



# The REGISTER

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## Town Administrator gives overview of FY27 budget

By Amanda Munson  
Staff Writer  
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LUDLOW – On Feb. 11, Town Administrator Marc Strange presented an overview regarding the process of municipal budgeting, an update on the Town’s Fiscal Year 2027 budget, and remaining decisions on budget options. Please note, there will be no proposition two and a half override request, no trash fee increase, no free cash to balance the budget, and a seven and a half percent health insurance increase.

### Overview of Municipal Revenue Sources

The property tax levy, which is the primary revenue source and most significant for the Town, provides reliable funding for essential services and municipal operations. This includes residential, commercial, industrial, and personal property; limited by Proposition two and a half due to the constraints on the amount of levy raised by the Town and on how much the levy can be increased from year to year.

Sourced by Mass.gov, a levy limit is a restriction on

the amount of property taxes a community can levy and there are two restrictions: a community cannot levy more than two and a half percent of the total full and fair cash value of all taxable real and personal property in the community, also called the levy ceiling. Second, a community’s levy is also constrained by a certain amount from year to year. The levy limit will always be below, or at most, equal to the levy ceiling.

Essential funding comes from state aid and consists of both unrestricted and restricted program aid. This helps fund various municipal services like education, public safety, and infrastructure improvements.

Diverse revenue streams like local receipts, which include revenue generated locally from excise taxes, licenses, fees, and permits allow the Town to enhance public services and invest in community initiatives. Local receipts include motor vehicle excise taxes, permitting fees, departmental revenue, investment income, PILOT, payments

Please see **FY27 BUDGET**, Page 8



Turley photos by Amanda Munson

President/CEO Josue Irizarry was proud to help LCC in assembling the gift bags for homebound seniors.

## Ludlow Cares assemble bags to deliver to homebound senior residents for Valentine’s Day

By Amanda Munson  
Staff Writer  
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LUDLOW – Spreading joy beginning at the Boys & Girls Club, all the way to the doorsteps of homebound se-

niors, the Ludlow Cares Coalition came together to assemble homemade gift bags to be delivered right before Valentine’s Day. Inside the bags was a letter from the LCC volunteers, students, and board members stating

the following, ‘On this day of friendship and love, the volunteers and student-led groups of the Ludlow Cares Coalition want to send you our warmest wishes. You are a vital part of the fabric of our Town, and it is our ab-

solute honor to bring a little extra joy to your doorstep today. We hope this small token brings a smile to your

Please see **LUDLOW CARES**, Page 6

## Strange talks budget process, municipal revenue at public forum

By Amanda Munson  
Staff Writer  
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LUDLOW – During the evening of Feb. 11, Town Administrator Marc Strange shared the overview of the budget forum with residents and afterwards, was questioned by them on various

Town issues. Looking around, many residents had notebooks and their phones out trying to write down and understand how this Fiscal Year 2027 budget would impact them in the future.

During the presentation, Strange was questioned heavily on topics that he couldn’t answer at that time,

so The Register reached out to Strange in hopes to clarify and mitigate any confusion on what was brought up during the question portion of the night. Questions and comments revolved around the conditions of the roads, recreation department, health insurance splits, an ambulance fund, and lack of rep-

resentation from Eversource at meetings to help residents read their electricity bills.

On the Town website, the budget forum was described as a high-level overview of the budgeting process, sources of municipal revenue, recent funding trends, and exploration of several outstanding decisions to be made

before we present the FY27 budget proposal to the Select Board in Mar. The meeting can be found on LudlowTV and an overview article in this edition of The Register.

Strange began, ‘I would like to thank all the residents who attended the public budget forum as well as those who watched online. Public

participation is so important to the Town’s processes and allows decision makers to make better informed decisions. Some of the topics that were more deeply discussed were the following:

Recreation Director: The

Please see **FORUM**, Page 10



Turley photos by Amanda Munson

Robbin Lamorder and Fatima were happy to be together celebrating Valentine’s Day.

## Senior Center hosts Valentine’s Day lunch, music by Atoa Ripley

By Amanda Munson  
Staff Writer  
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LUDLOW – A day before Valentine’s Day, the Ludlow Senior Center held a lunch that had everyone dancing! The annual Valentine’s Day lunch is to celebrate the love day together and to remind everyone that they’re never too old for love.

With music by Atoa Ripley, who entertained the crowd with romantic favorites and classic love songs everyone in the room remembered and sang along to; the room was full of smiles, reds, and pinks. For lunch, members were served ranch chicken, au gratin potatoes, and peas.

The ice sculpture outside of the Senior Center was made by Billy Poe from Modern Ice.



## Blind date with a book was a hit at Hubbard Memorial Library

By Amanda Munson  
Staff Writer  
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LUDLOW – Wrapped in paper, concealing what book was inside, the Hubbard Library on Feb. 13 had a variety of books to choose from for tweens and teens to create a unique reading experience. From marvelous to mysterious books, each book was wrapped by the youth room staff and given a brief description, so young patrons had a small idea of what book they were bringing home.

Speaking with Youth Services Assistant Kristin Santos, who was showing off the upcoming events the department has been planning and coordinating for the warmer weather, she shared that the blind date with a book event has been very popular. For example, the book descriptions had offbeat characters, suspenseful quests, madcap mystery, and imaginative fun.

Another book had a description of moving, realistic fiction, and dealing with bullies. This trend is popular in bookstores, but unique to libraries in the sense that if the patron doesn’t like the book, they’re able to return it.

The concept came from blind dates being unaware of what the person looked like, and with books, it’s a great way to introduce new authors, genres, and titles that patrons



Turley photo by Amanda Munson

Patrons were able to read the brief description and take home the library book, not knowing the book’s title before checking out.

may have overlooked in the past based off simply the titles or book covers. Surprised by the popularity, Santos mentioned she’s had to wrap more books since they keep flying off the shelves.

Upcoming activities for the youth room are in Mar., where families can start decorating the eggs for the annual ‘Eggstravaganza’ and

creating their own pie plates for Pie Day. Weekly activities and events can be found in Hubbard Happenings. For adult programs, a unique program is the sound healing with Mystic Willow on Feb. 28 and a history of Ludlow cemeteries at the end of March.

For more, visit the library website.

# LUDLOW

## Get to know new Police Chief Mike Brennan

By Amanda Munson  
Staff Writer  
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LUDLOW – Following his official appointment as police chief, The Register met up with Mike Brennan to learn more about his journey to the Town of Ludlow, what his goals and aspirations are as chief, and the legacy he hopes to leave behind. Beginning at his appointment at the Select Board meeting a few weeks ago, Brennan began an interim position working as a provisional police chief for a few months starting in Aug. while also still operating as a lieutenant.

After completing the assessment for the chief position in Nov. 2025, Brennan shared that he performed well and was able to appear on the civil service active list, where the Select Board reviewed Brennan's work as provisional police chief and determined to make Brennan a permanent appointment.

When asked about how he felt about the recent assessment, Brennan commented that he felt he performed well and was relieved to get through it.

"At the Select Board meeting, the questions they were asking were topics revolving around issues in criminal justice, especially as a chief you need to be familiar with. Even with the assessment, they would throw you in an incident and see how you would manage it. There are things you need to be familiar with and be able to perform, understand those topics that can impact

the department, and questions revolving around the Town of Ludlow," said Brennan.

Brennan explained that the time since his appointment, everybody in Town and beyond has been supportive, and the transition into the role was a natural progression. "It was nice to see everybody's support; people want to see me do well and see the department do well; that level of support is just fantastic.

At the LPD, the officers, supervisors, right down to every dispatcher, records, they make my life easy. They want to do well, they take pride in their work, and it takes the stress right out of my job because I have such trust in their abilities and they impress me every day. Now it's become permanent and official!" said Brennan.

When asked about his support at home, Brennan smiled and shared that his family has been great. "We are now able to celebrate it and it's an achievement, I think they're very proud of me. I know my parents and my wife of course, my children and my extended family are happy for me. It's all really humbling, it's very appreciative and I am very thankful," said Brennan.

Moving onto Brennan's goals as chief, overall, he stated that he wants the product that they put out to be good. "We're in such a good place and I think that our community knows and



Police Chief Mike Brennan

has a lot of trust. I would like to maintain it and increase it as much as possible. I want people to realize that if they come to us with problems, we're going to take it seriously.

I think people want is that their problem would be taken seriously, that the right amount of effort and intelligence will be done, try to see those things through, and that if people are coming to us with emergencies and they're looking for help... having somebody take that problem seriously or provide whatever support they can goes a long way," said Brennan.

Learning what originally got Brennan into police work, he stated that it looked like such a challenge and would learn more about the society he lived in and himself, saying that it was a front row seat to the problems in the world. Studying criminal justice as a student, Brennan had an interest in serving in the military, and the rank and structure within policing was interesting to him.

"The mission essentially drove me to what it is that police officers do. I got to the point where I didn't see myself doing anything else, and I knew I could go in and not look at it as a job; it's just something that I do.

I learn something new every day, that's the most humbling part of law en-

forcement. One of the other aspects that drove me into it was there wasn't any routine; you're doing something new every day, maybe the same types of things, but it's never the same.

