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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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Town can only pass strict safety regulations, cannot stop BESS

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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AGAWAM – A hard reality for residents was revealed by Mayor Christopher Johnson.

Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) are coming to the town whether residents want them to happen or not.

On Monday afternoon, one of two information sessions were held by Longroad Energy, a firm that is seeking put a BESS at the former Lucia Lumber site located at Silver St. Because of state regulations that make it easy for BESS to be installed in the commonwealth, there is very little municipalities, city

councils, and residents can do about it.

“This was something that was approved at the state level,” Johnson. “There is nothing that can be done to prevent them from coming in.”

Johnson also advised residents, who packed the dining hall at the senior center, that Agawam is not the only place

that a BESS will be installed.

“They need more power to meet the demand,” Johnson. “There are more of these coming all over the state.”

While nothing can be done about a BESS being allowed to be installed on a site in the community, how it is done can be regulated a little bit more locally.

“There are some communities that don’t have any regulations and energy companies go through the state approval process,” Johnson said. “In that case, the towns and cities don’t get a say in anything.”

Johnson said shortly after re-taking the mayor’s office in 2024, he worked for nearly a

year to create and pass an ordinance that placed some of the strictest safety regulations seen by Longroad Energy.

“The ordinance here (in Agawam) is one of the strictest we have seen in this country,” Chad Allen of Longroad told residents.

ENERGY | page 16



The raising of the beam apart of the new Agawam High School. TURLEY PHOTO BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

Topping off: Final beam placed on new building at AHS

By Christina Gioscia
 Correspondent

AGAWAM – Last Tuesday, Jan. 6 at Agawam High School, the final beam was placed on the building’s frame in the topping off ceremony. In attendance was Mayor Johnson, State Representative Nicholas Boldyga, members of the city council, members of the school committee, and Agawam High Principal Jim Blain. The ceremony took place beside the existing high school outside in front of the new building. Attendees signed the final beam and enjoyed refreshments before the ceremony began.

Project Manager Matt Cavanaugh gave some details on the new building.

“For the timeline of the school there’s two phases, the community wing which we’re building now and the academic wing,” Cavanaugh said. “Which we can’t build until the community wing is finished. We’re looking to turn over the community wing to the school around the end of next year. Then they’ll move in kind of over Christmas break, is the plan right now. We’re looking at 2028 for the academic wing. It’s been a great team. The mayor has been a tremen-

dous asset with working with all the different departments in the town and making sure that everyone is on board with where we’re at in the schedule.”

City Councilor Dino Mercadante was happy to see the progress of the project.

“I think it’s a fascinating thing for Agawam to move forward with many projects, not just the school,” Mercadante said. “We redid the library and police station, so it’s a collective effort in moving Agawam forward in a lot of different phases. This just happens to be a fantastic opportunity for future generations.”

Mayor Johnson then shared his thoughts on the project.

“Our existing building was built 71 years ago,” Johnson said. “It’s in need of a substantial amount of work; it could not be renovated at a reasonable cost. We need a new, modern high school. In Agawam, we haven’t built a new school in over 50 years. This is a huge step forward for Agawam, we need a flagship high school, this is it. It’s a huge investment in our chil-

BUILDING | page 16

Russo takes helm as new council president

By Amanda Munson
 amunson@turley.com

AGAWAM – During the week of Jan. 12, a few days following the election of the new City Council President Anthony J. Russo, the Agawam Advertiser talked to the Russo on what residents can expect in the new year and what he hopes to accomplish during his term in office.

Beginning at the start of his presidency, Russo explained the process and transition into the new position and how he became elected, after being vice-president for one term.

Russo said, “After every election, the first meeting that landed on Jan. 5 of this year, we have an organizational meeting where we re-vote for our president, vice-president and I was lucky enough to be nominated by my peers and almost unanimously voted in by a 9-0; we had two absentees. I just started my third term, and we have two-year terms, so my last term I was vice-president and we are now just in the beginning stages of this presidency. There aren’t a lot of new changes yet, a big change from last time to this time, as president I picked the subcommittees on who were go-

ing to be chair and vice-chair. I included Vice-President Anthony R. Suffriti in that process,” said Russo.

Another role as president, before every council meeting, he reviews and goes over the night’s agenda with Mayor Christopher C. Johnson. “Previously when I was vice-president, we did that and we were always in a room of equals; we all had a fair say in everything that went on. So, whether you were vice-president or president, it didn’t matter too much in that meeting because we gave each other the equal opportunity to put in our input and concerns,” said Russo.

Highlighting the importance of communication within Agawam, Russo clarified a couple of misconceptions residents may have on what the city council can do. “One thing that I want the residents of Agawam to know is that our charter gives a lot of authority to the mayor, so a lot of residents come to us with requests for more sidewalks or roads. Unfortunately, we don’t make that decision; it’s not in our charter and not one of the powers we have and is up to the mayor. I try to focus on things I can

RUSSO | page 14



Anthony Russo was elected city council president and Anthony Suffriti is the new vice president. SUBMITTED PHOTO



High school fall production

Last month, Agawam High School presented “Elf the Musical” as its fall production. The play included a very large cast, including singers for the ensemble. The school will have a spring production and rehearsals will start for that soon.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



It's a new year of fun events at Agawam Public Library

AGAWAM – All of us at the Agawam Public Library hope you had a relaxing and joyful holiday season, and we cannot wait to share what we have in store for the New Year.

Winter is here to stay, and what better way to stave off the cold than by curling up with a good book? Our Adult Winter Reading Challenge will run from Tuesday, Jan. 20 through Saturday, Feb. 21 and is an excellent way to jump start your 2026 reading goals. Log your reading and complete activities to earn raffle tickets that can be entered to win one of our five grand prizes! We've also challenged the Agawam community to collectively read 1,500 hours, and every hour you log during this reading challenge will help us reach our goal. To get started, please visit agawamlibrary.beanstack.org to participate online or visit the Agawam Library Information Desk to participate in person. Registration for this challenge will begin on Tuesday, Jan. 20 and the last day to enter your raffle tickets for the end-of-challenge drawing is

Saturday, Feb. 21.

Attention wrestling fans. We have an extra special event this month that you won't want to miss. Author, podcaster and former WWE media journalist Brian R. Solomon will host a presentation and book signing for his latest book, *Irresistible Force: the Life and Times of Gorilla Monsoon* on Saturday, Jan. 24 at 10 a.m. Brian worked at World Wrestling Entertainment in the early 2000's as a creative services and publications copy editor and later became a staff writer for their suite of magazines and WWE.com website. He has interviewed and interacted with countless wrestling legends over the course of his career. Brian's encyclopedic knowledge of professional wrestling is clearly displayed in his biography of Gorilla Monsoon, one of the original character wrestlers in the early days of the WWF/WWE and later the "voice" of the WWF events. Don't miss this amazing opportunity to connect with this prolific chronicler of the professional wrestling world! Please regis-

ter to attend.

