—offer students a seamless transition from middle school to high school and beyond. Here's what makes HCSS truly exceptional:

**Academic Excellence:** Our rigorous curriculum is guided by the College Board's AP standards and the Common Core. With honors courses beginning in 7th grade, 15 AP offerings in high school, and innovative programs like Project Lead The Way (PLTW), students are challenged to reach their full potential.

**Comprehensive College and Career Preparation:**



HCSS begins college and career readiness as early as 6th grade, including SAT/PSAT prep, dual enrollment opportunities, and experiential college campus visits. With a 100% college acceptance rate and over \$49M in scholarships awarded in 2025, our graduates are set for success.

**State-of-the-Art Technology:** Students benefit from one-to-one Chrome-book access, SMART Inter-

active Displays, and hands-on science labs, preparing them for a tech-driven world.

**Award-Winning Extracurriculars:** From robotics, drone, and science olympiad clubs to competitive athletics and social activities, students thrive outside the classroom as well.

**Join Us for an Open House**  
Explore what HCSS has to offer during our upcoming Welcome Saturday Open

House events. Meet our dedicated staff, tour our campuses, and learn how HCSS can help your child achieve their dreams. Interested families can also join a Virtual Information Session for an in-depth look at our programs from the comfort of home.

**What Parents and Students Love About HCSS**  
Parents and students consistently praise HCSS for

its nurturing environment, where every student feels valued and supported. The school's commitment to diversity and inclusion fosters a vibrant community that celebrates different perspectives and cultures. Families also appreciate the convenience of free transportation and extensive tutoring services, ensuring all students have the tools they need to succeed.

### Student Success Stories

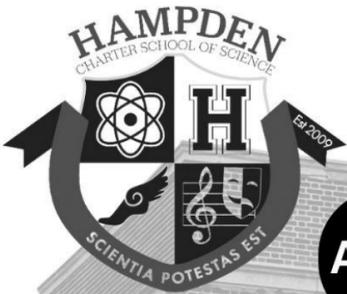
HCSS alumni have gone on to attend prestigious universities, including Ivy League institutions like Harvard, Columbia, and Dartmouth. Our students' achievements are a testament to the school's dedication to academic and personal growth. With a consistent college matriculation rate of over 95%, HCSS prepares students not just to attend college but to excel once they get there.

### How to Apply

Applications for the 2026-2027 school year are now open. Rising 6th-10th graders should apply no later than March 1, 2026, to secure a spot in our admission lottery. Visit [www.hampden-charter.org](http://www.hampden-charter.org) to apply and take the first step toward a brighter future.

At Hampden Charter School of Science, we believe every student deserves a world-class education. Join our community of learners, achievers, and leaders today—because your child's future begins here.

**HCSS High School**  
20 Johnson Rd.  
Chicopee, MA 01022  
Tel. 413-593-9090  
**HCSS Middle School**  
511 Main Street  
West Springfield, MA 01089  
Tel. 413-278-5450  
[hampdencharter.org](http://hampdencharter.org)



## HAMPDEN CHARTER SCHOOL OF SCIENCE

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR GRADE 6-10



### Why Hampden Charter School of Science?

- NO COST
- FREE TRANSPORTATION
- COLLEGE-PREP EDUCATION
- TECHNOLOGY IN CLASSROOM
- EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMICS
- ATHLETICS
- ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES and CLUBS
- 100% COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE

### WELCOME SATURDAYS

11:00 AM - 1:00PM

January 10th  
January 24th  
February 7th  
February 28th

VISIT:

[WWW.HAMPDENCHARTER.ORG](http://WWW.HAMPDENCHARTER.ORG)

APPLY NOW / DEADLINE



MARCH 1, 2026





# CAREER Education

## St. Joan of Arc School offers comprehensive education

Located in Chicopee, MA, St. Joan of Arc (SJA) School is a private Catholic institution serving students from Pre-K through Grade 8.

St. Joan of Arc School provides a comprehensive educational environment focused on physical, intellectual,

and spiritual wellness.

In the fall the school community welcomed Mrs. Ashley Mahan as the new principal. A lifelong Chicopee resident and former educator in the local public school system, Mrs. Mahan brings extensive experience and a personal connection to the community.

