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Police Dept. puts positive spin on budget

BY CAROLINE KERAS
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With 13 perspective layoffs and \$5.7 million allotted to the Fitchburg Police Department in the city's projected budget for Fiscal Year 2010 (down 11 percent from last year), the current financial crisis is especially devastating to the department of highly trained staff.

"There is not a lot of opportunity for this highly specially trained individual to go anywhere else besides in police work," said Sergeant Glenn Fossa.

While most of the high school graduates who will receive a diploma this spring have no idea what they want to do for a career, others have known for a while.

Those called to public safety careers often belong in the category of the few who

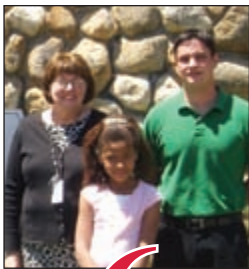
determined their career path at a young age.

"Generally speaking, police officers start to think of this career early in high school," said Fossa.

Once those interested individuals complete college, usually with a criminal justice major, applicants typically take the police academy entrance exam around age 20 or

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Although the rainstorm Sunday afternoon moved through the city quickly, it did not move through quietly. This tree in Monument Park on Main Street was knocked down, either by wind or lightning, according to Department of Public Works Director Lenny Laakso. Hartwell Street was closed temporarily, but DPW crews were able to quickly clear the road, and remove the debris.

PRIDE PHOTO/ CHARLES STERNAIMOLO

Airport improvements take flight

BY CAROLINE KERAS
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In this time of economic uncertainty, the Fitchburg Municipal Airport is feeling the pressure to find new ways to make money and remain operational.

"We are mandated by the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) to be as self sufficient as possible," said Airport Manager Fred Guertin.

Given this effort, Guertin jumped on a recent offer from Ansar Energy LLC, a company out of Scituate. The airport has agreed to Ansar installing solar panels on 35 to 40 acres around the perimeter of the airport.

Ansar, in turn, will pay the airport \$10,000 to \$15,000 per acre every year, amounting to about \$300,000 to \$400,000 annually.

The offer is a no-brainer, according to Guertin.

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Carr 'Pays It Forward' in Fitchburg

BY KAREN MANN
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Michael Leon Carr may be the only person who is allowed to whip a towel around in the air at the Fitchburg Art Museum without eliciting security.

Carr is better known to Celtics fans as M.L. Carr, and his towel-waving cheerleading on the Celtics bench in the 1980s has given him free reign to wave a towel anytime, anywhere, any place in New England.

At the Art Museum Tuesday night, Carr was waving the towel to fire up local entrepreneurs, giving them advice on how to be successful both in business and in life.

"Never be afraid to ask for help," said Carr in an interview before speaking to a group of local business leaders.

Carr, who gives motivational speeches around the country, was invited by Enterprise Bank to speak in Fitchburg. It was not Carr's first time in Fitchburg though.

Carr said during the late 80s he spoke to students at one of the city's middle schools.

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