Looking to try out a new hobby this year? Boy, do we have you covered! Winter Gardening with Master Gardener Shari Petrucci is the fourth installment of our series "Gardening Through the Year". In this session, Shari will cover the many winter projects that keep gardeners busy and prepared for spring. Topics will include how to read a seed catalogue, making a garden journal, planning your garden for spring, ordering seeds from your plan, and a hands-on winter sowing workshop using perennial seeds! This workshop will take place on Monday, Jan. 5 at 6:30 p.m.. Attendees are asked to please bring a seed catalog and a clean, empty one gallon milk or water jug. Information on obtaining a seed catalog can be found on our online event calendar when you register to attend.

Tea & Trivia is back with two new sessions this month: join us on Tuesday, Jan. 20 at 6:30 p.m. or Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 2:30 p.m. for a couple of rounds of Jeopardy and pub-

style trivia. We will use the same questions for both sessions, so register for the time you prefer and join us for some fun.

Uncover your story, or create one that's new! Are you a writer looking to connect with other writers? Join our Writers Group hosted by Katherine Anderson on Thursday, Jan. 15 at 6 p.m. This in-person workshop is open to writers of all levels and genres. There will be opportunities for peer and host feedback, finding opportunities for submission to magazines, literary journals, and presses, and more. Registration is required. Join Adult Services Librarian Cher Collins on Thursday, Jan. 15 at 6:30 p.m. for Introduction to Genealogy, a class for beginners looking to unravel the mysteries of their family tree. Learn basic research strategies as well as tips and tricks for getting and staying organized. Please register to attend.

If you're curious about eBooks, are seeking a free alternative to Audible, or just got a new reading device for the holidays, be sure to join us for

our Library Tech Class: Learning About Libby! We'll show you the essentials on how to find and borrow new eBooks and audiobooks, along with some helpful hints and tips. Feel free to bring your smart devices and/or your e-Readers with you to the class. You will need your library card and your PIN/password to set up Libby, so please try to make sure you have those ready to go in advance! We will have two sessions this month on Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 10 a.m. Registration is required.

If you're not able to stop by the library in person this month, check out our online offerings. On Tuesday, Jan. 20 at 2 p.m., journalist Julia Hotz will discuss her book *The Connection Cure: The Prescriptive Power of Movement, Nature, Art, Service, and Belonging*. The first book on social prescribing, *The Connection Cure* explores the idea of nature, art, and service as a form of healing medicine. Mystery fans take note: author Liz Moore will invite readers into a rich and gripping dynasty of se-

crets and second chances in a discussion of her bestselling novel *The God of the Woods* on Wednesday, Jan. 28 at 7 p.m. Please register to attend any of these author talks by visiting libraryc.org/agawam-library. More of a history buff? Join us on Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 7 p.m. for *How Librarians Became the Unlikely Spies of World War II*. Learn the true untold story of the academics who became OSS spies, invented modern spycraft, and helped turn the tide of the war to defeat the Nazis. This event is held in collaboration with the Tewksbury Public Library; please register online to attend.

Thank you to the Agawam Center Library Association for sponsoring select library programs. Upcoming holiday closings include: Monday, Jan. 19 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. During the winter months, any closings or late openings due to inclement weather will be reported to local TV stations 22 and 40, as well as their websites and the library's social media platforms.

Bill assistance events being held by Eversource

SPRINGFIELD – As many Massachusetts customers experience higher winter energy bills driven by colder weather and seasonal energy use, Eversource is hosting a series of in-person bill help events throughout the month of January to connect customers with programs and payment options designed to help make energy bills more manageable. At these events, Eversource customer care representatives will be available to review bills, answer questions and help customers understand which assistance programs or payment options may be right for them.

These events are part of Eversource's ongoing outreach to ensure customers are aware of the resources available to help manage energy costs, including financial assistance pro-

grams, flexible payment plans, and energy efficiency solutions. The goal is to provide customers with clear information and one-on-one support so they can make informed decisions about their energy bills that best fit their individual needs.

"Winter energy bills can be challenging for many customers, especially during periods of sustained cold weather when energy usage is higher," said Eversource Senior Vice of Customer Operations and Digital Strategy Jared Lawrence. "We want customers to know that help is available, and these in-person events are an opportunity for us to meet customers in their communities and connect them directly with resources that can make a difference." Energy usage typically

increases during the winter months as customers rely more heavily on heating systems and other household energy needs. Colder temperatures, longer periods of heating use and shorter days can lead to higher overall energy consumption, which alone can significantly impact monthly bills, regardless of changes to rates.

"We know higher winter bills can be stressful, and no customer should feel like they're facing that alone," Lawrence said. "We encourage customers to attend one of our bill help events or reach out to us directly so we can work together on a solution. Our team is here to listen, answer questions and connect customers with options that can help make their bills more manageable."

MassHire announces February job expo

SPRINGFIELD – Hundreds of people are expected to attend the February 3rd Job Expo at the Basketball Hall of Fame. Forty to fifty companies are expected to attend the event, which runs from 4 to 7 p.m. They will be hiring to fill hundreds of openings. Job seekers will have opportunities available in many different industries including: health care, manufacturing, social services, education and banking. The Job Expo is held in Center Court and is open to the public. This provides an increasingly rare opportunity for applicants to meet recruiters face to face.

The turnout is expected to mirror a growing trend of increasing numbers of job seek-

ers attending recruiting events. Kevin Lynn, Executive Director of MassHire Springfield Career Center says the job expo continues to be a draw, "Our October Job Expo had 617 job seekers show-up to meet with 54 employers. This was the largest group of job seekers since before the start of COVID in 2020. Local companies continue to hire with many struggling to find the right candidates."

Job Expos give people the chance to make positive impressions on prospective employers while at the same time having the opportunity to learn about career paths and corporate culture. This helps job seekers determine which organizations are the best fit

for them. Recruiters find face to face events useful in screening candidates and selling their opportunities to prospective applicants. The ability to make these connections is why job expos remain popular with businesses.

Located at 95 Liberty Street, MassHire Springfield Career Center served over 11,000 job seekers and 1,600 business last fiscal year. We provide people with job search assistance and access to skills training. Our business services include no cost job postings and recruiting events. A list of companies and positions available at the job expo is attached. An updated list can be found at MassHireSpringfield.org.

Senior Center to host Day Trip Reveal Party

AGAWAM – Joanne Locke and Debbie Sorcinelli of Insiders Travel, LLC, in partnership with the Agawam Senior Center, will host a 2026 Day Trip Reveal Party on Tuesday, Jan. 20.