At the same time, I was going to school initially to get my criminal justice degree, I had been interested in the army and was involved within the ROTC program. When I graduated, I received my commission as a second lieutenant in the army and took a reserve commission, because I knew I wanted to go into law enforcement full time.

I was in the army for nine years and wanted to serve my country, and then eventually focused on my law enforcement career," said Brennan. Looking now at the field of law enforcement, Brennan shared that it's a field that you're constantly trying to earn people's trust. "People want to know that the person that's coming to address the issue is going to do it in the best way and most professional way possible. That requires us to be on the top of our games all the time, and that requires us to be mentally and physically fit, educated and highly trained, to have pride in what you do."

Brennan ended by saying, "Helping people is the most rewarding part of the job, knowing that I'm able to come through and help at least try to help solve somebody's problem. And when you're able to achieve success, it's so rewarding and that's why I became a police officer."

## A Watershed Moment

C4R promotes conservation, stewardship and enjoyment of rivers



By Keith Davies  
Coordinator,  
Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council  
Guest Contributor

**wat-er-shed** 'wöder SHed, 'wäder Shed **noun:** watershed; plural **noun:** watersheds

**1. an area or ridge of land that separates waters flowing to different rivers, basins, or seas.**

**• an area or region drained by a river, river system, or other body of water.**

**2. 2. an event or period marking a turning point in a course of action or state of affairs.**

**"these works mark a watershed in the history of music"**

*Editor's Note: This is the first part in a multi-part series about the Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council.*

Just over a decade ago, a small group of people began to renew an idea: the Chicopee Watershed and its tributaries should be better known and appreciated by local residents and even people beyond.

It was a watershed moment, meaning what happened could tip in one of two directions: either people engaged or did not. Fortunately enough people became involved.

The name of the idea was the Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council because four rivers made up the watershed.

It was a slow but positive start, initial goals and

actions were modest. C4R sponsored river area clean ups, fun paddles, and a modest six site sampling program on two rivers.

By 2017 C4R had expanded to 10 sites on all four rivers and began to lay out two paddling trails. Things were progressing.

C4R has sampled up to 25 sites and has developed two more Blue Trails. Yet to continue to serve, it needs help.

Then we hit some bumps: COVID stemmed momentum, how people volunteer and commit to things have changed and we have found it more difficult to continue progress. The hope of maintaining C4R as a voice for the watershed and rivers has dimmed.

So, 2026 is a new watershed moment! Which way things tip will depend on if new and younger people step forward.

Over the next two issues, we will share C4R stories and hopes to help people see what has been done and what the opportunities are for a vibrant watershed family.

For more information about C4R and to get involved, people may visit [www.c4rivers.org](http://www.c4rivers.org), email [chicopeewatershed@gmail.com](mailto:chicopeewatershed@gmail.com), or mail C4RWC, P.O. Box 126, Three Rivers, MA 01080.

## Parish Mission at St. Elizabeth Parish March 16-18

LUDLOW—Set sail with us for a special Parish Mission as we dive deep into the timeless story of Jonah. Jonah is a story packed with drama, suspense, divine plot twists, and yes... one very famous

fish. From stormy seas to surprising second chances, Jonah's adventure will keep you hooked from start to finish.

The mission will be held from March 16 till March 18, at 6:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth

Parish in Ludlow.

Keith Messier (MAAT) will Captain us through our journey uncovering how Jonah's epic voyage mirrors our own-complete with detours, wake-up calls, and God's

relentless love chasing us down. Come and be renewed in faith as we discover that no matter how far we run, God's mercy runs farther. All are welcome-bring a friend!

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## Murder mystery dinner March 7

LUDLOW—Ludlow Lions Club will once again host a Comical Murder Mystery Dinner, "One Slew Over the Cuckoo's Nest". As you dine, participate and interact with Dr. Frigmand Zoid, whose patients think they are superheroes and one is not too happy.

YOU become part of the best Murder Mystery Party ever. But this party just got deadly! Join us for The Party on Saturday, March 7 at Tony and Penny's Restaurant, 18

Canterbury St, Ludlow.

Doors open at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$49 per person or 2 for \$90. Cash Bar and Raffle.

Tickets can be purchased through mail by sending a check, made out to Ludlow Lions Club, to 74 Ray St, Ludlow or by visiting <https://bit.ly/LudlowLionsClub>, or through any Ludlow Lion.

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# Harris Brook students celebrated Valentine's Day



Harris Brook students donned heart-shaped glasses in honor of Valentine's Day.



More students from Harris Brook Elementary holding carnations and smiling with Principal Nikki Reed.

## Random Acts of Kindness

By Barb Turcotte

### Ray & Barbara Hand

This month the Random Acts of Kindness is about the Hands. Not literally hands, but Ray and Barbara Hand whose hands were very busy as the parents of five children! All their children are adults with their youngest now eligible for Medicare! If you haven't guessed, the Hands are in their mid-90's and still very active members of the Keystone Commons community where they've lived for approximately two years.

Ray and Barbara met while both serving in the Air Force, he obtained the rank of Staff Sergeant and she, Airman 2nd Class. While in the service and after retirement, they traveled to many places including France, Germany, England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland and Holland where they honeymooned. They've also enjoyed traveling extensively throughout our states.

Ray worked for various companies in sales so was on the road a lot, plus would take on part-time jobs for extra income. When the kids were young, Barbara was a 'stay at home' mom, then when they were older, she went back to work, eventually retiring from Hasbro as a Product Manager. She also started her own copy

writing service. She said, "I have held numerous positions in my life but being a homemaker was one of the toughest. Bringing up five kids born within seven years is hard to describe."

When the children were younger, because Ray was gone so often, they set up a once-a-month family Sunday. They'd go hiking, check out the parks or go watch the planes come in at the airport. Barbara said, "Those family Sundays were wonderful."

When I asked what their secret was to their 73-year marriage, they chuckled, looked at each other in wonderment and agreed there were times when they weren't so sure they'd make it. They also agreed, they always wanted the complete family dynamics for their kids, so they just made it work. Barbara also explained, "That was back when only men were considered heads of household, women homemakers, and divorce or separation was considered shameful, scandalous and in many cases, a mortal sin, no matter what the cause." But they also clarified it was their humors and respect for one another that kept them together.

Barbara, who is mostly a wheelchair user, is aided by Ray to get to various places. They are very involved with many of the activities offered such as Jeopardy, coffee chats, as well as Barbara writing articles for the monthly Newsletter. She's also a published writer so a great addition to the team. They also enjoy the entertainers who perform, and you can see them singing along while holding hands as they reminisce about so many memories those tunes bring them.

Ray volunteered by coaching various little league teams over the years. He was a crossing guard for many years and also delivered 'Meals on Wheels' for twenty of the thirty years they lived in East Longmeadow. Barbara was very active in the community as the children were growing up, however, there wasn't a lot of spare time or energy after parenting all the kids.

Together, Barbara and Ray also enjoyed playing tennis and relished a good game of golf. Barbara bragged at what a good golfer Ray was as he humbly admitted his games were generally in the 80's with a 14 or 15 handicap. He worked as a Golf Ranger on a nine-hole golf course that allowed him liberal access to golfing. That might explain why he was such a good golfer, of course besides his natural ability.

We talked about how things today were so different than when they were young parents, explaining how money was always at a premium. They shared how Christmas meant one special gift for each child and now

they see their grandchildren with hundreds of dollars' worth of gifts and their rooms filled with all the latest gadgets. They also revealed that they were both very strict parents, justifying with so many kids they had to be. They said their children were and are much more lenient, but bragged what good children their kids raised. They also said their children have since thanked them for their guidance, always knowing they were loved.

Their first son is also named Raymond so if you call Ray, you might get both answering and if you call to Barbara, you might also get a response from their daughter-in-law, as Ray Jr.'s wife is also named Barbara. And that's just one of the funny things about this very humorous family. They all make you want to be part of their fun-loving crazy crew.

It's pretty hard summarizing over ninety years of living and seventy-three years of marriage to incorporate all the wonderful gestures they've extended, but hopefully I've captured the essence of this incredible couple.

If you'd like to share a Random Act of Kindness story or if this one has touched you, please contact me at bdt514@aol.com or 413-575-9385. Who knows, you might see your story, 'Just 'Cause' you witnessed, you did or maybe received something nice being done for you.

See you soon with another Random Act of Kindness! ~ Barb

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# OPINION

## GUEST COLUMN



### What are shallots, anyway?

Shortly after the two part column on growing onions, I received a question about shallots.

My friend was looking through a seed catalog and wanted to know the ins and outs of growing them. This topic was a fun one for me because it required some research.

Can you believe that the Garden Lady has never grown shallots before? There is an explanation why, with part of the reason being that I am not what you'd consider a fancy cook, and shallots have their place in fine dining.

The other reason is that admittedly I never understood the point of shallots – aren't they just small onions? Why would you buy something special for a recipe if you had a good old fashioned onion in the pantry?

As all the cooks in the audience gasp, let me qualify that statement with the fact that now I know better.