Students can engage in several new and returning enrichment opportunities this year, including:

- Creative Arts: Liturgical Dance Troupe and Choir.
- STEM & Literacy: Robotics, 3D Printing, LEGO,

Book and Newspaper Clubs.

• Curriculum: Academic programs are integrated with technology, music, library, and physical education.

• Student Services: The school offers free breakfast and lunch programs and has hot meal options available for students.

• Extended Care: Affordable extended care and extracurricular programs are available to support families.

• Language Learning:

Innovative offerings include foreign language instruction through tools like Duolingo.

• Our Preschool program for ages 3 and 4 offers full and part-time care, geared toward preparing your child for Kindergarten. Children learn Kindergarten readiness and pre-reading skills through a developmentally appropriate teacher-created curriculum designed to hold your child's interest and spark their curiosity.

The school will be holding an Open House on Saturday, Jan. 31 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (no appointment needed). Appointment only tours for families will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 3 and Thursday, Feb. 5 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Please call Janine or Chris in the Business Office at 413-276-4608 for registration information, or to make an appointment. To learn more visit [www.sjachicopee.org](http://www.sjachicopee.org).

We look forward to meeting you.

### ST. JOAN OF ARC SCHOOL

Pre-K to Grade 8

587 Grattan Street, Chicopee ~ 533-1475

[sjachicopee.org](http://sjachicopee.org)

*Learning Rooted in Christian Values*



### OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, January 31st, 9am-12 noon

*No Appointment Needed*

Tuesday, February 3rd & Thursday, Feb 5th, 3pm-7pm

*By Appointment Only*



Affordable Tuition & Extended Care ~ Free Breakfast & Lunch

Extracurricular Programs ~ Technology ~ Physical Education

Music ~ Library ~ Duolingo

Welcoming, Safe & Secure School Community

Social, Physical, Spiritual & Intellectual Wellness Tuition Assistance

*Easy Access to I391 & I90*



## St. Stanislaus School students shine as servant leaders

St. Stanislaus School proudly announces the success of its recent community service initiatives, exemplifying its motto: "Servant Leaders for Today and Tomorrow."

In a spirited effort to support those in need, Student Council organized a can drive that collected an impressive 3,500 items, surpassing their original goal by 1,000 donations. The drive demonstrated the school community's commitment to service, teamwork, and making a tangible difference in the lives of local families.

Building on this momentum, St. Stanislaus students also gathered toiletries, diapers, and other personal items to fulfill the wish lists of The Gray House and Christina's House in Springfield. These organizations provide critical support and safe spaces for individuals and families facing challenging circumstances.

"This can drive is run by our Student Council in grades 4-8," said Mrs. Katherine Rorrio, Principal of St. Stanislaus School. "This drive aligns with the state-

ment that we believe our students are servant leaders for today and tomorrow. It assists our school community in understanding the global community, where we are all neighbors and members of God's family. Our school theme this year is 'Go Make Disciples of All Nations.' Our students are wonderful examples of disciples going out and making a difference in the community. We are so proud of all of our students and families for being so generous to those in need."

St. Stanislaus School remains committed to fostering a culture of compassion, responsibility, and service, preparing students not only for academic success but also for meaningful engagement in their communities.

Founded over 125 years ago, St. Stanislaus School has a rich history of serving families in Chicopee and surrounding communities. Although the original building was lost to fire, the school will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its current building on Saturday, Jan. 31, beginning with Mass at 4 p.m., followed by an Open House and

Celebration. Families interested in scheduling a private tour at another time may call the school at (413) 592-5135.

St. Stanislaus School is a Roman Catholic, Franciscan, co-educational Pre-K through 8th grade school. Students are assisted in developing their potential spiritually, physically, and socially within a safe and diverse community. A foundation of academic excellence is created to prepare students to become contributing members of a global society.

The school has a welcoming Franciscan environment, modern air-conditioned facility, strong core curriculum, enrichment classes, certified faculty, full-day preschool (PreK 3 & 4) and Kindergarten, free breakfast and hot lunch, before and after school program, and one-to-one use and integration of iPads and Chromebooks into curriculum. Financial Aid is available. Interested students are invited to spend a day with us. To learn more please visit [www.saintstansschool.org](http://www.saintstansschool.org).