The event will be hosted at

the Agawam Senior Center located at 954 Main St. with two presentations times. One will be at 12:30 p.m. following lunch and the second will take place at 6 p.m. Attendees will have the opportunity to preview exclusive 2026 day trips curated for adults age 55 and over. While the trips are designed with this age group in mind, all are welcome to attend. RSVP to the reveal party is required. Guests who RSVP will

be entered into a raffle to win a \$25 gift of adventure. A \$99 gift certificate will also be awarded, with a raffle ticket for each \$20 trip deposit made that day. Cash and checks are accepted. To RSVP or for more information about 2026 trips, contact InsidersTravel2025@gmail.com or call/text Joanne Locke at (413) 478-4698 or Debbie at (413) 478-2834. A sign-up sheet is also available on the Agawam Senior Center bulletin board.



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Free HCC line-cook training program begins Jan. 26

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

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

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

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

"HCC tries to meet the needs of its students by of-

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

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

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

passion for food and the dining industry."

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

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

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

For more information, or to fill out an inquiry form, please go to hcc.edu/line-cook.



If you ever wanted to learn to be a line cook, free training is available at HCC.

Submitted photo

Party fundraiser to benefit Captain Leonard House

AGAWAM – A Winter Aurora Borealis Wonderland Paint Party fundraiser to benefit Agawam's Community House will take place on Friday, Jan. 23 at the historic Captain Charles Leonard House, 663 Main Street, Agawam, Mass. from 5:30 to 9 p.m.

Following the step-by-step directions of your art guide to learn acrylic painting techniques, attendees will paint a beautiful winter wonderland on canvas while sipping and snacking with friends.

Tickets are just \$40 per person, which includes all materials needed to create your masterpiece, with proceeds benefiting the historic Captain Charles Leonard House.

Space is limited! Reserve your seat today at <https://www.facebook.com/share/1CAHu4UfzE/>

Built in 1805 as a stage tavern to service travelers on the Hartford/Boston/Albany route, the Captain Charles Leonard House is considered Agawam's finest Federal-era building. The house was re-



The Winter Aurora Borealis

SUBMITTED PHOTO

stored by Mrs. Minerva Davis, who established a Board of Trustees to oversee the operation of the house as Agawam's Community House, the role it has served since 1939.

The Captain Charles Leonard House was featured in/photographed for The White Pine Series, Vol. XI, No. 4 (1925); recorded by the Historic American Buildings Survey (1934); and featured

in Some Old Homes of the Lower Connecticut Valley (1988).

The Captain Charles Leonard House was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

The Captain Charles Leonard House is available for holiday parties, business functions and social events. For rental information, please call 413-786-9421. Please follow us on Facebook.

Town still in need of snow plow operators

AGAWAM – The Town of Agawam is still seeking independent contractors to assist the town with plow and snow removal operations during the winter.

The town website states the requirements for plow operators. They must have: A minimum eight-foot plow

on a personal truck, must be available 24/7, must have at least \$500,000 general liability insurance, must have proof of workers compensation for employees, a W-9 shall be provided to the Town of Agawam, and each drive must submit their legal name, date of birth, and

a valid driver's license. The town offers competitive rates and pays promptly.

Full applications with specifications are available on the town website or by going to the Department of Public Works building located at 1000 Suffield St.

Westfield Athenaeum American Revolution Series

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Athenaeum Children's Library will present a series of programs about the Revolutionary War for children 8 - 12 each month January through May. The kickoff event, Henry Knox's Noble Artillery Train featuring Owen Lourenzo and his trained oxen, will be presented on Wednesday, Jan. 14 at 4 p.m. Owen will talk about the Noble Train and how the oxen were integral to its success. The event is open to all ages and will be held on the Court Street lawn. This event is free to all attendees.



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Suffield Players holding playwriting workshops

SUFFIELD, CT — The Suffield Players are pleased to announce Drafting the Drama, an eight-week, in-person playwriting workshop running March 3 through April 21 taught by theatre artist and educator Matt Besette.

Designed for both emerging and experienced writers, Drafting the Drama is an intensive, hands-on course that explores the craft of playwriting from concept to page. Each class is structured to open new creative horizons while introducing practical, advanced, and nuanced techniques used by professional playwrights. Participants will build confidence in their writing voice while developing original work in a supportive, collaborative environment.

Besette returns to The Suffield Players to lead a second round of classes, guiding participants through a focused playwriting workshop designed for writers at all levels of experience. The course emphasizes storytelling craft, professional techniques, and creative confidence, helping students bring their ideas to life on the page in an engaging and supportive setting.

A unique feature of the workshop is its connection to The Suffield Players' acting curriculum. Selected scripts developed during Drafting the Drama will be used in the Stepping into the Spotlight acting class that immediately follows the workshop. At the conclusion of that class, students will perform the selected scripts

for a live audience, offering playwrights the opportunity to see their work fully realized on stage.

Who Should Enroll:

- Aspiring playwrights exploring dramatic writing for the first time
- Experienced writers looking to refine their craft
- Actors, directors, and theatre-makers interested in original storytelling
- Anyone interested in developing scripts for the stage in a structured, encouraging environment

Registration & Information:

Enrollment is now open. Full details, tuition information, and registration are available through The Suffield Players website. Space is limited to ensure an interactive classroom experience.

Subscribe to the Agawam Advertiser News online at agawamadvertisernews.turley.com

Two positions open on ZBA

AGAWAM – Please be advised that there are openings for a permanent position and an alternate position on the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals effective January, 2026. Interested parties should contact Barbara Bard at 413-726-9716 or send in a letter of interest to bbard@agawam.ma.us as soon as possible.

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Opinion

Guest Column



By Russell Gloor

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

Dear Rusty:

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

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

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

Signed: Astounded Friend

Dear Astounded:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ANNUAL REACTION OF COMMUTERS ...



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

Baking bread with herbs

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

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

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

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

This time of year it is likely you won't have fresh herbs



by Roberta McQuaid

would use only have the amount if using dried.

Store dried herbs and spices away from heat and light; even so, they will start to lose their flavor after about a year.

When I buy a new jar of dried herbs, I find it helpful to mark the date right on the bottle.

Without any further ado, here is the recipe for that wonderful bread – as pretty as it is flavorful. Certainly a nice addition to a bowl of soup on a winter's night! And it makes the best croutons, too!

COUNTRY HERB BREAD TWIST

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

Sprinkle yeast and sugar over ¼ cup warm water in a large bowl; stir to dissolve.

GARDEN | page 5

Male evening grosbeak



By Ellenor Downer

A resident of Lake Lashaway saw her first ever evening grosbeak in the morning at her feeder on Sunday, Jan. 4.