Shallots are slightly different plants from onions scientifically. Whereas the onion goes by the name *Allium cepa*, shallots are what you would call a cousin, with the Latin name *Allium cepa* gr. *Aggregatum*.

Although the flavor hints of garlic (who is another more distant cousin), shallots are sweeter and more mild than onions, and are a staple in French and Asian cuisine where they can be used raw or cooked. Think delicate sauces or vinaigrettes.

I laugh when I picture all of the onion family members sitting around at a party. You'd have the gregarious onion, the boisterous garlic and then the cultured shallot, wearing a beret and speaking with a French accent.

I'm not sure why my mind went there, but it was a fun digression.

In terms of culture, shallots are similar to onions in that they can be grown from both sets or seeds. Seeds would be started indoors anytime now through March. Transplants or sets are best planted in the garden as soon as the ground can be worked, usually early April.

Although shallots mature smaller than onions, spacing should still be four-six inches apart so that they can size up to their full potential. They are shallow rooted, so supplemental watering is a must.

When foliage reaches 12 inches, apply a mulch around the base of each plant to help conserve moisture and cut down on weed competition. Until

that point, cultivate carefully by hand or pull individual weeds as they pop up.

Like onions, scallions begin to "bulb up" around the time of the summer equinox. Top dressing with fertilizer at that time is a smart idea.

As summer draws to a close, shallots will exhibit similar die back as onions, whereby the tops begin to fall over, indicating they are ready for harvest. If the weather cooperates, sun cure on the ground or garden path for a few days, then move indoors to a spot with good air movement to finish the curing process.



Once necks have shrunk and dried, cut the tops off to about one inch above the bulb and store in mesh bags as close as you can to the freezing mark with ample humidity. One interesting fact I learned from Fedco Seeds ([www.fedcoseeds.com](http://www.fedcoseeds.com)) is that if you don't have a room that cold, humidity can be adjusted to make up the difference for proper storage.

For example, best case scenario dictates that shallots need 34 degrees at 66 percent humidity. Say the coldest you can get your storage spot is 55 degrees, well then they would like 45 percent humidity. The closest you can get it to add up to 100 the better.

I wonder if this theory holds true for other crops in storage. My squash and pumpkin aren't the happiest this year, so maybe I will look into how to manipulate the environment to avoid some of the shriveling I am seeing.

Anyhow, I hope you had a few chuckles reading this column and that you might feel inclined to give shallots, that cultured onion cousin, a try this gardening season.

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



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## GUEST COLUMN

### Care at home after the hospital

It's usually good news when the doctor says you or a loved one can come home from the hospital. Sometimes, though, it's a mixed blessing.

Hospital discharge sometimes means that further hospital care won't improve someone's health condition, and the hospital is eager to get someone else in that bed. People are discharged faster these days, often with significant lingering health issues that have to be seen to.

In the hospital, there's a staff of nurses, nurse aides, therapists and others to care for you or a loved one. When you get home, though, it's just you and maybe a spouse or other family member. That's why the home health industry is booming.

In 2020 (the most recent data available), approximately 3 million patients received home health care services in the U.S., often following a hospitalization or skilled nursing facility stay. They are being cared for by some 12,000 home health agencies, more than 80 percent of which are for-profit companies.

Home health is something patient advocates know a lot about – and there's a lot to know. Here are some of the things I've learned over my years as an RN and nurse advocate.

#### Prepare in advance if you can

A best-case scenario is that you know you'll need some help when you get home. For every day you spend in a hospital, you lose a month of muscle tone and mobility, so depending on how long you've been hospitalized, you may need considerable help.

Will you need a walker or wheelchair? Shower chair? A first-floor sleeping arrangement? A bedside commode? These are all things that can be planned for if you know they're coming. Very often, hospitals have social workers who help patients navigate after-hospital care. Medicare has a thorough discharge planning guide on its website; search Medicare Publication No. 11376 in your browser.

Other things to think about



24-hour a day care, meal delivery, home-maker services or personal care services that help with bathing, dressing, grooming, etc.

#### Questions to ask a home health agency

There are a zillion questions you could ask, but I think these are among the most important:

How long has this agency been in business and is it licensed to perform home health care?

Can you provide references, or can I speak with previous clients?

Do you accept long-term care insurance, Medicare or Medicaid? If so, do you bill insurance, or do clients pay you and then file for reimbursement?

How do you recruit and select caregivers, and do you perform background checks?

Are your caregivers employees or contractors? Are they bonded?

Can I meet caregiver candidates and select the ones I want?

What should I do if my caregiver doesn't show up as scheduled?

How often is the care plan reviewed?

How do I communicate concerns and questions to you?

Research has found that patients who recover at home have better outcomes, which is why the hospital-at-home movement is growing. So if you're going to be recuperating at your place, don't go it alone.

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

Medicare doesn't pay for

earnings are among your highest. If so, they will automatically recalculate your benefit to give you a higher amount and pay you retroactively to the first of that year.

Apparently, in past years, your more recent earnings were among the highest over your lifetime, which is why you received those notifications in the fall of each previous year saying your

benefit was adjusted based upon recent earnings. That you didn't get a similar notification this year, means that your earnings in 2024 were not among the highest over your lifetime, so no adjustment to your monthly benefit was appropriate.

Now, to clarify, those annual notices you received in the past always referred to

Please see **SOCIAL SECURITY**, Page 10

## 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.

## The REGISTER TEAM

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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.

## I'm still working; Why didn't my benefit amount increase

Dear Rusty:  
I have been working somewhat consistently since commencing my Social Security benefit income. I've been collecting since my full benefit age of 66, approximately. I'm now 81 and customarily, in about October of each calendar year, Social Security notifies me of additional benefits from my additional work. Not this year.

I earned some \$18,000-\$19,000 in 2025. SS advised I did not meet some 35-year

formula. I thought that formula just applied to the original benefit calculation. Otherwise, one seems cheated given the SS taxes paid on income received after applying for benefits without any consideration for that income. Please advise me.

Signed: Feeling Cheated

Dear Feeling Cheated:  
For Your Information, your Social Security benefit



is always based on the highest 35 years of your lifetime earnings with your early years' earnings automatically adjusted for inflation. And that formula continues even after you start receiving benefits. Social Security will look at your earnings each year to see if your recent

earnings are among your highest. If so, they will automatically recalculate your benefit to give you a higher amount and pay you retroactively to the first of that year.

Apparently, in past years, your more recent earnings were among the highest over your lifetime, which is why you received those notifications in the fall of each previous year saying your

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Please see **SOCIAL SECURITY**, Page 10

# 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: Mon 9-5, Tue 9-8, Wed 9-5, Thu 9-8, Fri 9-5, Sat 10-2. Closed Saturdays during the summer, Sundays and holidays.

**Friends of the Hubbard Memorial Library, third Thursday of the month, 6:00 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

**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 led by Mystic Willow. Bring a yoga mat, towel, or something to lay on during the program and a blanket to cover yourself up in. **Dates: 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.mass-book.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 YOUTH

**Bingo, Thursday, February 19, 3:00 pm.** Youth ages 5 and up. Please register.

**Make a Glittery Star Bookmark, Friday, February 20, 1:30 - 2:30 pm.** For youth of all ages. Drop-in.

**Minecraft Club, Saturdays, February 21, 28, noon to 1:50 pm.** For ages 7-11. We have Minecraft accounts. Please register.

**Frozen Movie Dress Up and Karaoke Sing Along, Saturday, February 21, 11:00 - 12:45 pm.** For youth of all ages and families. Drop-in.

**Youth Chess Club, Mondays, (bi-weekly) February 23, 3:30-4:30 pm.** Ages 9-17. Please register.

**Storytime Series for ages 3-5; There's Magic in the Library, Mondays, February 23 & March 2, 10:00 am.** Space is limited, please register.

**Anime Club, (biweekly) Tuesday, February 24, 3:30-5:00 pm.** For middle and high schoolers. Registration recommended.

**Sing With Me, Tuesdays, February 24, 10:30 to 11:00 am.** For 0-5s. Drop-in.

**Youth Crochet Club, Tuesdays, (bi-weekly) February 24, 5:30-6:30 pm.** For ages 10-17. Please register.

**Lego Build Challenge, every Wednesday, February 25, 12:00 to 5:00 pm.** All creations will be put on display in the Youth Room for the week. Drop-in.

**Tween Graphic Novel Book Club, Thursday, February 26, 5:00 - 5:45 pm.** For ages 9-13. Please register.

**Grow, Play & Learn Playgroup for 0-2 year olds, Thursdays, February 26 (not February 19) 9:45 - 10:30 am.** Sponsored by Pathways for Parents CFCE. Please register.

**Grow, Play & Learn Playgroup for 2-5 year olds, Thursdays, February 26, (not February 19) 10:45 - 11:30 am.** Sponsored by Pathways for Parents CFCE. Please register.

**Online Gaming Club for YAs, Thursdays, February 26, 3:30 - 5:00 pm.** For ages 10-15. We have Minecraft! Please register.