We can't wait to meet you.

## ST. STANISLAUS SCHOOL

SERVANT LEADERS FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW



*Servant Leaders for Today and Tomorrow*

PREK - 8TH GRADE SCHOOL  
PHYSICAL, SPIRITUAL, AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- Welcoming Franciscan environment
- Strong core curriculum
- Enrichment classes
- Certified faculty
- Full day Preschool & Kindergarten
- Free breakfast and hot lunch
- Before & After school program
- One to one use and integration of iPads & Chromebooks into curriculum
- Modern facility - full gym, full cafeteria, air conditioned, carpeted classrooms.



To learn more



Call us for more information and to schedule a tour. We welcome the opportunity for you to experience St. Stanislaus School! Interested students are invited to "spend a day with us."

[www.saintstansschool.org](http://www.saintstansschool.org)  
534 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013  
413-592-5135

CALL TO SCHEDULE A PRIVATE TOUR!





# CAREER Education

## HCC opens registration for Spring 2026 noncredit classes

Holyoke Community College has opened registration for its Spring 2026 catalog of noncredit personal enrichment and professional development classes.

The spring calendar begins Jan. 12, with individual classes running on different schedules throughout the semester.

New next semester is a series of classes for seniors focused on basic technology. Each one-hour class is available for just \$20 and cover a wide range of subjects, including Windows 11, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, Canva (for graphic design), Artificial Intelligence, Zoom, smartphone use (Android or iPhone), managing and editing photos, document storage, web browsers, and computer scams.

Other classes for spring include cooking (Caribbean, charcuterie, Puerto Rican, Southern), wine tasting (winter reds, Tuscany, New Zealand, Rose, summer wines), sewing (for beginners), sewing (machine), watercolor painting, acrylic painting, drawing, piano, conversational French, conversational Spanish, music technology, voiceover coaching, financial literacy, retirement planning, K-12 education (professional development), writing and publishing (fiction, nonfic-



tion, screenwriting, short stories, query letters, mysteries, travel, blogs), ChatGPT, how to launch a pet-sitting and dog-walking business, and Quickbooks.

Most classes meet in the Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development on the main HCC campus, 303 Homestead Ave. Cooking and wine-tasting classes meet at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, 164 Race St. Some classes meet over Zoom.

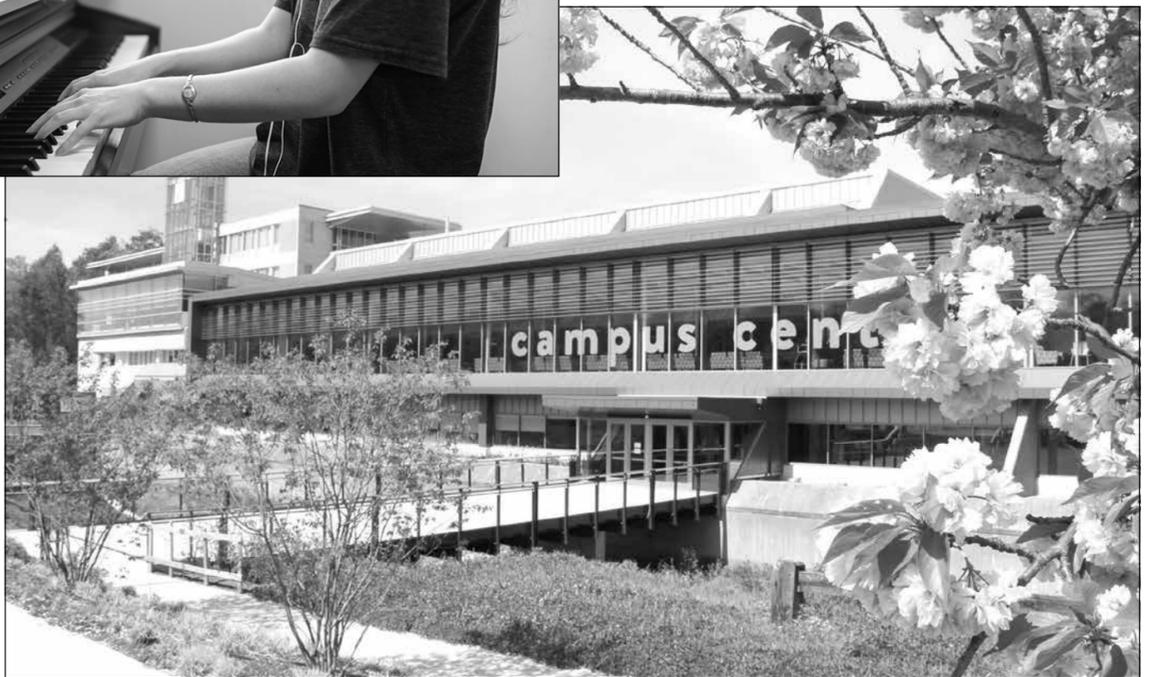
To see complete spring course listings and schedules, or to register, please visit [hcc.edu/bcs](http://hcc.edu/bcs).

More classes will be added as spring approaches.

The Commonwealth's oldest community college, Holyoke Community College opened its doors in 1946 as the first two-year college in Massachusetts. In the decades since, the college has paved the way for generations of learners from western Massachusetts and beyond, a beacon of hope and opportunity for people

seeking better lives. Please visit us at [hcc.edu](http://hcc.edu).

HCC's Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development is the Pioneer Valley's premiere resource for workforce training, professional development, and personal growth. It provides innovative and affordable programming that helps businesses, organizations, and individuals achieve their goals.



# HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A premier healthcare educator in our region.

- + Nursing
- + Radiologic Technology
- + Medical Assisting
- + Veterinary and Animal Science

[hcc.edu/healthcare](http://hcc.edu/healthcare)



# CAREER Education

## Jump Start Preschool invites families to learn, play, and grow together

Two Locations in Feeding Hills and West Springfield

Jump Start Preschool is proud to welcome families to a nurturing, play-based learning environment where children are encouraged to explore, grow, and develop essential life skills. Serving children ages 2.9 to 5 years old, Jump Start Preschool focuses on learning through play while fostering independence, creativity, and confidence.

At Jump Start Preschool, social-emotional learning and communication are key components of each age group's curriculum. Children learn how to problem-solve with peers, practice self-regulation strategies, and build the foundational skills that help them succeed academically and socially. By supporting emotional growth alongside academics, Jump Start helps children thrive both in and out of the classroom.

Family and community partnerships are at the heart

of the Jump Start Preschool mission. In support of this commitment, Jump Start Preschool will host a 5K Run/Walk on May 30, bringing the community together to raise funds for Autism Allies and the children of Jump Start Preschool. Sixty percent of all donations will benefit Autism Allies. The event will feature live music, local businesses, exercise, and great company. Community members are encouraged to participate and support children and families.

Event information and registration: <https://Milesofhopeforautism.eventbrite.com>

Jump Start Preschool offers a wide range of perks designed to support both children and working families, including:

- Open year-round
- Reasonable tuition
- Family-friendly hours  
Feeding Hills: 7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
West Springfield: 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Free healthy morning and afternoon snacks
- Community and in-

house field trips

- Family engagement activities throughout the year
- EEC-certified staff trained in CPR, First Aid, and medication administration
- State-of-the-art playground
- Preschool graduation with a professional photographer
- School photos twice per year
- Free occupational therapy and speech screenings twice annually

"Timeless moments come from learning through movement, creativity, and connection," said Jump Start Preschool. "We invite families to come dance with us and experience the joy of early learning."

Families interested in enrolling are encouraged to visit [www.jumpstartpreschoolma.com](http://www.jumpstartpreschoolma.com) and complete an interest form. Jump Start Preschool is currently enrolling preschoolers ages 2.9 to 5 at both the Feeding Hills and West Springfield locations.

Watch out — learning is happening.

## Various ways newspapers are good for kids

Newspapers have long been part of the fabric of the communities they cover and serve. Whether it's a big-city daily tabloid or a small town weekly, newspapers keep readers and residents up-to-date on the latest goings-on in their communities and across the globe.

Newspapers have been linked to a range of benefits for adults that include greater civic engagement and stronger voter turnout. Such benefits are indispensable, and it's equally important to recognize ways in which newspapers benefit children.