The evening grosbeak is an eight inch long, chunky, thick billed finch, which wanders widely in winter.

The males are yellow and brown with black and white wings. The females are gray with white and black wings. Both sexes have a thick bill.

They have notched, square tipped tails and pointed wings.

Often evening grosbeaks visit feeders in large flocks. They inhabit conifer forests and in winter are seen in box elders, maples and fruiting shrubs. They breed in the coniferous and mixed forests. They are seen in spruce and fir trees in the northern forests and pines in the western mountains. They are seen in

winter in deciduous woodlands and semi-open country. Their song is a series of short, musical whistles. Their call note is similar to the chirp of a house sparrow, but louder.

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

Their diet is mostly seeds and some berries and insects. They prefer seeds of box elder, ash, maple, locust and other trees. At feeders, they prefer sunflower seeds. They also will feed on oozing maple sap. They extended their breeding range eastward in the 19th century and early 20th century. The popu-

BACKYARD | page 5

Agawam Advertiser News welcomes letters to the editor

The *Agawam Advertiser News* 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 *Agawam Advertiser News*, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to aan@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 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 *Agawam Advertiser News*.



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All letters are subject to editing for content and length. The deadline is Monday at noon. Please send letters to Agawam Advertiser News, care of Turley Publications Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, or e-mail aan@turley.com.

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Stanley Park history program to explore the park's origins

WESTFIELD – Stanley Park of Westfield in collaboration with the Westfield Athenaeum invites the community to step back in time during a special Stanley Park History Program on Thursday, Feb. 19, from 3 to 5 p.m. The program will be held at the Westfield Women's Club, 28 Court Street, Westfield, MA.

Local historian Robert Brown will lead an engaging discussion on the origins of Stanley Park, tracing its beginnings in 1949 and highlighting the people, vision, and preservation ef-

forts that shaped the park into the cherished community space it is today. Brown's dedication to uncovering and sharing Westfield's history earned him a Westfield Preservation Award from the Westfield Historical Commission in 2023.

Attendees will also enjoy a screening of the 8-minute documentary, Stanley Park: Rooted in the Past, Growing for the Future, which captures the park's history, mission, and enduring impact. Stanley Park staff will be on site to answer

questions about the park, upcoming programs, and ways to get involved during the upcoming season.

Light refreshments will be served.

This free program is open to the public and offers a meaningful opportunity for longtime supporters and new visitors alike to deepen their connection to Stanley Park.

For questions or additional information, please contact the Development Office at 413-568-9312 ext. 108 or email development@stanleypark.org.

Lions Club to host 'purse bingo'

AGAWAM – The Agawam Lions Club will host "Purse Bingo for a Purpose" on Sunday, Feb. 1 from 12 noon to 5 p.m. Tickets for the event can be purchased at www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/purse-bingo-19. Join the Lions Club for a fun night of bingo, designer purses, and prizes. All to support inclusive play in the community.

The goal of the event is install playground communication boards at seven local playgrounds. The playgrounds are: Perry Lane, Sapelli, Clark, Granger, Phelps, Doering, and School Street Park.

Playground communication boards are powerful tools that send a visible message of inclusivity. They promote social interaction

among children of all abilities. They provide choice and independence, help reduce frustrations, and encourage collaborative play in diverse playground settings. These boards help children: Express wants, needs, and feelings, join in play with peers, and feel included, confident, and heard.

ACC holding Magic Show Jan. 24

AGAWAM – The Agawam Congregational Church invites the community to a very special Magic Show on Saturday, Jan. 24 at 3 p.m. The show is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children and teenagers. The show is for people of all ages, not just children. Their guest Magician is David Reed-Brown, of Simsbury, CT, who gives people hope through the art of Magic, especially in tough times. Along with the astounding, fun magical won-

ders, he shares meaningful stories that inspire and touch the heart. He is well-known in the region having performed thousands of shows, including 50+ for the Big E, First Night Hartford (twice), many shows for companies, community organizations, weddings, all-night graduation parties and private events. He has also "appeared" at Jeff McBride's Wonderground in Las Vegas. Reed-Brown has been an Instructor at

McBrides Magic & Mystery School in Las Vegas for over 8 years, where faculty train many of the magicians you see on TV, online and in theaters around the world. So, come create amazing memories for a lifetime with great people, and (adults) connect with your inner 11-year-old again. Agawam Congregational Church is located at 745 Main St in Agawam. The event is designed for people of all ages.

Education Association to hold fundraiser

AGAWAM – The Agawam Education Association is having their annual fundraiser to raise funds for scholarships. This year's fundraiser is the AEA Super Bowl Squares and Kickoff Raffle. When you purchase a Super Bowl square (\$25) your purchase includes a raffle ticket for the Kickoff Raffle. The raffle prizes total close to \$3,000 (\$100 cash

prizes, professional sporting events, and we have a loaded locals day too that includes a couple prizes for those who are not local as well, including \$50 cash). The raffle ticket is eligible for prizes each day and runs from Thursday to Sunday for the four weeks leading up to the Super Bowl.

The Super Bowl Squares payout are:

- End of first quarter - \$200
 - End of second quarter - \$200
 - End of third quarter - \$200
 - Final Score - \$400
- For more information or to purchase a square, please contact Kathy at kgochette-jediny@agawamed.org. Venmo, check, and cash are accepted.

BACKYARD ■ from page 4

lation declined in the east in recent years.

Other birds at Lake Lashawy

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

Brimfield birds

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

Christmas bird count

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

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



MALE EVENING GROSBEEK

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

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

Snowy owls

He also heard there have been two snowy owls in Northampton for a few weeks now. Initially they were seen

in fields north of Route 9, but lately have been seen in the fields near the airport.

Barred owl and pileated woodpecker

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

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

GARDEN ■ from page 4

Let stand until foamy (approximately 15 minutes).

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

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

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

Turn dough to coat entire surface. Cover with a clean cloth and let rise in a

warm, draft-free area until the dough has doubled in volume, about 1 ½ hours.

Punch dough down. Divide into thirds.