**Tween Chaos Boardgame Club, (biweekly) Fridays, February 27, 3:15 - 4:45 pm.** For ages 10-14. Please register.

**"Read Between the Lines" High School Book Group, Friday, February 27, 3:00 - 4:00 pm.** Please register.

**Watercolor Day, Saturday, February 28, 10:30 - 1:30 pm.** For youth of all ages. Drop-in.

**Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration Scavenger Hunt, Monday, March 2, all day.** For youth of all ages. Drop-in.

**Folded Magazine Butterflies, Tuesday, March 3, 6:00 - 7:00 pm.** For ages 5 and up. Drop in.

**Pokemon Club, Wednesday, (bi-weekly) March 4, 18, 3:30 - 4:45 pm.** For grades 3-8. Please register.

**Lunch Bunch, Wednesday, March 5, 11:00 - noon.** For ages 15-36 mos. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents CFCE. Please register.

**Shamrock Slime, Saturday, March 7, 11:30 am.** For ages 6-12. Please register.

**Massachusetts Children's Book Award Book Group (MCBA), monthly, Thursday, March 12, 6:00 - 6:45 pm.** Read 5 nominated books and vote! Celebration with ice cream and photos in the Register in April! Please register.

**Nintendo Switch Night, (monthly) March 17, 6:00 - 8:00 pm.** For middle and high schoolers. There's pizza! Please register.

**Daily Drop-In Crafts, all ages.** DIY crafts available in the Youth Room daily. New craft each week.

**Young Adult Volunteer Program, ongoing.** For 6th grade through high school. Volunteer one hour a week in the youth room. Please see our website calendar for more information and to submit an application.

# ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE:

*The Latest Advances in Treatment, Care and Research*

## Topics to be covered:

- ✓ How to tell the difference between normal memory loss with aging vs onset of Alzheimer's
- ✓ Signs to look for in a loved one
- ✓ What to do when you suspect a memory problem
- ✓ Treatments currently available to slow Alzheimer's
- ✓ Resources available for dementia caregivers



### FEATURED SPEAKER:

**Dr. Joan Roche, PhD, RN, BSN, GCNS**  
*Gerontological Clinical Nurse Specialist*

## CHOOSE FROM ONE OF TWO SESSIONS!

### DATES & TIMES

**THURSDAY, MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup>**  
**12:00 noon** | Lunch will be served

**SATURDAY, MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup>**  
**12:00 noon** | Lunch will be served

### LOCATION

**Keystone Commons**  
460 West Street • Ludlow, MA 01056

**Keystone Commons'** state-of-the-art memory preservation program **Holistic Harbors<sup>SM</sup>** is a deeply inclusive and holistic approach to Memory Care. We provide all our Memory Care residents with physical exercise, stress management and reduction, cognitive exercises, sensory activities, and meaningful social and individual engagement. Our programming has been shown to not only maintain but improve brain fitness, as well as general wellbeing as we age.

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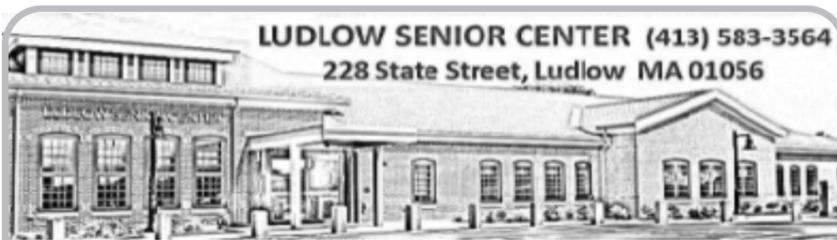
**RSVP for yourself and a guest TODAY!**

**Space Is Limited**

[www.info.KeystoneSenior.com/KC-March26](http://www.info.KeystoneSenior.com/KC-March26) or **(413) 569-8010**

460 West Street • Ludlow, MA 01056

**INDEPENDENT LIVING • ASSISTED LIVING • MEMORY CARE**



**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 \$2 lunch (Call Friday for Monday lunch).

February is Heart Health month so there are several programs and events to help you improve your heart health. 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/). 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, February 19

9 a.m. Tai Chi  
9:30 a.m. Dominos  
10:15 a.m. Mindful Meditation.  
12:45 pm. Mahjong  
2 p.m. Writers Block  
2:30 p.m. Active Yoga

#### Friday, February 20

8:45 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp\*  
9 a.m. Reiki by Appointment\*  
10 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp\*  
10 a.m. Blood Pressure Checks  
10 a.m. Ted Talk  
1 p.m. Ceramics  
1 p.m. Guidance by Li Grief Support\*  
1 p.m. Health Bones & Balance\*

#### Monday, February 23

9 a.m. Knitting  
9:30 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp\*  
10 a.m. Computer Help  
10 a.m. Women of Togo\*  
1 p.m. Scrabble  
1 p.m. Limitless Legends\*  
1:15 p.m. Pitch  
1:30 p.m. Watercolor Pencil Class\*  
2:30 p.m. Zumba Gold

#### Tuesday, February 24

9 a.m. Quilting  
9 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Cribbage  
10:30 a.m. Gentle Yoga

1 p.m. Western Dance Class  
1 p.m. Paraffin Wax Hand Treatment\*  
1:30 p.m. Bingo  
4:30 p.m. Power Pump  
4-6 p.m. Tech Help by Appointment\*  
5 p.m. Movie: Sentimental Value (2025)

#### Wednesday, February 25

8:30-9:30 a.m. Poached Eggs on Ham/Toast Bkfst.  
9:00 Zumba Gold  
9 a.m. Facials by Appointment\*  
9 a.m. Ceramics  
10:30 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance\*  
12 p.m. Lunch & Learn\*  
1 p.m. Dominos  
1 p.m. Movie: Sentimental Value (2025)  
1 p.m. Healthy Bones & Balance\*

#### Thursday, February 26

9 a.m. Tai Chi  
9:30 a.m. Dominos  
10 a.m. Sunshine Painting Class\*  
10 a.m. MMWEC Talk\*  
10:15 a.m. Mindful Meditation.  
12:45 p.m. Mahjong  
2 p.m. Book Club: The Berry Pickers/A. Peters  
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

### Daily Events:

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.  
Open Billiards: Monday –Thursday 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. Fridays 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tuesdays 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.

### Menu:

Thursday, February 19: Birthday Lunch! Salisbury Steak/Mashed Pot/Veggies  
Friday, February 20: Tuna Finger Sand/Chips/Corn Chowder  
Monday, February 23: Ziti w/Meat Sauce/Garlic Knot  
Tuesday, February 24: Mushroom Swiss Burger/Onion Rings  
Wednesday, February 25: Lunch & Learn! Taco Salad  
Thursday, February 26: Chicken Gyro on a Pita/Steak Fries

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.

## LUDLOW CARES

from Page 1

face and reminds you that you are a cherished member of the Ludlow family.'

Learning last week what was in the bags and the variety of Town organizations that came together to help with this heartwarming initiative, The Register interviewed two individuals who, in the mix of assembling the gift bags, were proud to share why they love to volunteer within their community. Speaking first with LCC Social Media Coordinator Joel Freitas, who also has ties within the LBGC working at the front desk, Freitas has been involved with the LCC since 2018.

"(Ludlow) Cares have done a lot in the seven years I've been part of it. The first year of delivering the bags to homebound seniors was around 2021 and originally, I was the only one delivering bags. I had 60 to 80 bags just to bring myself, and the seniors are always very appreciative; during the pandemic, it was even more so because they haven't seen people for long stretches of time. Now it's become more of a tradition, and they get excited to see us," said Freitas.

Freitas continued stating that it's important to support the older generations, especially homebound seniors, "They are often forgotten. When people think about the Town, they think about the kids and they'll often think about the adults caring for those kids, and don't think about the seniors. We try to include them in every way we can, and the primary way that we've done this so far



Turley photos by Amanda Munson

LCC Social Media Coordinator Joel Freitas helped fill the bags with tumbler cups, The Register newspaper, and homemade cookies.

are these bags. Homebound seniors are often a difficult audience to reach so if we can bring something to them to make their day, it's worth it," said Freitas.

Speaking with LCC Vice President Ben Bovee, who was accompanied by his daughter and son, shared that the delivery part of the gift bags has been fantastic over the years. "Seeing how much the people enjoy them and as an example, last year, a woman went to her closet and showed that she saved previous year's Valentine's Day gift bags from the LCC because it meant so much

to her. She said it was the highlight of her month, and it was really special to get to see how much it meant to somebody like that."

Bovee's daughter stated that her favorite part about the gift bags was going inside the houses and having a chat with them and in the past, participated within the schools on creating the handmade Valentine's Day cards.

To encourage others to take part in their communities, Bovee shared a unique viewpoint that he continues to live by. "If you see something that you're not happy with, you can do something about it. And the best place to start is really in your own home and your own community. For LCC and volunteering, there's more that we can do and the more volunteers we have, the more outreach we'll be able to get going and the even better things that will be able to do in the future."

To learn more, visit the LCC website.



The Valentine's Day cards were handmade by the schools in Town and the LBGC youth.



From children to adults, everyone was helping spread the joy of LCC.