**• Reading and discussing newspaper stories can foster stronger language development.** A 2022 study published in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* noted that parents who provide newspapers at home for their children to read and then discuss stories with young readers can help kids develop strong language skills, which could ultimately benefit them in the classroom and in their personal interactions. The study also noted that discussing newspaper stories with youngsters creates opportunities for children to explore their thoughts.

**• Newspapers can help children develop their critical thinking skills.** A meta-analysis examining ways to teach students critical thinking skills published in the *Review of Educational Research* noted that critical thinking skills are vital because they bolster students' ability to interpret, analyze, evaluate, and make inferences. Newspapers are an invaluable resource for educators aiming to bolster kids' critical thinking skills, as they can be used to teach students to recognize why stories were written, how information in a given story was learned and gathered and how to verify information in a news story. Each of those lessons requires interpretation, analysis and evaluation, ultimately instilling in students vital critical thinking skills that can serve them in the classroom and beyond.



**• Newspapers help students develop vital communication skills.** A 2024 study published in the *Elementaria Journal of Educational Research* found that reading newspapers helped student participants in the study improve their vocabulary, enhance their writing skills and more effectively articulate their ideas. Authors behind the study ultimately characterized newspapers as valuable educational tools, a conclusion that has been reached by researchers across a range of academic disciplines.

Newspapers are part of the fabric of the communities they cover, and children have much to gain from being granted access to their local papers in the classroom and at home.

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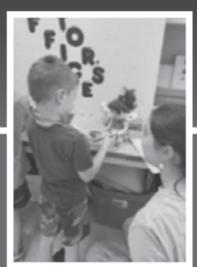
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At Gateway you can join our Early Education and Care program (EEC) in 9th grade!

By the time you graduate, you will be ready, certified, and prepared to work with young learners!

Visit: **[www.grsd.org](http://www.grsd.org)** for more information!

- You will also be on track to:
- Know how to plan engaging activities and lessons
  - Have CPR & First Aid certification
  - Experience awesome internship opportunities



# CAREER Education

## Well-rounded education benefits students

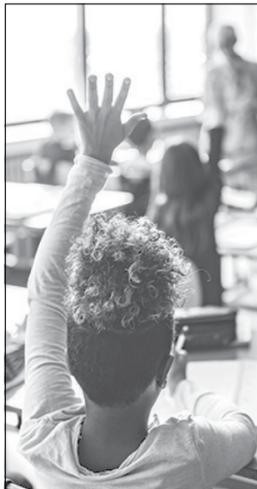
Academic environments have undergone quite a change over the last several decades. Technological advancements have changed the way educators teach and how students learn, but there's also been a notable shift in what students are learning.

Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) has become a point of emphasis in twenty-first century classrooms, and for good reason. The U.S. National Science Foundation notes that a workforce educated in STEM is vital to a country's prosperity and security. Opportunities in STEM fields are on the rise as well, as the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates STEM occupations will grow by roughly 11 percent between 2022 and 2032.

The value of STEM is undeniable. However, students and parents also should recognize the many ways a well-rounded education that includes math and science but also the humanities and social sciences facilitates strong academic performance.

### Critical thinking skills

A well-rounded education can instill important and useful critical thinking skills in students. When students direct the bulk of their attention to a single subject or



category of subjects, they're less likely to understand how interconnected coursework, and indeed the world, can be. A well-rounded education can instill in students a more nuanced way of looking at problems and potential solutions. That ability can positively affect students' personal lives and ultimately their professional lives when their formal schooling ends, as they will be in position to better assess situations.

### Comprehension

Tests are designed to gauge students' grasp of material. Students' ability to comprehend lessons taught in the classroom is a big part of that, and a well-rounded

education fosters strong comprehension skills. A 2018 report from the New York State Education Department noted that research has found that students are better readers after they have been exposed to the language and vocabulary of the natural world, the sciences and social studies.

### Crossover benefits

A well-rounded education can help students perform better in all of their subjects. In 2021, a University of Buffalo academic and researcher studying children and dyslexia made a startling discovery regarding the value of reading and how it affects performance in subjects like math. The research found that reading proficiency crosses academic domains and actually guides how students approach various tasks and solve problems. That means a well-rounded education that includes reading-heavy subjects, like those in the humanities and social sciences, could actually improve how students perform in STEM classes.

A well-rounded education pays a number of dividends for students. Recognition of those benefits might compel parents to support a curriculum that includes a wide array of subjects and academic disciplines.

## Gateway announces expansion of career pathways, Chapter 74 vocational opportunities

Gateway Regional School (GRS) is proud to announce the expansion of its personalized learning model, featuring anticipated openings in its premier Chapter 74 Vocational Programs for the fall of 2026. Designed as a "launchpad" for student success, GRS continues to bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world career readiness for students in grades 6-12.

### Innovative Middle School Exploration

The journey begins in the middle grades (6-8), where students engage in an expansive exploratory program. With 26 unique course options—ranging from Intro to Tourism and Woodshop to Data and Statistics in Sports and Sociology—students are encouraged to uncover their passions early.

By the eighth grade, students can gain a head start by accessing Gateway's Chapter 74 vocational programs, providing hands-on introduction to high-demand fields before they even enter high school.

### Challenging Chapter 74 Vocational Programs

Gateway's commitment

to excellence is anchored by two flagship programs that prepare students for immediate entry into the workforce:

- **Welding & Metal Fabrication:** This program offers real hands-on experience in state-of-the-art facilities renovated in 2022. Students learn on modern equipment, including a robotic arm, and participate in both on-site and off-site internships.

- **Early Education and Care (EEC):** Starting in 9th grade, students in the EEC program are put on a track to become certified professionals. The curriculum includes lesson planning for young learners, CPR and First Aid certification, and immersive internship opportunities.

### A Personalized Path to the Future

As students reach the 10th grade, they participate in a "demonstration of learning" to chart their specific goals for their final two years. This tailored approach allows for meaningful experiences, including:

- **Internships and Co-ops:** Real-world placements in students' fields of interest.
- **College Credits:** Through dual-enrollment and concurrent enrollment

partnerships with universities across the country.

- **Work-Study Placements:** Providing a practical balance between education and professional experience.

"At Gateway Regional School, education is more than coursework—it's a launchpad," Dr. Will Sullivan, GRS Principal, states. "We empower our students to excel in life after graduation through intentionally personalized learning pathways crafted to foster achievement and community impact."

### Join the

### Gateway Community

Gateway Regional School welcomes students from its six member towns and surrounding communities. Families interested in exploring these opportunities for the Fall 2026 semester are encouraged to apply today.

For more information on programs and how to apply, please visit [www.grsd.org](http://www.grsd.org).

Media Contact: Gateway Regional School District Website: [www.grsd.org](http://www.grsd.org)  
Gateway Regional School District is located at 12 Littleville Road, Huntington, MA 01050.

## WELCOME TO GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL



**"AT GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL, EDUCATION IS MORE THAN COURSEWORK – IT'S A LAUNCHPAD."**

Gateway Regional School (GRS) is proud to educate and welcome students from the six member towns and surrounding communities in a vibrant, forward-thinking learning environment designed to prepare students for life beyond the classroom.

Serving students in grades 6-12, Gateway Regional School is built around one central goal: helping every student discover their interests, develop their strengths, and chart a clear path toward future success. That journey begins in the middle grades, where students in grades 6-8, participate in an expansive exploratory program offering 26 unique course options. From *Intro to Tourism and Woodshop* to *Data and Statistics in Sports, Financial Literacy, Engineering, and Sociology*, students are encouraged to explore new ideas, uncover passions, and start thinking about possible career pathways early on. Eighth-grade students can take that exploration even further by accessing Gateway's Chapter 74 vocational programs in *Early Education and Care* and *Welding*, giving them a hands-on introduction to high-demand fields before they enter high school.

Once students reach high school, Gateway shifts into a highly personalized learning model. In grade 10, students complete a demonstration of learning, sharing their goals and aspirations for their final two years at GRS. These plans guide meaningful experiences such as internships, co-ops, and work-study placements, allowing students to gain real-world experience in fields they are excited to pursue.

Gateway's strong partnerships with colleges and universities across the country further expand student opportunities through dual-enrollment and concurrent enrollment programs, helping students earn college credit while still in high school. Looking ahead, Gateway Regional School is excited to announce anticipated openings in its Chapter 74 Vocational Programs for fall 2026, creating new opportunities for students interested in *Early Education and Care* and *Welding*.

## GATEWAY REGIONAL'S COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE AND TO EXCELLENCE:

**AT GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL, STUDENTS ARE EMPOWERED TO EXCEL IN LIFE AFTER GRADUATION THROUGH INTENTIONALLY PERSONALIZED LEARNING PATHWAYS AND OPPORTUNITIES, CRAFTED TO FOSTER A FUTURE OF ACHIEVEMENT, CONTRIBUTION, UNDERSTANDING, LEADERSHIP, AND COMMUNITY IMPACT.**



# CAREER Education

## PVPA continues to invest in Arts-focused education



At a time when many public schools are trying to manage difficult budgets by cutting Art programs, Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Public Charter School continues to invest in Arts-focused education for students in Grades 7 - 12.

With an extensive Course Catalog of challenging Academic and Arts courses, PVPA employs 15

full-time Arts teachers, and now has five Arts Departments: Music, Dance, Theatre, Visual Arts and new this year, Technical Design and Production.

Students are encouraged to find their artistic voice through a range of introductory courses and audition level course options, with multiple performance opportunities, all integrated with

their core academics.

PVPA students consistently show that incorporating the arts into education creates, not just better artists, but better students who are equipped to be active participants in their future.

Visit for an Open House on Thursday, Jan. 22, and see why PVPA is consistently voted one of the Best Charter Schools in the Valley.

As a public charter school, admission to PVPA is free and open to all Massachusetts students by lottery; no tuition or audition required.

Now accepting applications for the 2026/2027 school year for Grades 7-12 at [pvpa.org/admissions](http://pvpa.org/admissions).

For more information, please email [admissions@pvpa.org](mailto:admissions@pvpa.org).



**Pioneer Valley Performing Arts**  
Charter Public School  
15 Mulligan Drive, South Hadley  
413-552-1580

### Apply Now!

### Grades 7-11

### 2026/27 school year



### PVPA

### Open House

**Thursday, Jan 22**  
4:00-6:00pm

*\*registration encouraged\**

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### College-prep

### Education

Dance, Music, Theater  
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[www.pvpa.org/admissions](http://www.pvpa.org/admissions)

**APPLY NOW!**

**Deadline Feb 11, 2026**

**REGISTER FOR OPEN HOUSE**






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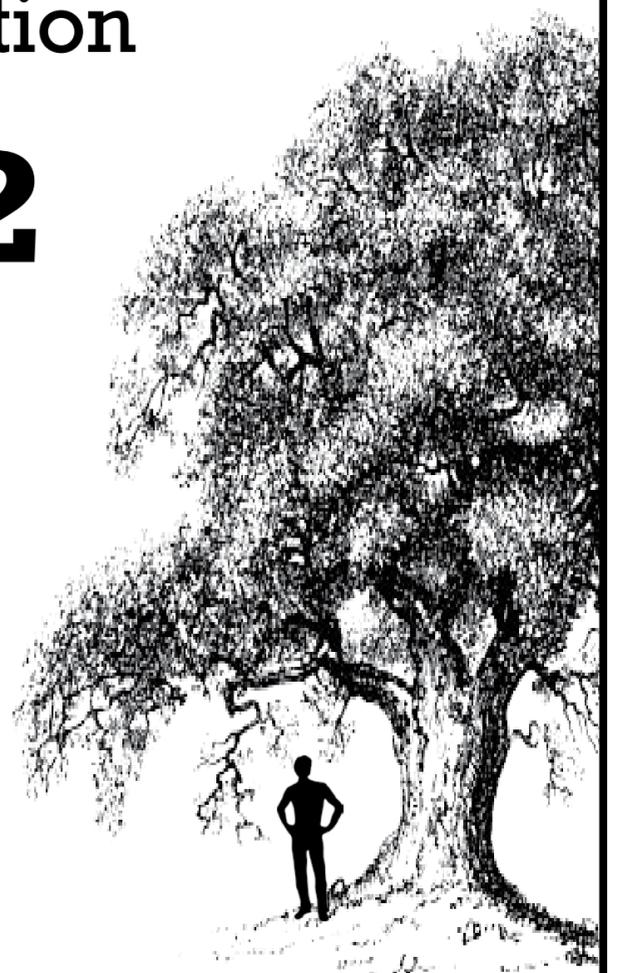
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