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

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

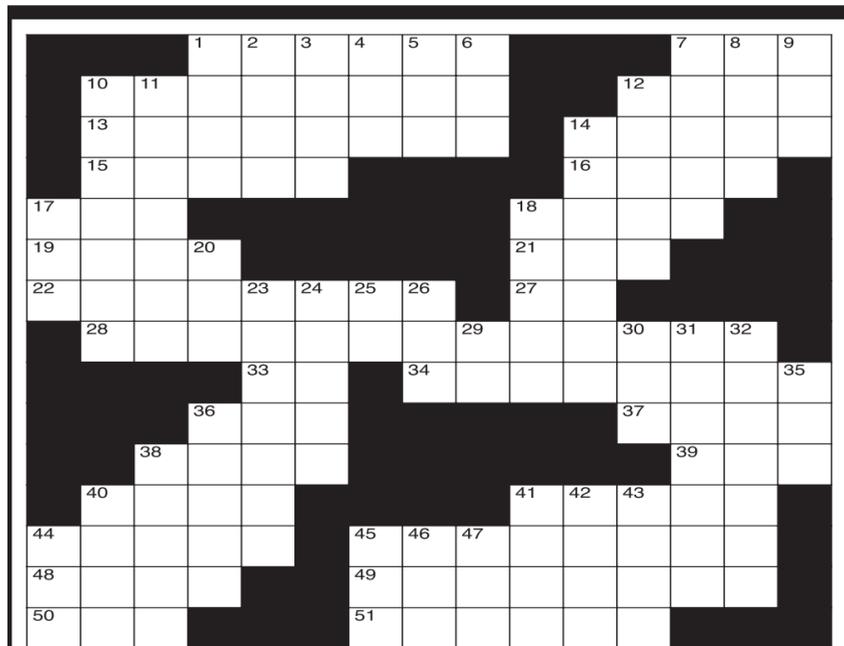
Allow to rise in a warm place for 45-50 minutes, until doubled in size.

Preheat oven to 375 de-

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

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

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



CLUES ACROSS

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

Beach

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

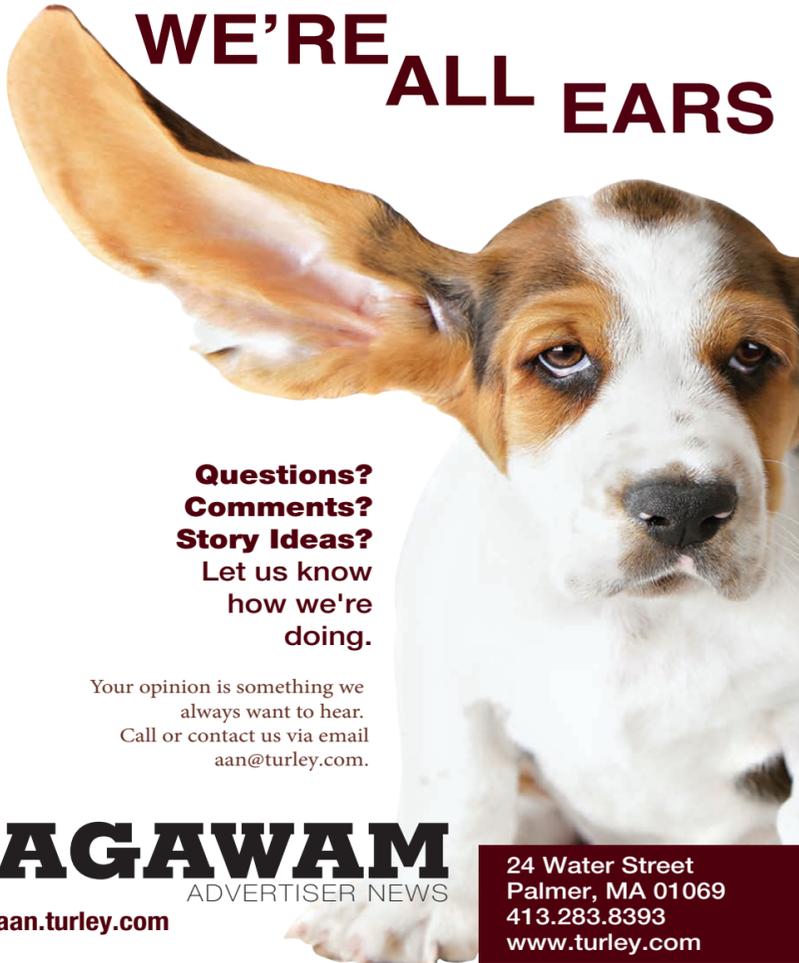
CLUES DOWN

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

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

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

WE'RE ALL EARS



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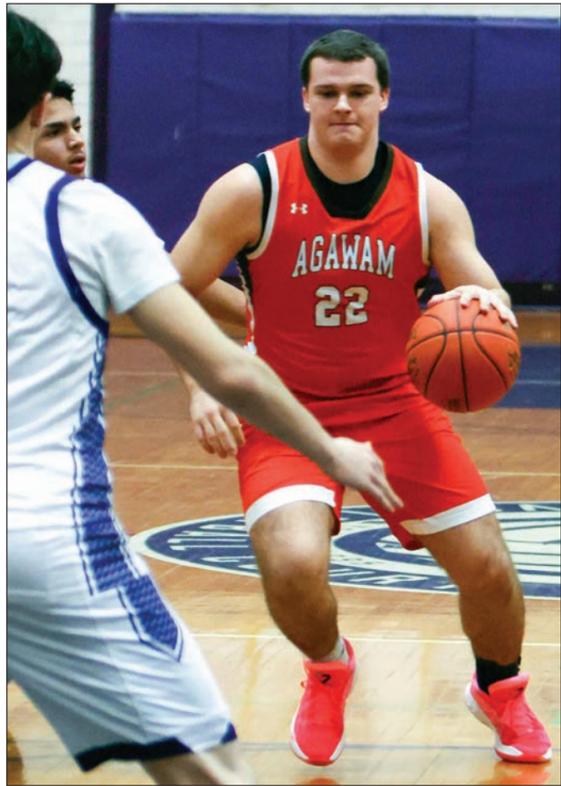
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SPORTS

Brownies offense pulls away from Holyoke

HOLYOKE – Last Monday night, Agawam High School boys basketball picked up a 67-50 win over Holyoke. Playing on the road, Agawam got a 24-point performance from Trevor Moynihan along with 17 points from Gavin Cruz

and 10 points from Brody Sheehan. The Knights, who are just 1-5 this season, got 17 points from Michael Medina and 16 points from Gian Cora. Agawam is 5-5 so far this season, but Holyoke is a disappointing 1-5.



Aiden Lavelle looks for a path around an opponent.



Trevor Moynihan attempts a shot.



Dylan Jorgensen goes for the loose ball.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Brody Sheehan eyes a teammate to his left as he heads across midcourt.



Michael Dilizia makes a long three-point attempt.



Yusuf Ebrahim is unopposed for the rebound.

Throwback jerseys help Railers grab win over Florida

WORCESTER – The Ice-Cats have been gone from these parts for more than 20 years but they keep winning anyway.

They kept their Railers victory streak alive Saturday night in the most compelling fashion possible, as the home team won one of the most dramatic victories in team history as they wore Cats uniforms.