## 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.

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June 27.....Lake George Cruise & Lunch ..... \$185  
July 11 .....Provincetown by Fast Ferry..... \$220  
July 19 .....8-Day Bermuda & Halifax Cruise.....from \$1699  
Aug 30.....8-Day Nova Scotia Cruise .....from \$1699

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For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357  
or email [adventuretours@att.net](mailto:adventuretours@att.net)  
or go to [www.adventuretoursforwarren.com](http://www.adventuretoursforwarren.com)

# SPORTS

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## Mateus hits layup in OT for 1,000<sup>th</sup> point

LUDLOW – Last Thursday night at Ludlow High School, as the game went late, it was not a secret to anyone in the Ludlow High gymnasium that Jackson Mateus was getting the ball as much as possible.

Mateus would hit a pair of free throws with about two minutes remaining and was just two points away from 1,000.

Attempts to get Mateus another shot at the basket were made in the next couple of minutes, but he was not able to hit the hoop.

When the game went to overtime, Mateus got another shot at achieving the milestone at home. It took a few minutes, but a little bit of a trick play allowed Mateus to approach the hoop from the right side and nail a layup to hit the milestone.

An exhausted, but elated Mateus celebrated with his teammate and families as he became the latest Lion in to achieve 1,000 points. He finished with 28 points in the game against Hampshire. He will have an opportunity to add more points with the Lions headed for the state tournament next week.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
Jackson Mateus goes for the side approach to the hoop and notches the layup for the 1,000<sup>th</sup> point of his career.



The newest member of the 1,000-point club is surrounded by his teammates in celebration.



Jackson Mateus celebrates his 1,000<sup>th</sup> career points with his family last Thursday night.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Jackson Mateus sends a pass away.

## Ludlow boys fall in OT

LUDLOW – Last Thursday night, the Ludlow High School boys basketball team was defeated by Hampshire Regional High School 60-56 in overtime. Hampshire Regional was able to grab six points in the final two minutes to tie the score against the Lions 48-48. Hampshire would out-score the Lions 12-6 in the five-minute overtime period. Jackson Mateus led the Lions with 28 points while Cameron Lyman contributed 15 points. Ludlow is 12-8 and headed for the state tournament.



Filipe Fernandes finds himself in traffic.

## T-Birds outslug Wild on road

DES MOINES, IA - The Springfield Thunderbirds (18-24-4-2) once again posted a prolific offensive showing, outpacing the Iowa Wild (13-28-4-1) for a roller-coaster 8-6 victory on Saturday night inside Casey's Center in Des Moines.

The opening 20 minutes were a roller coaster of emotions for both teams and their fans. Operating a man down in the opening minutes, the T-Birds still managed to break the ice, as Otto Stenberg beat Cal Petersen with a wrister from the left circle at 1:20 of the period, making it 1-0.

Normally a very disciplined team, Springfield succumbed to another penalty two minutes later, and Iowa made them pay as Tyler Pitlick jabbed a backhand rebound over Georgi Romanov to tie the game, 1-1, at 3:53.

Springfield quickly countered at 6:36, as Quinton Burns flipped a wrister that glanced off Zach Dean's blade, skipping through Petersen to make it a 2-1 game in the T-Birds' favor. Jakub Stancl followed up 3:10 later with his second goal in as many days, finishing off a 2-on-1 pass from Hugh McGing to extend Springfield's lead to 3-1.

Like an evening ago, though, the Wild refused to go away, and Pitlick cashed in on his second of the period off a 2-on-1 setup by Hunter Haight to make it a 3-2 game at 15:14.

The one-goal deficit was short-lived for the Wild, as Thomas Bordeleau stripped the puck from an Iowa defender and rifled home a perfect shot past Petersen's blocker at 15:43 to make it



Aneysha Donais runs into an opponent.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Eliana Garcia keeps the ball moving around the perimeter.

## Lions offense dominates in finale

LUDLOW – Last Thursday evening, Ludlow High School girls basketball started off with a 15-0 after the first quarter and used that momentum to 41-18 win. The Lions got 21 points from Aneysha Donais, including three treys. Nora Adams added eight points for the Lions.



Madelyn Riley heads down the court.



Ava Friese starts up the court after a defensive rebound.



The Ludlow defense sets up.



Cameron Lyman tries to find his way out of pressure.



Mason Morace tries to bring in a rebound.



The Ludlow defense tries to stop a shot.

# SPORTS

## Railers fall at home against Lions

WORCESTER — Worcester suffered a 4-1 loss to the defending Kelly Cup champions Sunday afternoon. The Railers earned just one point of a possible six for the series. They went into the weekend with 12 of a possible 14 points in their seven previous games.

They netted only three goals for the weekend and have 12 in their last seven games. Their power play betrayed them Sunday as they were just one for seven. That included a wasted four-minute man advantage on a high sticking double minor to Mathias Laferriere at 7:02 of the second period. Worcester put only three shots in the direction of the net in those four minutes.

It was 1-1 going into the third period but the Railers could not beat Hunter Jones, who stopped 29 shots

for the game. With the victory, Jones became the first opposing goaltender to beat Worcester in every game of a 3 in 3 series.

The Railers had five power plays in the first period and scored on one of them.

Lincoln Hatten got his 12th goal of the season at 17:03. It was his fifth on the power play and first of any kind since Jan. 24. Jesse Pulkkinen set up Anthony Repaci at the right point and the captain put a shot on net.

There was traffic, a good thing for Hatten, and he popped a rebound home from in close.

After the Railers failed to take advantage of their power play time early in the second period, Trois-Rivieres began to dominate the action. The Lions finally

tied it at 12:15 on Joe Dunlap's goal. He scored on a rebound from the bottom of the left circle.

In the third period, Trois-Rivieres took a 2-1 lead at 2:17, then made it 3-1 at 8:44. Both were doorstep goals. Isaac Dufort had the first one, Cedric Desruisseaux the next one.

Morgan Moisan-Adams, who had a killer series, got the fourth visitors goal at 10:54 on a penalty shot after being hauled down on a breakout.

While the Lions arrived in town as a sixth place team, not resembling the ECHL defending champion, they are an entirely different team with Jones in goal. Trois-Rivieres improved to 13-5-0 with him as the goaltender of record. The Lions are 21-20-4 overall.

## Registration now underway for QVBL

SOUTH HADLEY — Registration has opened for the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, an over-28 recreational league, held its first meeting of 2026 to prepare for the upcoming season.

For the 2026 season, the cost will be \$215 and will include a 16th game added to the regular season schedule.

During the 2025 season, the league experimented with playing on Mother's Day Saturday as well as a weeknight game to allow players an opportunity to play under the lights. While the night games were very successful, the Mother's Day Saturday games were rained out.

Those elements will return along with a 16th

game with an opponent to be determine as the league's board explores possibilities for interleague matchups with another league in the region.

For returning players to the league, the deadline is Mar. 22 at 12 noon to be registered for the 2026 season in order to be guaranteed a roster spot. There will be open practices for all players but specifically targeted at new players scheduled for March 29 and April 4 at times and locations to be announced. The draft is currently scheduled to take place on April 4 following that practice.

The season is currently slated to start on Sunday, April 19 and following the success of the six-team fall

league last year, the league will also have a fall league in September and October this season.

The registration is live at [www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org](http://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org). Players must register and then pay the league dues via Venmo or contact the league leadership if an alternate form of payment is needed.

Aside from the weeknight and Mother's Day games, other games take place Sundays at 10 a.m. outside of Mother's Day, Memorial Day and July 4 weekends. Playoffs will be in August.

This is the 30th season for the league and league officials are looking to celebrate the anniversary with a couple of events.

# 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)

### March 7

**POLISH FOOD SALE** at Immaculate Conception Church, 25 Parker Street - Indian Orchard, Mass. on Saturday, March 7, 2026 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Golumbki (3) \$12; Kapusta (Large) \$10; Pierogi (1 dozen) Pierogi Available: Cabbage, Potato & Cheese \$14, Sweet Cheese, Blueberries \$15

**CORNED BEEF DINNER** at St. Elizabeth's Parish Center from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. - Take-out available 4 to 4:45 p.m. corned beef & cabbage, potatoes & carrots, bread & butter, coffee and chunky apple cake with vanilla sauce (by Pat W.)

Tickets are \$30. (Dine-In), \$25. (Take-Out) if purchased by March 1 (\$5. more after), Tickets are Limited, live entertainment - Sarah The Fiddler from 6 to 8 p.m.

For more information contact: Jim Meehan 547-8822, Dave Bergeron 427-6584, Mike Trexler 219-0758, or Tony Silva 364-6518

### ONGOING

**PLAY CRIBBAGE IN INDIAN ORCHARD** - Cribbage players of all ages and ability are welcome to enjoy a fun time with other local cribbage players. Join us at Club #72, "Pegging Fools", Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. at St. Gregory Armenian Church, 135 Goodwin St., Indian Orchard. For more information, contact Peter Setian, 413-552-6336.

**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.

### FOOD

**DRIVE BI-MONTHLY** 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 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 Parish 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.

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### FY27 BUDGET from Page 1

in lieu of taxes payments, charges for services, trash and recycling fees, ambulance revenue, and more.

Other sources of municipal revenue include free cash, stabilization funds, and these sources provide additional financial flexibility and security for the Town's budget.

**Revenue Trends for Ludlow**  
Taxes are rising because assessed values are going up, which are a product of the market and not Town policy. State aid has been on the decline while inflation has risen.

In the trend of local receipts, the Town has conservatively estimated annual local receipts of revenue and resulted in a healthy Free Cash reserve. Revenue sources like enterprise funds generated by municipal services, free cash accumulated by previous fiscal years, and stabilization funds set aside for future financial needs all

provide essential support for maintaining and enhancing the Town's financial stability and operational capacity.

**FY27 Revenue by Source**  
Please note that the sources for FY27 revenue are all estimated numbers. For local receipts, \$11,200,000, which is 13%. For state aid, \$18,586,840, which is 21%. For property tax levy, \$58,131,757, which is 66%.

### FY27 Expenditures by Functional Areas

Please note that the expenditures are all estimated. The FY27 expenditures by functional area are listed lowest to highest, beginning with: human services at 2%, debt service at 3%, enterprise funds at 4%, general government at 5%, public works at 6%, public safety at 13%, employee benefits at 23%, and finally the school department at 43%.

### FY27 Budget Updates and Key Takeaways

As stated above, there

### T-BIRDS from Page 7

4-2. The goal was Bordeaux's first in a T-Birds uniform.

With just precious seconds remaining in the period, the Wild again responded in kind, as Nic Aube-Kubel set up Jack Peart in the left circle for a buzzer-beating tally in the midst of a delayed Springfield penalty, sending Iowa into the break trailing by just a goal at 4-3.

Yet, despite the potential momentum changer from Peart, Springfield quickly responded to begin the middle frame, as Chris Wagner went to a knee to guide a power play feed from Matt Luff in behind Petersen at 1:32 of the second, making it 5-3.

The T-Birds' defense stabilized after the chaos of the first, and the offense contin-

ued its confident weekend, as Theo Lindstein cashed in for the second time in two games, punching a shot through Petersen's glove side at 9:15 off another Luff assist to push the lead to 6-3.

Springfield's power play added to their tally when Michael Buchinger whistled a shot through the legs of William Rousseau, who entered the net in place of Petersen to begin the third. Buchinger's fifth of the season gave the T-Birds a 7-3 advantage.

Even facing a huge deficit, the Wild continued to scratch and claw. A pair of Springfield penalties opened the door for Iowa, and the home side took full advantage as Dylan Gambrell cashed in on a rebound to the right of Romanov at 8:04 to make it 7-4.

David Jiricek followed with a slap shot from the blue line that caromed in behind Romanov at 12:47, and the Springfield lead shrank to 7-5.

Things got even hairier for the T-Birds when Caedan Bankier got to his own rebound at 16:32 to beat Romanov along the near side, and Iowa incredibly got the lead shaved down to a single goal, 7-6.

In the end, though, Iowa's miraculous comeback attempt came up one tally short, as Luff delivered a much-needed empty net goal with 26 seconds remaining to seal the win. Luff and Stancl each finished their evenings with a goal and two assists, and Springfield's eight goals from eight different players set a club record for most goals in a game on the road.

# IN THE CLASSROOM

## Ludlow High School announces Term 2 Honor Roll

### CLASS OF 2026 High Honors

Nora R. Adams, Sophia M. Alvaro, Emilia M. Alves, Madeline R. Andrews, Katharine M. Anselmo, Noah A. Bahgat, Juliana M. Bartolucci, Olivia A. Beauregard, Reese M. Brennan, Megan N. Burek, Angely N. Burgos, Aiden J. Costa, Cameron E. Dakers, Victoria A. Davidson, Hayden A. Delrosario Rodrigues, Jack W. Demperio, Edward N. Deragon, Gabriel Di Rosa, Joe Dong, Ethan G. Espino, Filipe R. Fernandes, Gabriella A. Fernandes, Brady E. Fisher, Carina B. Fonseca, Ava C. Friese, Savannah R. Fuller, Eliana A. Garcia, Benjamin B. Goodreau, Alyssa K. Guerin, Alexandria J. Holmes-Before, Natalia E. Houlihan, Spencer D. Huntley, Kyle J. Kalita, Aysunaz Karaarslan, Sean H. Kefalas, Drayden T. Keirse, Faith E. Keroack, Connor M. Kokosa, Lilianna A. Kolasienski, Talyn A. Lagace, Michael J. Lecca, Ethan M. Love, Cameron C. Lyman, Nadia M. Machado, Ayden W. Manuel, Madalyn E. Marques, Damien X. Martinez, Ruby R. Martinez, Dominic J. Martins, Kayla I. Massano-Borges, Ryan A. Mateus, Madison D. Mathias, Diana A. Mauricio, Catarina R. Mazza, Niki A. Mentekidis, Amanda R. Miller, Mason M. Morace, Ashlyn R. Mortimer, Mason R. O'Connell, Abigail L. Odiorne, Simon A. Oski, Maddelena E. Pereira, Logan Q. Picard, Daniel J. Pires, Samuel S. Pontes, Cayden J. Robar,

Alexis L. Rodriguez, Cylicie J. Rozkuszka, Isabella M. San Jurjo, Benjamin L. Sanches, Tannar J. Severyn, Cullen J. Smyth, Alex D. Spurlock, Wiktor B. Tylec, Zoe E. Velevitch, Rita J. Vicente, Victoria M. White, Larissa L. Wright

### CLASS OF 2027 High Honors

Manahil Atif, Mehmet D. Bayoglu, Reese F. Carroll, Natalina A. Castro, Beatrice F. Chelo, Mehiayla R. Chesnis, LuciAnna M. Costa, Payton A. Dersarkisian, Cameron L. Dill, Brenna L. Foote, Eliana G. Franco, Ariana A. Goncalves, Robert F. Gregory, Lucas W. Hartzell, Maddox S. Hawkins, Layla P. Henriques, Marissa C. Holland, Avani T. Hurtado, Celine J. Johnson, Christian L. Kochanek, Evita M. Kopeck, Logan A. Koziol, Gabriella R. Lage, Olivia K. Laing, Krysta M. Lamas, Lucas C. Leandro, Isabella M. Leutsch, Sienna R. Leveille, Chloe G. Liszka, Vivian C. Lonczak, Cristiana I. Marques, Colin P. McClintock, Rhyana A. Milfort, Valentina N. Molinari, Riley N. Morais, Keon A. Moran, Hayden L. Morin, Tatiana G. Nogueira, Arianna A. Podmore, Adam R. Riley, Madelyn R. Riley, Ariana Rivera, Giana L. Rivera, Natalya M. Rosado-Dixon, Alannah G. Saloio, Avalee M. Santana, Gabriel C. Santucci, Avelin M. Sargent, Isabella A. Seara, Damian A. Stark, Leslie A. Stromberg, Savannah Y. Vazquez, Ava S. Whitney, Selena H. Yusuf

### CLASS OF 2028 High Honors

Joana C. Afonso, Isla M. Alvaro, Yaa T. Amoakohene, Aroush Atif, Eli M. Batista, Ella S. Belleville, David J. Bish, Brayden M. Bishop, Gabriel A. Bleau, Ella S. Botta, Jake B. Canoa, Juliana J. Claudio, Sofia Marie F. Comi, Carolina M. Conceicao, Karina G. Costa, Olivia R. Costa, Khloe B. Davis, Daniella I. Diaz, Madelynn A. Dodd, Marco S. Dos Santos, Nicholas R. Falcetti, LeeAnna J. Ferrero, Abrianna R. Fuller, Kutay Gokcek, Madelyn R. Goncalves-Korny, Milo T. Hnatow, Liam T. Hua, Kara J. Kunz, Grayson M. Kus, Ava K. Laing, Michael Z. Lasky, Nicholas J. Lavertue, Kaylee M. Learned, Sadie A. Leatherman, Ella G. Libiszewski, Bryce, A. Lipson, Kamiyla N. Lombardi, Derek A. Lopez, Patricia A. Lukaszewicz, Elsa M. Merino, Ella M. Murphy, Kameron M. Murphy, Shaun A. Musambai, Kylan A. Orbe, Brady J. Ouellette, Jasper R. Pacheco, Angelina C. Quiterio, Alexie R. Reyes, Myleigh J. Rubin, Sergio M. Sa Leandro, Marianna R. Sanches, Olivia R. Santos, Ryan M. Sargent, Anthony J. Schuko, Samuel L. Silva, Kimora R. Smith, Dylan R. Southall, Montana J. Stepanian, Edmund W. Stratton, Miles A. Stratton, Connor M. Sylvestre, Jake E. Tatlock, Kerena J. Toukam Kalamo, Morgan R. Vala, Elina J. Wright