Down, 2-0, to the powerful Florida Everblades with a little more than five minutes to go in the third period, Worcester came back to make it 2-2 and send things into overtime. For the fourth time this season, the Railers

came away with the OT victory.

Max Dorrington scored the winner at 4:23 with Worcester on a power play. He tipped home a shot by Jesse Pulkkinen, who scored the Railers first goal of the game. It was the first professional goal of his North America career.

With the crowd of 8,025 roaring for most of the night, and with Worcester's Parker Gahagen and Florida's Cam Johnson both playing superbly in net, the building had a playoff atmosphere.

The Railers have never lost a game in front of a home crowd larger than 8,000. They

are 8-0-0 in those games.

Pulkkinen got Worcester's first goal at 14:36 of the third period on a sizzling slap shot from 55 feet. Ryan Miotto made it 2-2 at 17:00 as he tipped a shot by Michael Suda.

After Friday night's defeat, Worcester coach Nick Tuzzolino compared coming back from a two-goal deficit to climbing two mountains. His team could not do it Friday. Saturday night the Railers scaled Wachusett and Monadnock.

"I think we had a little bit better mindset," Tuzzolino said, "more positivity on our bench, myself included, try-

ing to keep to our game plan."

The victory snapped a three-game losing streak during which Worcester was always playing from behind. Getting the game into overtime was just what the Railers wanted to do given how well they have played in the fourth period.

Saturday's triumph improved their overtime record to 4-1 this season. Worcester is 8-2 in its last 10 overtime games going back to last season.

There was no denying the energy in the DCU Center and both teams responded.

"If we're ever gonna talk about being a post-season

team," Tuzzolino said, "and playing post-season hockey, that's what we've got to get out of this. They're a great team."

Craig Needham and Reid Duke scored for Florida. Needham scored at 4:52 of the second period, one second after an Everblades power play ended. Duke made it 2-0 at 2:41 of the third.

The triumph was Worcester's second-ever over Florida. The Railers are 2-6-0 all-time versus the Everblades. It was just the second time they have beaten Johnson in six games. One victory is in overtime, one in a shootout.

As was the case Friday the

first period was scoreless, although Worcester had a 10-7 edge in shots on goal. The home team took a while to get going and created its best scoring chances in the final minutes.

Riley Piercey had a re-direct from just outside of the crease that Johnson turned aside at 18:11. Shortly after that Worcester had several fine chances that did not go in, but as the buzzer approached Anthony Callin had a good look from the left and some net to shoot at but missed to the far side.

It took the Railers a while to stop missing, and that set up a great finish.

Sports

Comp edges Agawam girls basketball

CHICOPEE – Last Tuesday evening, Agawam High School girls basketball traveled to Chicopee Comprehensive and trailed late, unable to shoot past a struggling Chicopee Comprehensive team 37-36. The win for

the Colts was their first of the regular season. Sheyenne Santiago had a good game for the Colts, scoring 16 points as the home team improved to 1-8. Agawam fell to 2-6 and got 15 points from Isabella Laprise.



Clockwise from above: Madison Georgina goes for a jump shot; Bella Santaniello eyes the hoop as she heads into the paint; Isabella Laprise goes for a layup between a pair of Comp guards; Sophia Laprise crosses the paint; Olivia Izzo is pressured just inside the arc.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Springfield Thunderbirds stunned by Phantoms

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

Entering the game having allowed only two total goals in their prior three victories, the

Phantoms and their netminder, Carson Bjarnason, made it clear goals would not come easily for the T-Birds, as the rookie backstop turned away all 10 first period attempts from the home side.

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

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

The T-Birds' power play wasted little time getting to the lead in the opening minute of the second, as Calle Rosen gathered a pass from Matthew Peca at the top of

the left circle and picked the top corner over Bjarnason's glove to make it a 1-0 Springfield lead just 52 seconds into the frame.

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

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

The third period began at 4-on-4, and the Phantoms finally got on the board as Lane Pederson curled to the middle of the ice before snapping a perfect shot upstairs over Romanov at the 27-second mark, cutting the Springfield lead to 2-1. On a power play just 2:40 later, Christian Kyrou

dissected the T-Birds' defense and chipped a forehand over Romanov's glove, bringing Lehigh to a rapid tie, 2-2.

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

Registration set to open Feb. 1 for Quabbin Valley

SOUTH HADLEY – On Sunday, Jan. 11, the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, an over-28 recreational league, held its first meeting of 2026 to prepare for the upcoming season.

At the meeting it was determined registration for players will open up on Sunday, Feb. 1.

For the 2026 season, the cost will be \$215 and will in-

clude 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 determined 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 link will be live on Feb. 1 at 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.

Sports

Agawam wrestling dominates Minnechaug

WILBRAHAM – Last Wednesday night, depth made a big difference as Agawam High School wrestling picked up a dominant win, taking a pin or forfeit in nearly every match of the evening to improve its dual meet record for the season. Agawam would also compete on Saturday in multiple meets at Southwick Regional.



Mason Radtke has control in the 106-pound match. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Ryan Sexton tries to work out of a waistlock.



Domenic Pisnao goes for a takedown.



Tyler Gervais pushes his opponent to the mat.



Andrew Amato goes for a takedown in his match.

Agawam Day in Florida tradition continues

ST PETERSBURG, FL – The 45th annual “Agawam Day in Florida” will be held on Wednesday, March 4, 2026 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Former Agawam residents, old friends, classmates and relatives will meet at Fort DeSoto National

Park, St. Petersburg, FL. for a reunion, picnic, raffles, hugs and to share old memories. For more information, contact: Hank Drewnowski call/text 860-462-7273 or email - hdrew2452@gmail.com.

RUSSO ■ from page 1

do and that I have the power to do.

One thing I hear from the residents is more transparency; they want to hear about things coming up before it's put to a vote and have time to speak out. I agree to that, so one of the things I'm looking to implement that Suffriti and I are looking to do in the next month or two is to do a monthly show on Agawam Media where we talk about what's coming up in the Town, what are the new projects coming up... If it involves the state, invite our state legislatures to that meeting, if it's important Town stuff invite the mayor, invite the DPW, director, the engineer...get that information to the residents.

Also, if we are talking about something that is in the general purview of city

council, an ordinance or resolution was passed, bring a councilor onto the show to discuss. The goal is to get information to the people as quickly and accessible as possible because I want the people to have time to reach back out to us and tell us their thoughts and concerns, so it's not right when we are voting on it. It's so we can have time and that information to take it into consideration and really mold our legislation,” said Russo.

Being involved with the city council for a couple of years, Russo explained what was instilled in him as a child and why he believes it's important to become involved within the community you live in.

“It's always important to give back. I've always been under the belief; my father was a city councilor in the 90's and a big advocate for

Agawam that served on many different Town committees like city council and CPA, that your home is not where you lay your head at night. Your home is the entire community you live in and it's every persons' responsibility to make their home as good as they can make it and strive to make it better. This is our home and where people's children and grandchildren will hopefully grow up someday and it's our duty to make it a better place. It's our duty to make it the beautiful town it is. Agawam is a wonderful and friendly community, but every community can make improvements and that's why I ran, I want to help make Agawam better than it is. It's already great. I want to make it greater,” said Russo.

If interested in learning more about upcoming meeting agendas, looking for



City Councilor Anthony Russo takes his oath of office last Monday. SUBMITTED PHOTO

ture Agawam Media videos, or wanting to stay up to date, Russo suggested the Town of Agawam Facebook page, the Town website, and Agawam Media website.

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Agawam Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 6:00 PM** at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the Notice of Intent Appli-

cation of the Town of Agawam for work to be performed at 38 Tuckahoe Drive, subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

By Order of Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
01/15/2026

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

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

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com



Agawam Advertiser News OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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



CAREER Education

HCSS: Empowering students for a brighter future

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

Why Choose HCSS?

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

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

Comprehensive College and Career Preparation:



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

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

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

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

Join Us for an Open House

Explore what HCSS has to offer during our upcoming Welcome Saturday Open

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

What Parents and Students Love About HCSS

Parents and students consistently praise HCSS for

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

Student Success Stories

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

How to Apply

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

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

HCSS High School

20 Johnson Rd.
Chicopee, MA 01022
Tel. 413-593-9090

HCSS Middle School

511 Main Street
West Springfield, MA 01089
Tel. 413-278-5450
hampdencharter.org



HAMPDEN CHARTER SCHOOL OF SCIENCE

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR GRADE 6-10



Why Hampden Charter School of Science?

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

WELCOME SATURDAYS

11:00 AM - 1:00PM

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

VISIT:

WWW.HAMPDENCHARTER.ORG

APPLY NOW / DEADLINE

MARCH 1, 2026





CAREER Education

St. Joan of Arc School offers comprehensive education

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

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

and spiritual wellness.

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

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

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

- Book and Newspaper Clubs.

Innovative offerings include foreign language instruction through tools like Duolingo.

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

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

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

We look forward to meeting you.

ST. JOAN OF ARC SCHOOL

Pre-K to Grade 8

587 Grattan Street, Chicopee ~ 533-1475

sjachicopee.org

Learning Rooted in Christian Values



OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, January 31st, 9am-12 noon

No Appointment Needed

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

By Appointment Only



Affordable Tuition & Extended Care ~ Free Breakfast & Lunch

Extracurricular Programs~ Technology ~ Physical Education

Music ~ Library ~ Duolingo

Welcoming, Safe & Secure School Community

Social, Physical, Spiritual & Intellectual Wellness Tuition Assistance

Easy Access to I391 & I90



St. Stanislaus School students shine as servant leaders

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We can't wait to meet you.

ST. STANISLAUS SCHOOL

SERVANT LEADERS FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW



Servant Leaders for Today and Tomorrow

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

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

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



To learn more



www.saintstansschool.org
534 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013
413-592-5135

CALL TO SCHEDULE A PRIVATE TOUR!





CAREER Education

HCC opens registration for Spring 2026 noncredit classes

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

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

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

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



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

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

To see complete spring course listings and schedules, or to register, please visit hcc.edu/bcs.

More classes will be added as spring approaches.

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

seeking better lives. Please visit us at hcc.edu.

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



HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A premier healthcare educator in our region.

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

hcc.edu/healthcare



CAREER Education

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

Two Locations in Feeding Hills and West Springfield

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

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

Family and community partnerships are at the heart

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

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

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

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

house field trips

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

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

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

Watch out — learning is happening.

Various ways newspapers are good for kids

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

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

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

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



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

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

Jump Start Preschool

Enrolling Now for the **2026-2027** School Year!



Preschool & Pre-Kindergarten

Research-based curriculum that builds confidence & excitement about learning

- Social & Emotional Skills
- Language & Literacy Skills
- Cognitive Skills
- Physical Skills

Jump Start Preschool

provides a safe, loving, nurturing and high-quality childcare and education that promotes and enhances each child's development with the assurance of our parents' peace of mind.

Ages 2.9 to 5 years old



Two Beautiful Locations!



For more information, call or visit our website:

www.JumpStartPreschoolMA.com

- Feeding Hills: 413.789.4987
- West Springfield: 413.301.5694

Full Day & Half Day Programs



Interested in a Career with Jump Start Preschool? Please Contact Us



WELDING

- Real hands-on experience
- Includes on site and off site internship
- State-of-the-art facilities renovated in 2022 including a robotic arm

Gateway's Welding program is a Chapter 74 vocational education program that prepares students for a career in Metal Fabrication and Welding!

www.grsd.org



JOIN US! Apply today!

EARLY EDUCATION & CARE

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

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



You will also be on track to:

- Know how to plan engaging activities and lessons
- Have CPR & First Aid certification
- Experience awesome internship opportunities



Visit: www.grsd.org for more information!



CAREER Education

Well-rounded education benefits students

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

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

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

Critical thinking skills

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



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

Comprehension

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

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

Crossover benefits

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

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

Gateway announces expansion of career pathways, Chapter 74 vocational opportunities

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

Innovative Middle School Exploration

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

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

Challenging Chapter 74 Vocational Programs

Gateway's commitment

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

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

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

A Personalized Path to the Future

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

- **Internships and Co-ops:** Real-world placements in students' fields of interest.

- **College Credits:** Through dual-enrollment and concurrent enrollment

partnerships with universities across the country.

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

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

Join the

Gateway Community

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

For more information on programs and how to apply, please visit www.grsd.org.

Media Contact: Gateway Regional School District Website: www.grsd.org

Gateway Regional School District is located at 12 Littleville Road, Huntington, MA 01050.

WELCOME TO GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



CAREER Education

PVPA continues to invest in Arts-focused education



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

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

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

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

their core academics.

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

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

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

Now accepting applications for the 2026/2027 school year for Grades 7-12 at pvpa.org/admissions.

For more information, please email admissions@pvpa.org.



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

Apply Now!

Grades 7-11

2026/27 school year



PVPA Open House

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

registration encouraged

Free, Arts-focused College-prep Education

Dance, Music, Theater
Visual Arts
Technical Design/
Production

Free Bus Transportation within PVPA region

www.pvpa.org/admissions

APPLY NOW!

Deadline Feb 11, 2026

REGISTER FOR OPEN HOUSE






Teaching the Next Generation

Are you passionate about making a positive impact on young minds within a dynamic public school environment? Springfield Public Schools is seeking knowledgeable, highly effective, diverse educators, to join our K-12 district!