### CLASS OF 2029 High Honors

Haley M. Adams, Maureen H. Al Sammarae, Lea B. Avezzie, Lily R. Ayers, Siena F. Bahgat, Dominic Bardakov, Quentin A. Blake, Emirhan Bolat, Jakub Bulatewicz, Berra N. Capkin, Ava N. Carattini, Blake P. Carroll, Annabelle C. Davis, Francesca N. Elie, Aidan M. Figueroa, Matthew J. Flaherty, Cameron R. Friese, Samantha E. Gianni, Adrienne N. Glanville, Chandler A. Gregory, Kylie A. Gregory, Samantha M. Gregory, Maya G. Guberow, Cora B. Hall, Ayah A. Hamdan, Theodore J. Iwasinski, Muhammed E. Karaarslan, Violet R. Kingsley, Damian B. Kopka, Bohdan Krip, Lily A. Kudla, Samson A. Laguerre, Zoe E. McCarthy, Audrina M. Palatino, Bentley L. Patrone, Nora A. Pedro, Camille R. Pszeniczny, Rhett M. Ribeiro, Cayden J. Rubasha, Madelyn N. Schoolcraft, Roman N. Shahid, Tristan X. St. Onge, Ethan O. Stephens, Ella J. Taudal, Joseph T. Toomey, McKenzie M. Tripp, Gamze S. Turan, Jonathan K. Vermette, Kaylie J. Voyik, Savannah M. Williams, ShiYu N. Wu

### CLASS OF 2026 Honors

Alexis A. Aniolowski, Andrew J. Beany, Samantha B. Bertini, Grace P. Budzyna, Yade A. Capkin, Abigail H. Coelho, Isabella G. Coelho, Laylla Q. Dias, Liam R. DiVenuto, Kymani M. Donaldson, Keyana L. Fuller,

Angelina L. Gagnon, Gabrielle M. Gauvin, Stephen M. Godek, Owen J. Goncalves, Andrew S. Hamilton, Brandon E. Hanifin, Dylan J. Huard, Taylor M. Kouflie, Jillian A. Lapointe, Ean J. Makkiya, Michael A. Mariani, Elizabeth G. Martel, Jackson L. Mateus, Devlin P. Murphy, Lucas A. Quiterio, Sophia C. Quiterio, Loliana B. Rafael, Liam M. Richter, Noah R. Simard, Luke J. Slatton, Ethan B. Steigmeyer, Sophia L. Sternowski, Alexander J. Stupak, Adrian M. Tobiasz, Joshua M. Valliere, Jacob A. Vermette, Connor M. Walsh, Sierra A. Williams

### CLASS OF 2027 Honors

Arianna M. Andrade, Janelle R. Carey, Liberty J. Carlson, Maeve E. Carter, Logan E. Cave, Andre R. Costa, Evan R. Dias, Jason J. Docherty, Christian J. Gomes, Tanya E. Hatch, Luis Antonio Hernandez Lopez, Ezgi Ibas, Kyleigh N. Johnson, Ecem I. Karaarslan, Firat C. Karaca, Gianna M. King, Peter R. LeBorgne, Timothy O. Maggard, Lilia G. Martins, Kobe C. McKay, Lexi M. Monserrate, Lily G. Moore, Michaela R. Murphy, Jazlean O. Nevarez, Caitlyn R. Peczka, Giovanni A. Perez, Jayden D. Premo, Omar A. Rojas, Karley I. Roman, Nylie M. Rosado, Ahliyas S. Sanchez, Lilianna M. Saraiva, Jonathan O. Sequen, Tyler M. Tatro, Cayden A. Teixeira, Brady M. Walsh

### CLASS OF 2028 Honors

Ashten A. Bavieri, Kariina C. Begin, Jack A. Benda, Roaah S. Brak, Makenzie M. Caron, Aubrielle G. Chapel, Leila K. Cruz, John J. Davidson, Holly M. Dennis, Collin A. Desmarreau, Riham El Hannach, Lillian E. Elwell, Shelby E. Girard, Leigh Anne M. Gregorio, Zeus A. Hernandez, Rachell Hilario Paniagua, Belinay Ibas, Emirhan Isik, Gabriela Kukwa, Melinda M. Lapointe, Ella N. Lariviere, Shea A. Murphy, Sydney R. Pereira, Christian R. Ruest, Isaac A. Santana, Charles J. Soffen, Kellan P. Steigmeyer, Daniel J. Surprenant

### CLASS OF 2029 Honors

Tyler J. Allen, Emmet J. Berte, Lilliana E. Binette, Ava K. Buccacio, Jose Costa, Mario V. Ferrero, Danika P. Gagnon, Lincoln O. Gauthier, Chase C. Germain, Mason B. Hartzell, Connor D. Henriques, David S. Hillman, Alanna K. Jedrzejczyk, Callie M. Kokosa, Nathan J. Koziol, Darien J. Lambert, James J. Leblanc, Nathan S. Line, Ava R. MacDonald, Charlotte M. Maciolek, Braden D. Martins, Annabelle J. Mercure Flores, Thomas J. Oakley, Sophia A. Quiterio, Nathan J. Ribeiro, Fabian A. Rodrigues, Joshua J. Schaefer-Cunha, Sadie R. Small, Aubriana M. Stupak, Jake M. Tatro, Brooklyn E. Wilczynski, Ellianna C. Williams, Emmanuel M. Winslow, Alexander G. Winslow

## Colleges Dean's and President's Lists

### Elms College announces December 2025 graduates

CHICOPEE—Elms College congratulates 60 students who graduated in December 2025.

Triska-Tushanna Bature of Ludlow received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Caitlyn Emirzian of Ludlow received a Master of Science.

Hannah Haley of Ludlow received a Bachelor of Arts.

Alyssa Moore of Ludlow received a Master of Science in Nursing.

Brian Vo of Springfield received a Bachelor of Science.

Elms College is a co-educational Catholic college offering a liberal arts curriculum that prepares students

holistically for a purposeful life in a diverse and interconnected world. Founded in 1928 by the Sisters of St. Joseph, Elms College has a tradition of educating reflective, principled and creative learners, who are rooted in faith, educated in mind, compassionate in heart, responsive to civic and social obligations, and capable of adjusting to change without compromising principle.

### Brennan makes President's List at Merrimack College

Peyton R. Brennan was named to the President's list at Merrimack College for the fall 2025 semester. Peyton is from Ludlow, Mass. and is a freshman Biochemistry major.

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## MMWEC offers scholarships to Ludlow High School Seniors

LUDLOW—Applications are now open for the 2026 Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) scholarship.

MMWEC is offering two \$1,000 scholarships to qualifying seniors from Ludlow High School who are planning to attend either a two- or four-year college. Eligible students must plan to pursue a degree in engineering, environmental sciences, finance, accounting, or a related discipline.

Scholarship recipients will be awarded based on several factors including academic achievement, area of study, and need. All seniors planning to pursue one of the specified academic areas are encouraged to apply, regardless of their class ranking.

This year, applications will be solely online at <https://www.mmwec.org/scholarship>. To be considered, students must submit all required documents including a letter of recommendation from their

school counselor and a letter detailing their educational and professional goals. Application and submission details will be shared with students via their school counselors. The deadline to apply is Friday, April 3. Students can contact [mmwec@mmwec.org](mailto:mmwec@mmwec.org) with questions.

As part of its commitment to the community, MMWEC has awarded \$70,000 in scholarships to help local students defray the cost of higher education since the inception of the scholarship program in 1998.

MMWEC is the joint action agency for public power in Massachusetts, providing a variety of power supply, financial, risk management and other services to the state's consumer-owned, municipal utilities. MMWEC is the operator and principal owner of the Stony Brook Energy Center on Moody Street and has been a corporate resident of Ludlow for nearly 50 years.

## HOUSING REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE

### THE TOWN OF LUDLOW

The town of Ludlow with the assistance of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) is applying for funding to assist qualified homeowners in making necessary repairs to their homes. In order to be eligible for assistance, total household income shall not exceed current federal income guidelines based on the number of people residing in a household. (See table below).

If you need to make improvements to your roof, windows, siding, plumbing, electrical, lead paint/ asbestos removal, heating system, septic system repair/ replacement and/or other program eligible improvements, please fill out the following form and return to Joe Hagopian at the PVPC (address appears below). ALL information received is strictly confidential and will be maintained in the Springfield office of the PVPC. If you have questions, please contact PVPC Senior Planner Joe Hagopian, at (413) 781-6045 or [jhagopian@pvpc.org](mailto:jhagopian@pvpc.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Single/Multi Family (Please Circle One) \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Improvements Needed: \_\_\_\_\_

My household income is not greater than (circle one according to your household size):

1 Person	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person	5 Person	6 Person	7 Person	8 Person
\$67,000	\$76,550	\$66,100	\$95,650	\$103,350	\$111,000	\$118,650	\$126,300

Return to: Joe Hagopian, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street - 1st Floor, Springfield, MA 01104 or via email at: [jhagopian@pvpc.org](mailto:jhagopian@pvpc.org)

For P.V.P.C. use only

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Staff Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

# PUBLIC NOTICES

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Hampden Probate and Family Court**  
**50 State Street**  
**Springfield, MA 01103**  
**(413)748-7758**  
**Docket No. HD26P0252EA**  
**Estate of:**  
**Cathie T Berman**  
**Date of Death: 06/29/2022**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
 A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Tarra Devine of Ludlow, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Tarra Devine of Ludlow, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**You have the right to obtain**

a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/06/2026**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and

may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.  
 Date: February 05, 2026  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**,  
 Register of Probate  
 02/18/2026

**Town of Ludlow, LEGAL NOTICE**

You are hereby notified that a **PUBLIC HEARING** will be held at the Town Hall Select Board's Conference Room, 488 Chapin Street, Ludlow, MA 01056 on **Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 6:15 P.M.**

Upon petition of **EVER-SOURCE** to locate poles, wires, cables and fixtures including necessary anchors, guys and other such sustaining and protecting fixtures to be owned and used in common by your petitioners, along and across the following public way or ways.

**POOLE STREET:** to install one (1) newly jointly owned mid-span pole. The pole is requested

to address a very long span and allow for new conductor installation. New conductor will be installed along Poole Street with the aim of improving reliability.

Manuel Silva, Chairperson  
 William Rosenblum, Vice Chair  
 James Gennette  
 Anthony Alves  
**Ludlow Select Board**  
 02/18, 02/25/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Hampden Probate and Family Court**  
**50 State Street**  
**Springfield, MA 01103**  
**(413)748-7758**  
**Docket No. HD15P2225EA**  
**Estate of:**  
**Rosemary Teresa Gilrein**  
**Date of Death: 10/15/2015**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
 A Petition for **S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Betsy**

**Marie Marino of Ludlow, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Betsy Marie Marino of Ludlow, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/10/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**  
**UNSUPERVISED**

**ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.  
 Date: February 10, 2026  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**,  
 Register of Probate  
 02/18/2026



**FORUM** from Page 1

FY27 budget includes a new recreation director position to oversee the summer camp, before/after school program, and to create additional recreational programming through the Town. The recreation department has consisted of one full-time administrative staff person for years, who recently retired, and now there is one part-time administrative staffer working in the recreation department.

One of the expressed concerns about hiring a new director was that the department will continue to grow

with additional administrative staff to help support the director. While those decisions are largely up to the Recreation Commission, I will say that Town departments are thinly staffed and any adding additional recreation department personnel would have to be justified through a showing of operational need and/or increased available funding through departmental revenue and/or grant funding.

Ambulance Fund: The FY27 budget also contemplates adding one or two firefighter/EMT position(s). According to Fire Chief Ryan Pease, two more positions would even out his roster of

shifts with nine firefighter/EMTS on each with each shift being simultaneously responsible for fighting fires, providing EMT/ambulance service, and other first responder duties that present themselves.

The Town's ambulance service use continues to increase year-over-year and actually generates quite a bit of revenue for the Town. We can use some of those funds to pay for one or two additional firefighter/EMTs without impacting taxpayers. Or we can add them through the operating budget, which is largely supported by property taxes. That decision has yet to be made.

Employee Health Insurance Splits: Employee health insurance is a large part of the annual budget. Roughly 11 to 12% of total expenditures.

Health insurance costs continue to increase across every industry, and they hit the Town of Ludlow particularly hard because the Town absorbs 78% of those costs while employees are responsible for the other 22%. The majority of towns, particularly near Ludlow, have a 70/30 split with the town paying 70% and employees picking up the other 30%.

That is a big difference, 78/22 versus 70/30, and one that is legally required to be

negotiated with each individual school and Town union. We plan on beginning those negotiations sometime in July/August to reduce that future cost burden for the Town and taxpayers, particularly considering expected double-digit annual health insurance cost increases.

Road repair funding: One resident asked why Ludlow did not receive funding for road repairs while other Towns did. At the forum, we were not sure what program the resident was referring to. It sounds like he was talking about the Municipal Pavement program, which is a competitive funding program for all

cities and towns to apply for.

The Town is looking into how we can submit more competitive applications for that program. And while we cannot speak for why Ludlow did not receive funding through that program, we can say that Ludlow receives funding through Chapter 90 every year and that amount recently increased significantly due in large part to the efforts of our Western Mass legislative delegation. State aid, in general, is still woefully lacking, but the additional Chapter 90 funding has allowed us to pave more roads each year, and that is very much needed."

**SOCIAL SECURITY**

from Page 4

the preceding year – that is, if you received a notice in October 2024 of a higher SS benefit, that was a result of your 2023 earnings. If you got no such notice in October of 2025, that means that your 2024 income was not among the highest over your lifetime. And your 2025 earnings of \$18,000 - \$19,000 will likely not be among your lifetime highest either, so you probably won't get a notice next year

either.

It's important to understand that your contributions to Social Security, i.e., the SS payroll taxes you pay while working, are not put into a separate account for you – rather, they are used to help pay benefits to all beneficiaries.

In other words, just contributing to SS with payroll tax from your work earnings doesn't necessarily mean you get a higher benefit. Your SS benefit is always based upon the 35 years in

which you earned the most, including recent years if you continue to work. So, you weren't "cheated" that is simply how the program works your SS benefit is always based on your highest 35 years of work earnings, including recent years, with

earnings from the early years adjusted for inflation.

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.

## 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 providedfor 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 Calik  
 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](http://www.stelizabethludlow.org)  
 Like us on Facebook Check out our Parish App  
**Wednesday, Feb. 18**  
 Daily Mass – 7:30 AM (C), Mass – 12:30 PM (C)  
 Holy Mother Choir – 4:30 PM(C), Scouts – 6 PM (ER),  
 Cub Scouts – 6 PM (FLBH),  
 Bible Study – 6:30 PM (JR)  
**Thursday, Feb. 19** – Daily Mass – 7:30 AM (C)  
**Friday, Feb. 20** – Daily Mass– 7:30 AM (C), Stations of the Cross – 7 PM (C)  
**Saturday, Feb. 21** –Confessions – 2:30 PM (C), Saturday Vigil Mass – 4 PM (C)  
**Sunday, Feb. 22** – Daily Masses at 7:30 AM, 9:15 AM, 11 AM and 5 PM (C), Take & Eat – 8 AM (FLBH/K), Lifeteen – 6 PM (JR)  
**Monday, Feb. 23** – Daily Mass – 7:30 AM (C), Faith Formation – 6 PM (JR), Womens Bible Study – 6 PM (ER)  
**Tuesday, Feb. 24** – Daily Mass – 7:30 AM (C), Middle School Youth Ministry – 3 PM (JR), St. Rita Choir – 4 PM (C), Bereavement Support Group – 6:30 PM (ER), Boy Scouts Troop Committee Meeting 7 PM (JR)

**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).

**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.

**OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH**  
 438 Winsor St., Ludlow  
 413-583-2312

Father Pedro DeOliveira  
**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

**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)



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 24 Water Street  
 Palmer, MA 01069  
 Email: [jamie@turley.com](mailto:jamie@turley.com)

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Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

The Town of North Brookfield is looking for a **PART-TIME PROGRAM ASSISTANT** for the Senior Center. Please submit a resume with a letter of interest to the **Selectmen's Office, 215 North Main St., North Brookfield, MA 01535;** or by email to: [selectmen@northbrookfield.net](mailto:selectmen@northbrookfield.net).

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

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DEADLINES: FRIDAY AT NOON

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29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
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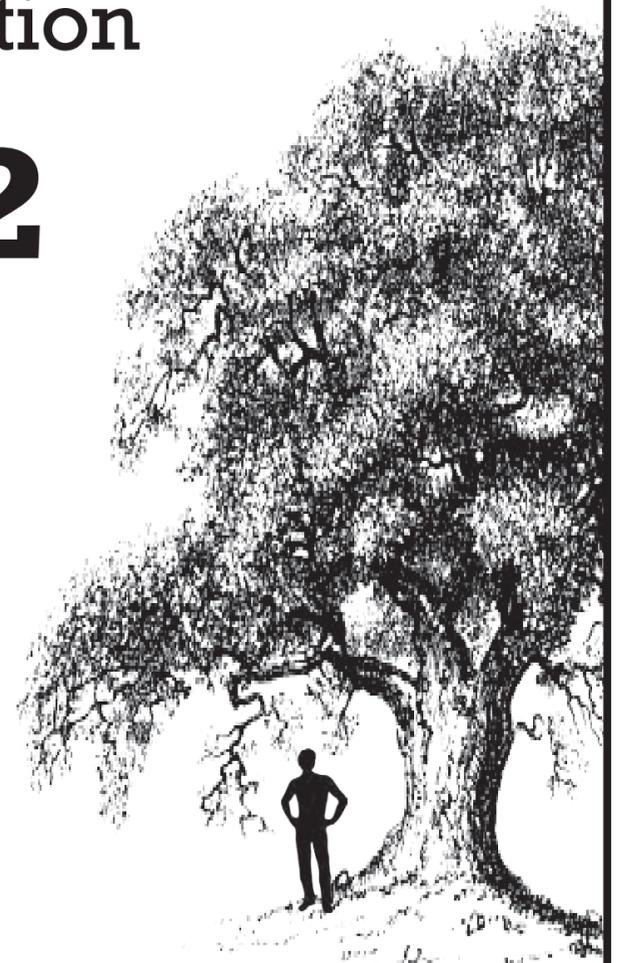
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