Join Our Team!

WE'RE HIRING!

TO APPLY

Visit our website or scan the QR Code!



Be part of a school system that is thriving in
A Culture of Equity and Proficiency serving over 26,000 students.



springfieldpublicschools.com




springfieldk12

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Tree length available
*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!** New England Forest Products
(413)477-0083

MORE HEAT LESS WOOD. Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. \$2K Tax Credit. Call **(508)882-0178**

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WANTED TO BUY

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Donald Roy **(860) 874-8396**

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Call Paul **413-206-8688**.

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We load it & take it.
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PJ's Electrical MASTER ELECTRICIAN
• Licensed & Insured •
Providing safe, reliable electrical services for residential and commercial projects.
NOW OFFERING FREE CONSULTATIONS.
Call today to schedule your appointment.
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ENERGY ■ from page 1

Now, Johnson said, surrounding towns and communities are calling him seeking a copy of the regulations passed by Agawam to incorporate in their locations.

"We were the first ones to pass regulations," Johnson said. "Nobody else had any regulations on record."

With an ordinance in place, BESS companies have to go through a local process to obtain permitting. While state law prevents town and cities from denying a BESS, it does allow for a strict permitting process that regulates the parameters BESS must follow to occupy a site.

"We cannot stop these facilities from coming into the community," Johnson said. "But we can make sure they have to follow the strictest safety regulations possible."

Johnson recognizes that BESS are very unpopular among many residents in the community, and while handcuffed by state law that allows them, he has to what is best for the town. And one thing that is best for the town is to have a company like Longroad, which will become Agawam's second highest taxpayer.

"When this gets done and the site comes online, it will become the second highest taxpayer in town," Johnson said. "Eversource is our highest taxpayer, and Longroad will pay more in taxes our other top five, including Six Flags."

Johnson also said the timing could not be better if the facility follows its current timeline.

"When this goes online, it will be right around the time we will have to start paying the debt on the high school project," Johnson. "It won't pay for the whole thing, but it will put a dent in it."

Among the safe guards the BESS sites will have to employ, they will have to pay for and file a bond with the town that gives the town's



Left: The dining hall at Agawam Senior Center was packed on Monday afternoon. Above: Mayor Christopher Johnson addresses residents.



Casey Lee talks about environmental issues on the site.

funds to decommission the site if Longroad fails to do so at a given time where they no longer wish to do business in Agawam.

In next week's edition, learning more about what Longroad has planned for the Lucia Lumber site.



Representatives from Longroad Energy present their plans for a battery energy storage system in Agawam.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Upcoming events at Agawam Senior Center

AGAWAM - Here are some of the upcoming activities and events being held at the Agawam Senior Center.

Hearing Checks with Gary

Thursday, Jan. 15
The next New Ears hearing care clinic will take place on Thursday, Jan. 15. Gary Winn a licensed Hearing Instrument Specialist, and owner of New Ears Hearing Care, will conduct a free hearing clinic. He will check ears for wax build-up, perform hearing screenings, and counsel people about hearing loss. Hearing aids will be cleaned and adjusted if possible. Call 821-0604 to make an appointment. Hearing

checks will take place in the seminar hall.

Low Vision Support Group

Tuesday, Jan. 20 from 12 noon to 1 p.m.
We have partnered with the Massachusetts Association for the Visually Impaired and will start joining their Low-Vision Support Groups via Zoom in December. Tuesday, Jan. 20 at 12 noon to 1 p.m. We will meet in the Conference Room of the Senior Center and have the Zoom set up and ready to go. Our conference room can fit 15-20 people. Call Kristina at 726-2836 to reserve your spot. This group is for anyone who is experiencing any type

of vision problems, there are MANY great resources we offer and collaborate together. Please join us.

Reverse Mortgage Seminar

Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 1 p.m.
Are you a homeowner 62 or older curious about how your home can help support your retirement? Join me, Terry Olbrych Loan Officer from US Financial Group, LLC for an informative seminar on reverse mortgages designed specifically for seniors. I'll break down how these loans work, who qualifies, dispel rumors and how they can provide financial flexibility without giving up

your home. Whether you're exploring options for future planning or just want to learn more, this relaxed, no-pressure session is a great place to start. Call the Senior Center to register. Seminar will take place in the Seminar Hall.

New Class Alert

Monthly Class on Diabetes Mellitus Education
Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 12:30 p.m. in the Conference Room
A "DM Education Program" will be held at the Agawam Senior Center. We will be referring to materials for Diabetes Mellitus (DM) education, which cover managing the condition through healthy eating, being active,

monitoring blood sugar, and taking medications. Key topics include healthy food choices, the importance of physical activity, medication adherence, and coping with the emotional aspects of diabetes. These documents aim to empower individuals to manage their health and improve their quality of life. Gina Smus, RN, CDN will be our educator for this class. We hope you will join us. Call Kristina at 413-726-2836 to join this class.

to expand reading horizons, and our conversations are engaging and always strive to be considerate and attentive to the views of others. Feel free to stop in during any book meeting for more information or to join us--whether or not you have read the current selection. We meet the 3rd Friday of the month at 10 a.m. in the Garden Room, we would love to have you.

Agawam Senior Center Computer Tech Support To Meet

Wednesday, Jan. 28 from 1 to 2 p.m.
The Agawam Senior Center Computer and Technology Club will meet.

Join the Agawam Senior Center Book Club

The group's focus is on selecting an expansive list of titles from many genres to allow readers the opportunity

BUILDING ■ from page 1

dren and in our future."

Blain shared what his role has been in the project

"It's starting to get really exciting; considering the fact that we are one year away from moving into this community wing," Blain said. "It's exciting, it's daunting, but staff and students and families are starting to sort of feel the vibe. It's my first time going through a new building as a principal. I've been a principal for 10 years, but it's the first time I've been on the ground floor of a construction process. I really have to say thank you to my assistant principals and to my teachers because I do have to devote a certain amount of hours a week to this project."

State Rep. Nick Boldyga discussed the state's role in this project.

"So usually there's state funding that goes into projects like this," Boldyga said. "This is really exciting. This has been a long time in the making. Like you heard, the mayor say, 'this is one of the oldest schools in the state'. And the biggest footprint we have in the state. So, to have this building here is phenomenal. Everybody's happy about it; I'm happy about it. Seeing this new school is very exciting. We're happy to have the progress it's made."

The construction of this new building is a major moment for Agawam. A new high school means a new building but also a new space for future generations to learn and grow. It's clear that all attendees are proud of the construction of the new building and eagerly awaiting its completion.



Mayor Christopher Johnson, State Rep. Nicholas Boldyga, members of the school committee, and members of the city council at the final beam raising on Jan. 6.

TURLEY PHOTO BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA