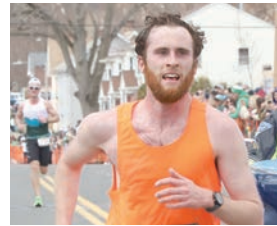


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# AGAWAM

## ADVERTISER NEWS

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### New police HQ making progress

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The police department building project is making good progress, the hope is it will open officially in the late fall.

The main issue the project is facing currently is some supply chain issues. At the moment they are waiting on an electrical switchgear and a generator.

“I think it’s hampering every construction project that’s in existence out there,” Mayor Christopher Johnson said. “We’re waiting for answers on when the particular pieces will arrive. So that might negatively impact when the project is completed.”

These supply chain problems could wind up delaying the project further, though Johnson hopes that is not the case. He and the project team are waiting on definitive answers from the suppliers on when the materials will be delivered.

So far, the demolition is complete on the interior of the existing building and they are working on building out.

The process has overall been a fairly smooth one, with only a few problems popping up about the building itself.

“There were a couple of unexpected problems that are normal in a reconstruction scenario, but those have been handled,” Johnson said. “Other than the supply chain issues, the project is moving along relatively smoothly.”

The main construction has been focused on altering the building itself to fit the needs of the police.

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Construction for the new police department is well under way.  
TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA

### Agawam contingent attends parade



The Town of Agawam contingent starts its way down Beech Street. PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

HOLYOKE – For the third time since the pandemic, Agawam representatives made their way to the Holyoke St. Patrick’s Day Parade, one of the richest traditions in the region. Agawam’s contingent marched in the parade, which was held on a sun-splashed beautiful day in Holyoke. Agawam’s contingent did not include the marching band this season, but the cheerleaders, elected officials, and the colleen and court represent the town this year.



The Agawam Colleen and Court travel the route in a horse-drawn carriage.



Citizenship Award winner City Council Anthony Russo marches.



Parade Marshall Frank Benson leads the Agawam contingent.



City Councilor Ed Borgatti marches in his first parade since joining the council.



The Agawam Police Department is represented on the parade route.



The Agawam High School cheerleaders make their way down the parade route.



Christopher Johnson heads down the parade route as mayor for the first time in many years.

### Strong SPED program aims to keep students in town

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Director of Special Education Erin Walsh gave a report at the school committee meeting on Mar. 12.

Walsh discussed the importance of keeping children in the district for special education as well as the wide variety of programs that Agawam Public Schools offers for special education.

When deciding on an Individualized Education Program for a student, the team needs to select the “least restrictive environment consistent with the needs of the student.”

In other words, the team needs to ensure a student has their needs best while receiving as typical an education as possible. The default should be a general education classroom with support implemented as the student needs.

“When we’re considering other placements we really need to consider whether it would be a detriment to that student if they were provided services not in a general education setting,” Walsh said. “And for some kids you definitely need to do it, but it should always be the last resort or the last considered option.”

The guiding principles for developing an IEP plan are: “Students have a right to be educated with their peers,” “students have a right to be educated in their home community” and “students have a right to access activities in ‘the life of the school.’”

Thankfully, Agawam has a wide variety of in-district operations that help them to stick true to those guiding principles.

Those opinions include: an integrated pre-K, ABA based programs k-12 (for autistic students), Aspire (a program for children with cognitive needs), Integrated Learning Classroom (a resource room setting), the Transitional Learning Center (provides supports for low support needs autistic children), Connections Program, Inclusion Programs and Transition Programming (for kids that need services past the age of 18).

“All of these programs in-district really help us to keep our kids

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# New education legislation passed

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Senate unanimously passed legislation to make early education and care more accessible and affordable for families across Massachusetts on March 3.

The Early Ed Act ensures affordability, readiness and learning for the youth and driving economic development. The Act takes transformative steps to improve the affordability and sustainability of childcare programs by making the state's Commonwealth Cares for Children (C3) operational grant program permanent, expanding eligibility for the state's subsidy program and capping subsidy recipients' childcare costs at 7 per cent of family income, and boosting compensation for educators by creating a career ladder and providing scholarships and loan forgiveness.

"As a parent to a little one myself, I was proud to support this legislation which makes key investments to expand access to affordable childcare for working families and support the development of young children in the commonwealth," said Senator John C. Velis (D-Westfield). "I am extremely thankful for the Senate President's leadership and for my colleagues work on this important issue. From lowering costs for families, to increasing the pay for providers, and supporting the professionalization of this dedicated workforce- there is so much

that this bill will do to support children during these fundamental years and drive economic development all across our state."

By extending access to high-quality education and care to families who currently lack access because of cost or availability, the bill seeks to set children up for future success and drive the Massachusetts economy forward.

The bill would make the state's C3 grants permanent, which provides monthly payments directly to early education and care providers. The grants, which provide monthly payments to more than 92 per cent of early education and care programs across the state, have become a national model thanks to their success at keeping programs' doors open during the pandemic, reducing tuition costs for families, increasing compensation for early educators, and expanding the number of childcare slots available.

The legislation improves affordability by expanding eligibility for childcare subsidies to families making up to 85 per cent of the state median income, which is \$124,000 for a family of four. It eliminates cost-sharing fees for families receiving subsidies who are below the federal poverty line, and caps cost-sharing fees for all other families receiving subsidies at seven percent of their income, putting millions of dollars back

into families' pockets. Finally, the bill paves the way for expanding the subsidy program to families making up to 125 per cent SMI, or \$182,000 for a family of four, when future funds become available.

The legislation provides much-needed support for educators by directing the Department of Early Education and Care to establish a career ladder with recommended salaries. This career ladder will help increase salaries in this historically underpaid field. The bill would also make scholarship and loan forgiveness programs for early educators permanent, as well as direct the state to explore more innovative ways to develop this crucial workforce.

Notably, the bill would also create an innovative public-private matching grant pilot program, which would give incentive to employers to invest in new early education and care slots, with priority given to projects serving families with lower income and those who are located in childcare deserts. In addition, the bill tasks the Administration with completing a study to further analyze ways to create incentives or require employers to partner with the state to expand access to high-quality and affordable early education and care.

Having been passed by the Senate, the legislation now heads to the House of Representatives for consideration.

## Scholarship applications now available

AGAWAM – The Agawam Rotary Club is now accepting applications for 4 scholarships the club offers annually. The awards cover a diverse range of interests and include vocational/technical training, cultural arts, the legal profession, and assistance with attending college.

Except for the Ray and Reita McCarroll Memorial scholarship which is awarded to graduating seniors from both Agawam and West Springfield, the awards are limited to residents of Agawam.

A full description and application for each of these scholarships can be found at the Agawam Rotary Club webpage at [agawamrotary.org](http://agawamrotary.org). Click on "Scholarships" at the top of the home page. Please note that applications must be received by April 1.

## Catholic Women's Club host potluck

AGAWAM – Members of the Catholic Women's club of Agawam will enjoy a potluck supper at their April 8, meeting. It will start at 6:30 p.m. in the St. John the Evangelist Parish Center, 833 Main St. Members will be contacted by phone or e-mail to select a dish to bring. After dinner the club's monthly business meeting will take place.

The speaker for the evening will be Maryann Dietschler on her group, Wreaths with a Reason, which supports organizations that fight human trafficking. Any Catholic woman residing in Agawam or Feeding Hills or is a member of either of the town's two Catholic parishes can join the members for this event by phoning or e-mailing Paula at 413-537-1174 or [praiche@comcast.net](mailto:praiche@comcast.net) by April 1.

## Life at Woodland Ponds lecture to be held on Monday, April 1

SPRINGFIELD – On Monday, April 1, at 7 p.m. the Allen Bird Club of Springfield, will host the presentation, "Life at Woodland Ponds" in the Tolman Auditorium of the Springfield Science Museum, 21 Edwards St.

In this program, photographer and naturalist Bill Platenik will use his captivating images and charming narration to lead viewers on a visual tour of nature at three Hampden County ponds where Platenik has quietly observed birds and other

wildlife for the beauty, joy, and insight they bring. Progressing through the seasons, this presentation reveals mysteries and relationships seen only by those keen observers willing to sit, wait, and watch as scenes unfold.

The Allen Bird Club is a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing Greater Springfield area birders together since 1912. This presentation is open to the public free of charge. For more information, please visit [www.AllenBirdClub.org](http://www.AllenBirdClub.org).



A Great Blue Heron adds a stick to the family nest while another preens at a Hampden County pond.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Veterans trip to Battleship cove

AGAWAM – On Sunday, April 7, The Agawam Veteran's Council will be hosting a trip to Battleship Cove. The price is \$50 per person which includes round trip motor coach transportation and museum admission. Take an incredible journey to historic landmarks and honor those who served aboard them. Step aboard six wartime vessels, including the Battleship USS Massachusetts and Destroyer Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Enjoy a unique dining experience onboard the Morse Code Galley. To make reservations or to find more information call 413-593-3939 or email [amy@king-gray.com](mailto:amy@king-gray.com).

## APL virtual photography show on display

AGAWAM – The Friends of the Agawam Public Library 4th Open Judged Virtual Photography Show is on Display.

The virtual photography show can be viewed by going to [www.agawam-library.org](http://www.agawam-library.org), and scrolling down to the Friends of the Library widget. From there you will be able to click on a link to the show.

The show provided a platform to recognize and encourage photographers, and it benefited the Agawam Public Library. Twenty-one awards totaling \$1,540 were determined by judges Dave Roback and Tim Donelan.

There is 124 entries from 41 photographers are in the show.

The show was divided into four categories of photography: creative, nature, photojournalism and pictorial. Awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in each category, 8 honorable mentions, and a Best in Show for a total of 21 awards were given out.

For further information please contact Bob Kadis at [r.kadis@comcast.net](mailto:r.kadis@comcast.net) or at 413-789-4814.



Female Mallard Landing by Richard Harper is entered into the category Best in Show, Nature, in The Friends of the Agawam Public Library 4th Open Judged Virtual Photography Show.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Antique appraisals hosted April 6

AGAWAM – Feeding Hills Congregational Church, located at 21 North Westfield St., is hosting an antique appraisal Saturday, April 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cost is \$5 an item or 3 for \$12 with a three item limit. All appraisals are verbal

to give the owner an idea of value and a sense of history. Items should be small enough to be hand carried.

Please no firearms or weapons of any kind. For further information call Kathy 413-786-0195.



## City Council seeks new members for CPA Committee

AGAWAM – Please be advised that there are two openings effective April 30, 2024 for the Agawam Community Preservation Act Committee.

Interested parties should contact Barbara Bard in the Agawam City Council office as soon as possible at (413) 726-9716 or email at [bbard@agawam.ma.us](mailto:bbard@agawam.ma.us).

## New England Mosaic kits now available

AGAWAM – The New England Mosaic invites the Western MA creative community to create and display visual art representing a favorite aspect of New England. This year's Mosaic theme is "I love New England". Canvas kits will be available in partner libraries across the Pioneer Valley beginning March 11.

The New England Mosaic was organized in 2022 by the ACAA as a community art project to give individuals in Western MA an opportunity to creatively express their love of New England via painting, photography, fabric art, pouring, or any other media. Professional artists, hobbyist, and any member of our Pioneer Valley creative community are invited to create a canvas

tile and see their work become a part of this unique wall of art. Tiles created for the Mosaic are donated to the Mosaic and sold to help fund art scholarships for local students.

The New England Mosaic invites individuals to create a canvas tile, which when displayed with others, becomes part of a 24-foot fine art Mosaic wall that captures the beauty and diversity of New England life. Free tile kits are available at the following libraries: Agawam, Southwick, Westfield, West Springfield and at three Springfield branch libraries, Central, East Forest Park, and East Springfield, by March 11. Completed tiles must be returned to these libraries by May 15. Supplies at each library

are limited so stop by and pick a kit up.

The New England Mosaic will be unveiled at a Mosaic grand opening at the Agawam Municipal Golf Course, Club, 128 Southwick St., on July 11.

All Mosaic artists and the public are invited to the unveiling. The Mosaic will also be showcased at the Agawam Community Artists and Artisans' Pioneer Valley Art Festival on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 24-25, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Polish American Club, 139 Southwick St. The Mosaic will also be on display at the Scantic River Art Exhibit on Sept. 14 and 15. Please visit our website at [www.agawamarts.com](http://www.agawamarts.com) or Scantic River's website at [www.scanticriverartists.com](http://www.scanticriverartists.com) for more information.

## Ad club scholarship now available

SOUTH HADLEY – The Advertising Club of Western Massachusetts Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce applications are now available for a \$1,000 scholarship to be awarded to a deserving western Massachusetts high school graduate pursuing higher education in the communication arts in 2024. Guidelines and application form can be found at [www.adclubwm.org/scholarships](http://www.adclubwm.org/scholarships) or by contacting David Cecchi, Scholarship Committee chairman at [cecco@davidcecchi.com](mailto:cecco@davidcecchi.com) or (413) 786-3236.

Completed scholarship applications and all support materials must be submitted to the Ad Club, postmarked by April 15. Scholarship decisions are made by the Scholarship Committee of The Advertising Club of Western Massachusetts and are considered final. The scholarship will be awarded in May.

Western Massachusetts high school seniors who plan to attend an accredited college or technical school to study advertising, communications, marketing, or graphic design and will be attending school in September 2024 are encouraged to apply. The scholarship must be applied against tuition and fees at the school. Candidates will be judged on academic performance, extracurricular activities, community service and/or work experience, a demonstrated interest in advertising, communications, marketing or graphic design, personal recommendations, and a letter of introduction outlining future plans.

The Advertising Club promotes a tradition of excellence, and with this annual scholarship, looks forward to making an important contribution to future generations of communications professionals.

## Advertising Club of Western Mass. looking for nominations

SPRINGFIELD – The Advertising Club of Western Massachusetts is seeking nominations from throughout Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin, and Berkshire counties for the Pynchon Award, which recognizes those citizens of our region who have rendered outstanding service to the community. Nominations must be submitted by March 31 to: William Pynchon Trustees, Advertising Club of Western Massachusetts, P.O. Box 1022, West Springfield, MA 01090-1022 or by e-mail to [info@adclubwm.org](mailto:info@adclubwm.org).

The Order of William Pynchon was established by the Advertising Club in 1915 to recognize and encourage individuals whose lives and achievements typified the ideals of promoting citizenship and the building of a better community in western Massachusetts. Past recipients include community volunteers, social activists, teachers, journalists, public servants, business leaders, philanthropists, historians, physicians, and war heroes - a diverse group united by their passion for our region.

Pynchon nominees are people that individuals know/live/work with, who are passionate about their community or cause, and give selflessly of their time, talent, or treasure (sometimes all three).

Pynchon recipients are recognized for giving a little more and doing a little more, making them role models for community involvement. Though nominees may serve in a leadership role, they are just as likely to work anonymously or behind the scenes. The Pynchon award is not a recognition of "lifetime achieve-

ment" - age and length of service are unimportant - rather, it is depth of dedication and influence on the community that matters. A nominee's impact need not be region-wide, just meaningful and impactful within the community, (and the trustees' definition of "community" is broad, including neighborhoods, municipalities, and region).

To nominate an individual, please submit a letter explaining why the nominee should be considered. Be sure to include biographical information, outstanding accomplishments, examples of service to the community, organizations he or she is or has been active in, and the names, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of at least three people who can further attest to the nominee's eligibility for induction into the Order of William Pynchon. The Pynchon Trustees respectfully reserve the right to eliminate nominations from consideration due to insufficient information.

Qualifying nominees will be considered and researched by the Pynchon Trustees, composed of the current and five past presidents of the Advertising Club.

Pynchon medalists are chosen by unanimous decision of the Pynchon Trustees. The 2024 recipients will be announced in June of this year, with an awards ceremony tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2024. Recipients are presented with a bronze medal cast with the name and likeness of Springfield's founder, William Pynchon, and bearing the inscription: "They honor us whom we honor."

## The Horace Smith Fund Scholarship deadline extended

WESTFIELD – Due to the low number of applications received, The Horace Smith Fund, a private foundation that offers scholarships and fellowships to residents of Hampden County, MA, has extended the application deadline date for the Walter S. Barr Scholarships and Fellowships until March 31. Last year, The Horace Smith Fund awarded \$316,000 to 31 individuals.

"We have received only 38 scholarship applications and five fellowship applications so far. It is surprising that more students haven't applied yet," stated Teresa Regina, chair of the Scholarship Committee and Trustee. "This year, we would like to reach as many students as possible. Applications can be downloaded or completed online. They are also available at every area high school and college and by contacting our office."

The Walter S. Barr Scholarship is available for residents of Hampden County. Applicants may either be graduating seniors or currently attending college. Scholarships awards of \$12,000 are distributed in two semi-annual installments of \$1,500

and renewable each year until graduation. Recipients are selected on a variety of criteria, including their academic scores, extra-curricular activities, recommendations from school counselors and teachers, and a personal written account of why the student feels deserving of financial assistance.

The Walter S. Barr Fellowship awards are made annually to those wishing to pursue a full-time graduate degree. In general, applicants must be permanent residents of Hampden County, Massachusetts. The award of \$15,000 is distributed in two semi-annual installments of \$3,750 for a maximum of two years. Awards will be based on all available information, including school records, recommendations, and examination scores. Consideration will be given to both the merit and financial need of the applicant. "We hope more students take advantage of this local resource," said Regina.

For more information, visit the website [www.HoraceSmithFund.org](http://www.HoraceSmithFund.org) or call (413) 739-4222.

## Agawam Garden Club scholarships now available

AGAWAM – Applications are now available for the Agawam Garden Club 2024 scholarship. To qualify for the scholarship students must be a graduating senior of Agawam High School or a college student who graduated from Agawam High School and is planning to attend an institution of higher learning in the fall.

Applicants must be majoring in or planning on majoring in one of the following: botany, environmental engineering, environmental science, earths systems, forest management, natural re-



sources, plant soil and insect science, sustainable agriculture, sustainable horticulture or food and farming, turf grass science and management, landscape design and management technology, clean energy, technology studies: waste water or other environmental related studies.

The recipient will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship at the club's annual June meeting. Completed applications along with transcripts and references must be submitted to Denise Carmody, 40 Primrose Lane, Agawam MA 01001 by April 1. Applications are available through Agawam High School or can be found on our website at [agawamgardenclub.com](http://agawamgardenclub.com).

## Spring tag sale this weekend at Congregational Church

AGAWAM – Spring Tag Sale will be held on Friday and Saturday March 22 and 23 at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main Street, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., each day, the church hall will be filled with interesting, affordable, and diverse items.

There will be something for everyone

of all ages. A limited number of vendor tables will be available at \$25.

A table and chair will be included. For an application, contact the church via e-mail: [office@agawamcongreg.com](mailto:office@agawamcongreg.com) or call 413-786-7111.

The church is handicapped accessible with a large parking lot.

### Opening for Easter March 27th!

#### EASTER PLANTS

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# Opinion

## Guest Column



### How do survivor benefits work for a married couple?

Dear Rusty

How does Social Security handle the death of one spouse? Say, for example, the husband receives \$2,000 per month in Social Security and his wife receives \$1,000 per month. How is the death of either spouse handled?

Signed: Concerned spouse

Dear Concerned

Benefits to a deceased beneficiary stop as soon as Social Security is notified of the death (notification usually done by the funeral director who handles arrangements). Benefits are not paid for the month of death, only for the preceding month when the beneficiary was alive for the entire month.

A surviving spouse is entitled to the higher of two benefits, their own personally earned SS retirement benefit or an amount based on the deceased spouse's benefit at death. In the example you cite, and assuming the surviving spouse has reached Full Retirement Age: if the husband dies first the wife will receive the husband's \$2,000 monthly benefit instead of her previous \$1,000 amount.

But if the wife died first, the husband would continue receiving only his \$2,000 monthly amount because that is more than his deceased wife was receiving. Note in either case, the surviving spouse would be entitled to a one-time lump sum "death benefit" of \$255.

The surviving spouse would need to contact Social Security to claim the "death benefit" and unless the surviving spouse was previously receiving only a spousal benefit also to claim the higher monthly amount, if eligible. If the surviving spouse was previously receiving only a spousal benefit from the deceased and not entitled to SS retirement benefits on their own, then Social Security would automatically award their higher survivor amount when notified of the death.

If a surviving spouse has reached full retirement age somewhere between 66 and 67 depending on year of birth and is eligible for a survivor benefit, the amount of the survivor benefit will be 100% of the deceased spouse's benefit. But if the survivor claims the benefit before reaching FRA, the amount of the survivor benefit will be reduced by 4.75% for each full year earlier. The survivor's benefit reaches maximum at the survivor's full retirement age.

If a surviving spouse has not yet reached their FRA and if they are entitled to not necessarily collecting their own Social Security retirement benefit, the surviving spouse has the option to delay claiming the survivor benefit un-

SECURITY | page 5



## Guest Column

### Thank goodness for the 'happy plant'



It was a bad night and the next day didn't start out much better. I had heard that the days prior to delivery can be a bit uneasy for a soon-to-be-mother (and therefore for her spouse!), now I know it to be true. Luckily, even before my husband came home from work, the smile he is accustomed to had returned to my face.

My grin grew even bigger, however, when I greeted him at the door and found he had a pot of gerber daisies in his hand. Years ago, I deemed this particular potted plant "the happy plant."

For me it is next to impossible to look at its brightly colored flowers and remain in a bad mood. If you feel the same way but have never had any luck growing the gerber daisy, read on to learn just what cultural requirements are necessary to keep it happy.

The gerber daisy was discovered by Robert Jameson in the early 1880s near the gold fields of Barberton, in the Transvaal region of South Africa. The most popular species, the one which we will concentrate on today, bears his name, *Gerbera jamesonii*.

The Barberton daisy, the Transvaal daisy, and the African daisy are all common names for the plant that relate back to its place of origin.

Not long after its discovery, breeding began on the gerber daisy in England, eventually resulting in improved quality and enhanced color variations. Today, the Netherlands and Columbia are the primary producers of gerbers in cut flower form.

In the floral trade, it ranks an impressive fifth in popularity, behind the rose, carnation, chrysanthemum and tulip.

According to floral lore, the meaning behind the gerber flower is one I would wholeheartedly agree with: cheerfulness, probably due to the wide palette of colors it is available in – nearly every one except blue. Look for vivid orange, cool coral, hot pink, crimson red and sunshine yellow, not to mention bubblegum pink and creamy white!

Unfortunately, the gerber daisy is not hardy in our area; it prefers a much warmer location in which to grow. On the eastern seaboard, the only place it will overwinter is the southernmost tip of Florida, in hardiness zones 9 and 10.

Here in New England, it is best enjoyed on the windowsill during the winter months. As long as the plant is provided with normal room temperatures, bright light and sufficient but not excess moisture it should bloom prolifically.

Remember to remove spent flowers to keep up the gerber's good looks as well as to encourage future blooms.

Once the danger of frost has passed, it is also safe to plant the gerber daisy outdoors, just as you would any other summer annual. More and more consumers are doing this each year and with success!

The best type of soil for it is one that is organically rich and well-drained. Full sun is a must for flower production.

If you wish to dig up the plant after the season wanes and attempt to overwinter it indoors, be extra careful not to disturb its deep root system or death may incur. Some gardeners who plan on overwintering their gerbers sink the pot and all at planting time to avoid any potential risk later on.

Right now, the "happy plant" sits on the bureau in the nursery, awaiting the arrival of our little girl, just as we are. There is indeed so much to be happy about!

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 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.*

## Election letters to the editor welcome

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](mailto: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 Friday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election. For more information, call 413-283-8393.

### Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the news-

paper 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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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters. 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](mailto:aan@turley.com).

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# Opinion

## Guest Column



**A** Fiskdale couple reported seeing an American woodcock in their large field. They said, "On Saturday, March 9 we heard the first woodcocks of the season. So happy to have them back."

The woodcock has an extremely long bill, a short neck, a dark back and buff breast. Its feathers blend into the leaf litter. The long bill allows the bird to probe into the earth and it can open its beak below the surface to grab prey.

It can eat its weight in earthworms within 24 hours. It also eats insects and seeds. Woodcocks inhabit woods and thickets bordered by open areas.

Both sexes make a "peent" call. In spring, woodcocks display in open fields. The male rises in the air in wide circles. When he reaches about 50 feet about the ground his wings start to make a twittering sound. At about 200 to 300 feet the twittering stops. He gives a canary like flight song and begins a zig zag descent.

Several males may display in the same field. Woodcocks are polygamous. Females are attracted to the area and mate with the males. Males continue to display after mating and may mate with other females.

After mating, the females raise their brood alone. The nest is a scraped depression in the ground lined with twigs or grass



American woodcock

and placed within 100 to 200 yards of the male's display ground. The female lays four buff eggs with brown splotches.



Canada geese

On Friday, March 1 I saw a large flock of Canada geese in a field in Spencer. On Monday, March 4 I heard the honking of geese. I looked up and saw two large flocks of Canada geese fly overhead. The first flock flew lower and lower and landed in my hayfield and the pond next to it. The second flock flew much higher and headed northward.

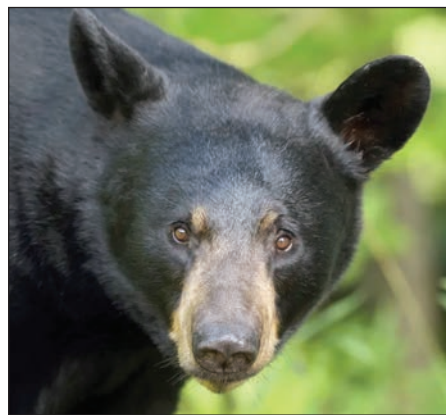


Belted kingfisher

On Feb. 29, I spotted a pair of belted kingfishers at a small pond in Ware on my way back from the Ware River News/Barre Gazette office. I was surprised to see them this early.

### Black bears and more

I received an email from a Wilbraham resident. He said, "It was March 1, when I woke to see the damage a bear did to our poles and feeders. This was the second time our poles and feeders were damaged by a bear, in the last few years. Shame on me, for not bringing the feeders in at dusk."



He said, "We have been casual bird watchers and feeders for over thirty years. It is relaxing and fun to see the local and migratory birds visit our feeders. Unfortunately, we have to consider the risks associated with placing food sources in our back yards. It means we have to be aware and maybe take the feeders in at dusk, putting them back out in the morning." He also said, "However, that will not eliminate the chance for a bear/human encounter. Last year, a black bear was in our neighbors back yard, at 10:30 a.m. in the morning. The bear was attracted by the chickens in the coup. Fortunately, they have an electrified fence, surrounding the coup. After getting shocked, it ran across the street and into Cedar Swamp woods. It will be back, since a bear does remember where the food sources are located." He said he recently saw a male, pileated woodpecker.

### Loon fact

The Loon Preservation Committee in Moultonborough New Hampshire included these interesting loon facts in their newsletter. Loons are physiologically adapted



Loon

for life in the water, so much so that they struggle to walk on land as a result. Their dense, thick walled bones help to weigh them down in the water. The extreme rear-placement of their legs and feet allows them to maximize the propulsive force that they can exert with each kick.

Many studies documented the duration of observed loon dives. Most of these studies have reported that average loon dives last somewhere between 33 and 52 seconds, regardless of season or location. Loons diving to deeper depths tend to spend more time underwater than those diving in more shallow areas.

In a study of loons using Lake Michigan as a stopover site during fall migration, Kenow et al. (2018) found that loons diving to depths of 40 m (131 feet) were spending, on average, 139 seconds (over 2 minutes) underwater per dive. In contrast, loons diving to depths of just 20 meters (65 feet) in that study were spending less time underwater per dive (87 seconds, on average).

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 edownner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

### SECURITY | from page 4

til it reaches maximum at their full retirement age. And if the survivor's personal SS retirement benefit will ever be more than their maximum survivor benefit, the surviving spouse also has the option to claim only the smaller survivor benefit first and allow their personal SS retirement benefit to grow to maximum at age 70 if desired.

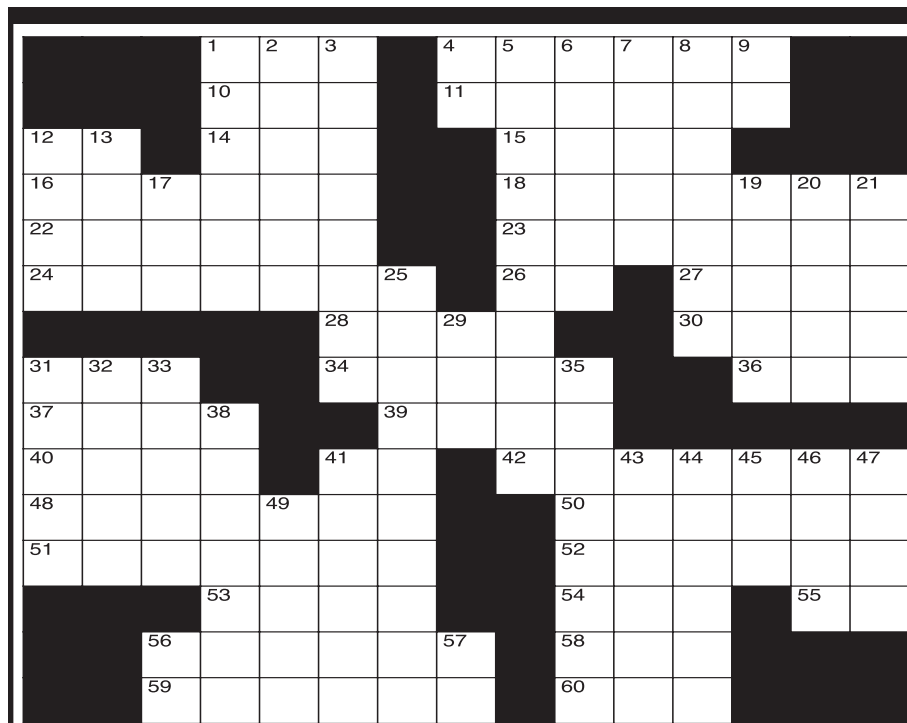
With Social Security there is hardly ever a simple answer to a question but, in the example you use, if both are over their SS full retirement age:

If the husband dies first, the wife will get 100% of the amount (\$2,000) the husband was receiving, instead of the small amount (\$1,000) she was previously receiving.

If the wife dies first, the husband's

monthly benefit will remain at \$2,000 and he will get no increase in his monthly amount. In either case, the surviving spouse will be entitled to a one-time lump sum death benefit of \$255.

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



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Small Eurasian deer
4. Irish county
10. A major division of geological time
11. Broadway actor Lane
12. Canadian province (abbr.)
14. Human gene
15. Two
16. A famous one is blue
18. Utter repeatedly
22. Ring-shaped objects
23. Spoils
24. Occurs
26. Commercial
27. Near
28. Products you may need
30. Pledge thrown down as a challenge
31. TV network
34. Silk or cotton garments
36. Soviet Socialist Republics
37. Retired American football coach Dean
39. Hot dish
40. A type of gin
41. Atomic #84
42. Sawhorse
48. About ground
50. Medicine man
51. Seedless raisin
52. Capital of Albania
53. Appendage
54. OJ trial judge
55. By the way (abbr.)
56. Bicycle parts
58. Barbie's friend
59. Moved one's neck to see
60. Commercials

### CLUES DOWN

1. Make up for
2. Baltimore ballplayer
3. Salary
4. Influential world body
5. Engravers
6. Declared as fact
7. One who steals
8. Jewelry
9. Hospital employee (abbr.)
12. Nonsense (slang)
13. Town in Galilee
17. Value
19. A fake name
20. Sheep in their second year
21. Town in Surrey, England
25. Appropriate for a particular time of year
29. Creative works
31. Recesses
32. W. Pacific island group
33. Tolkien character
35. Ancient symbol co-opted by the Nazi party
38. Pioneer
41. Scribe
43. Painted a bright color
44. Lowest members of British nobility
45. Actress Thurman
46. Type of sugar
47. Crest of a hill
49. N. American people of British Columbia
56. Device
57. The Mount Rushmore State

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 6

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### 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 \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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



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# SPORTS



The Agawam 5-6 Suburban Boys Basketball team captured a title last Saturday afternoon at Belchertown. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Cam Jorgensen heads for the sideline.



Jack Cravo takes the three-point attempt.



Jacob Quinby focuses hard as he shoots.



Luke Loughlin heads in for the layup.

## Agawam's 5-6 boys take title

BELCHERTOWN – Last Saturday afternoon, Agawam 5-6 Suburban Boys Basketball won its division title in a matchup at Belchertown High School.

## More players needed to fill Quabbin Valley League rosters

With April looming, the Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking for more players to fill its open roster spots. There are more than 15 open roster spots as the league heads for its open practice and tryout date and teams are looking to fill their 14-player rosters for a 2024 season that will see the league get back to its normal schedule.

The league is very enthusiastic to welcome new members to the league to fill these roster spots so all teams have the full depth they need. To register, go to: [www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org](http://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org)

and click on the Registration tab.

Following heavy turnover between 2022 and 2023, the league had to downsize to five teams and ran a modified schedule that included scheduled doubleheaders and bye weeks for teams in order to complete a 15-game schedule. Rain also hampered the league's schedule as well last year.

On March 3, the league's board voted to bring in a new team, bringing the league back up to six teams and creating an even schedule with every team playing on 15 Sunday

morning starting on Sunday, April 21 through late August with playoffs to follow.

The league is also voted to play a segment of its schedule using wood bats only. The middle five games of the schedule will be played that way while the rest of schedule is played with either metal or wood bats.

The league will be holding an open practice for all league players and especially players who are new to the league on Sunday, April 7 at 10 a.m. at Beachgrounds Park in South Hadley.

Prior to that, the next meeting is scheduled for Sunday March 24 at 12 noon at the Hangar Pub & Grill in South Hadley. All are welcome to attend the meeting, ask questions and express interest in joining. The league's board will be discussing final preparations for the 2024 season.

The Quabbin Valley league is an all-abilities league and all are welcome to join. Eligibility is players who are age 28 and over. You must be 30 to be eligible to pitch in the league. Your age for eligibility is whatever age you will turn in 2024. The league is also able to entertaining taking in an entire group as a team to add to the league. Please email the league board for to inquire about entering a team.

Games are typically held in the Easthampton and South Hadley area with some expansion to Chicopee, West Springfield, Agawam, and Granby being considered.

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# Sports



Brett Abbott was Agawam's top finisher in the event.



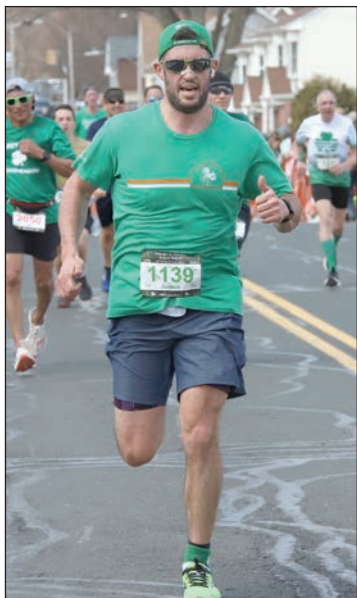
David Drigo, of Feeding Hills, finishes at 41:09.



Jared Pare, of Feeding Hills, celebrates as she crosses the finish line.



18-year-old Aiden Therrien, of Agawam, finishes the race.



Joshua Goggin, of Feeding Hills, finishes at 46:25.

## More than 6,000 brighten day at Road Race

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – After some dreary, cold, or rainy weather during the past few years, the people attending the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Road Race drew a winner yesterday.

On a sun-splashed afternoon with comfortable temperatures, the 47th running of the popular 10K Road Race took place.

With more than 6,000 harriers competing, and many more taking part in the Fun Run or walking events, the first part of St. Patrick's weekend was definitely a success.

Louis Serafini was the big winner of the main event. He completed the very hilly, 6.2-mile course in 30:12. Serafini is from Cambridge.

The top female was a local runner from Western Massachusetts. Anna Steinmen, of Springfield, came across the finish line at 37:00.

Ryan Davis, of South Hadley, was one of the top local finishers at 34:36. He was 20th overall.

This year's race would feature runners from all over the region, the state, and surrounding states as many are preparing for the Boston Marathon, set to take place in just under a month on Monday, April 15. Many runners over the years have enjoyed using the St. Patrick's Day Road Race as practice for the marathon because of the challenging hills throughout the streets of Holyoke that runners must navigate through.

Of the more than 6,000 runners who were registered, 4,442 finished the 10K course this year. Race officials have said the participation level in the event is still rebounding from the pandemic. Prior to the pandemic in 2019, race participants totaled about 7,000. The race was not held in 2020 and 2021 before it returned in 2022 with around 5,000 participants. More made their way out to the race last year, but that number was surpassed this year.

Because of that, the start of the race featured multiple waves, though 4RUN3 ran the bibs and electronic results kept accurate results for all those involved.

A number of this year's participants were featured in the usual celebratory costumes and outfits for St. Patrick's Day, while many others opted for cartoon and other fictional characters, such as Spider-Man. Several local running clubs also made their way to the race, as did the youth of the region. Youth participants in the race were as young as seven-years-old.

Security was in full force at the event with plenty of presence from the Massachusetts State Police, Holyoke Police, and Hampden County Sheriff's Department, and the event went off without any incidents.



The runners are off in the 2024 Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Road Race.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Male top finisher and first overall Louis Serafini, of Cambridge, finishes the race at 30:12.



Anna Steinmen, of Springfield, was the top female finisher at 37:00.



The wave of runners head down the first stretch of the 6.2-mile course.



The pace truck makes its way across the finish line followed by state police, which escorts the first set of runners.



# Sports

## Local athletes named to Senior All-Star Game

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced the team rosters for the 2024 Western Massachusetts Senior High School All-Star Games. On Thursday, March 21, the Hall of Fame hosted the 2024 All-Star event on the Jerry Colangelo Court of Dreams at the Hall of Fame. A total of 60 players were selected from different divisions within the region to participate in three games that will showcase the top seniors in their final high school contest.

“The Basketball Hall of Fame is honored to host the top high school basket-

ball players from Western Massachusetts at our 13th annual All-Star celebration,” said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. “We encourage the residents of Western Mass. to join us as we celebrate these outstanding seniors in the final game of their high school careers.”

A committee of local coaches and media members who represent each division on the boys’ and girls’ sides selected the teams. Using the designated classes for the PVIAC Tournament, the players will be divided into six teams: two girls’ teams, two

boys’ teams of Class A and B players, and two boys’ teams of Class C and D players. Only graduating seniors are eligible for the All-Star Games. Rosters can be found on the next page.

For the 13th year, the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame will recognize one boy and one girl as the Western Massachusetts Players of the Year. A special presentation will be made for the recipients during half-time of one of the participating games. A panel of local media members selects the award winners, who are recognized for their achievements on the court, in addi-

tion to their sportsmanship and character off the court.

The three All-Star Games were held on Thursday, March 21. There were two boys games and a girls game on the slate.

Among the all-stars named were Granby’s Colin Murdock, Monson’s Colin Beaupre, Ware’s Jack McKeever and Emily McGrail, Palmer’s Andrew Menard, Minnechaug’s Lylah Jeannotte, South Hadley’s Drew Alley, Holyoke’s Amilyan Treadwell-Mercedes and Shawn Rivera, Chicopee Comprehensive’s Alyssa Caney and Tineus McCluster, and Agawam’s Colin Smith.

## Railers fall to Adirondack

WORCESTER – Worcester was beaten, 5-1, by the Adirondack Thunder even though it outshot the visitors by 40-26.

The Railers have scored exactly one goal in four straight games on a total of 148 shots on goal. This is the third time in franchise history a Worcester team has scored one or fewer goals four straight times, the first time since Feb. 27 through March 3, 2022.

The Railers had two goals in that stretch.

“I’m sure that’s part of it,” coach Jordan Smotherman said of the confidence factor. “Any time you put together (148) shots over four games and score four goals, guys start gripping the sticks and there’s definitely a letdown every time you have that big chance and it doesn’t go in.”

Jake Pivonka had the Railers goal. Grant Jozefek, Andre Ghantous, Ryan Smith, Shane Harper and Mike Gillespie scored for the Thunder. Gillespie hit an empty net.

For the first time this season Smotherman changed goalies not because of injury. John Muse allowed four goals on 16 shots and was replaced by Cole Ceci at 17:09 of the second period.

“We’ve asked a lot of him,” Smotherman said of Muse. “Especially seeing that he’s 35 years old. I couldn’t imagine doing that. He wanted to play tonight. He wanted to fight to give us a chance to win. We know that the next time he’s in there he’s gonna be the giant we’ve come to know.”

With the defeat, the Railers have dropped into sixth place in the North Division, at least in terms of winning percentage. In terms of points, though, Worcester is remarkably tied with three other teams for the final playoff spot.

The Railers, Reading, Maine and

Trois-Rivieres all have 57. Maine and Trois-Rivieres have winning percentages of .491. Reading is at .475.

Newfoundland is in third place with a .517 winning percentage, so the Growlers are in the playoff scrum, too.

“I told our guys — we’re in a 13-game push. There are four teams with 57 points, one with 62 that’s played a couple more games. We play all of them, so it’s up to us. The ball’s in our court.”

The winning goaltender was Vinnie Purpura. He was the last man the Railers wanted to see as they battle an offensive slump. The triumph improved his record against Worcester this season to 5-0-1 with a 1.91 goals against average and .935 saves percentage.

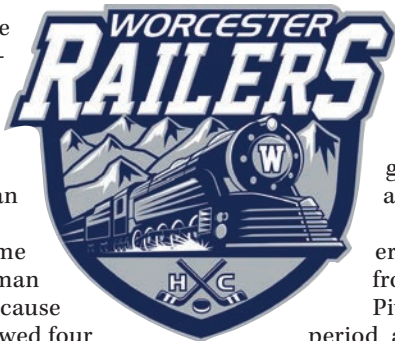
Worcester outshot the Thunder, 9-1, through the game’s first seven minutes and dominated play, but had nothing to show for it. Thus, Adirondack scored the first goal and took a 1-0 lead at 16:09.

Jozefek, a former Railer, snapped one home from the right circle.

Pivonka tied it late in the period as he converted a pass from Ashton Calder at 18:21. That could have translated into some momentum for Worcester heading into the second period, but did not.

Ghantous, newly signed out of Northern Michigan, got his first pro goal at 3:15. He put one under the crossbar from 20 feet. Smith scored similarly at 4:33 on a power play, then Harper beat Muse from the top of the left circle at 17:09 to end the veteran’s night.

The Railers’ next four games are on the road. They play at Adirondack Wednesday night, then do a three-in-three weekend in Reading. The next game at the DCU Center is March 27 versus Newfoundland.



## T-Birds get win over Charlotte

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Springfield Thunderbirds (27-27-3-2) answered a Charlotte comeback the day before with one of their own en route to a 6-4 win over the Checkers (31-23-6-0) on Sunday afternoon at Bojangles’ Coliseum.



Checkers a two-goal lead when he poked a loose puck under Ellis at 8:32 to make it a 4-2 game.

With much of the momentum seemingly on Charlotte’s side, the T-Birds got a wonderful stroke of luck at the 10:25 mark when a Skyler Brind’Amour pass car-

omed off Uvis Balinskis’ skate and squeaked under Hellberg’s legs. Suzuki was given credit for his second of the game, and the Charlotte lead suddenly slipped to 4-3.

With their power play beaming with confidence, the T-Birds tied the game when Will Bitten deflected a Calle Rosen shot in behind Hellberg, tying the score, 4-4, with just 3:01 remaining in the middle period.

Early in the third, the Springfield power play again made a huge impact following a double-minor on Mayhew. With just two seconds remaining on the first minor, Jakub Vrana played the role of the deflector, as he guided a Dylan Coghlan snapshot through Hellberg, giving the T-Birds their first lead at the 2:30 mark of the third, 5-4.

After both teams committed minors just 51 seconds apart to set up 4-on-4 play, Coghlan added to the T-Birds lead on a 2-on-1, picking a spot over Hellberg’s stick-side arm to make it a 6-4 lead for the visitors at 9:26 of the final period. Coghlan finished the two-game set with three goals and five points, and his goal put him atop the AHL leaderboard for goals by defensemen with 16.

From that point onward, Ellis and the T-Birds’ defense stiffened, blocking countless Charlotte attempts en route to the win. Ellis, in picking up his third straight win over Charlotte, made 42 stops.

Charlotte’s third power play proved to be a charm when Gerry Mayhew gave the

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# Public Notices

## AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL AD

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on **Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 6:10 PM** at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St, Agawam, Ma. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Calabrese on property located at 22 Samuel St.

By Order of  
Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman  
AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
03/21/2024

## AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., Agawam, MA on **Monday, April 8, 2024 at 6:30PM** for all parties interested in the request of John & Jessica Velez, who are seeking a Special Permit in accordance with the Town of Agawam Zoning Ordinances Ch. 180, Section 8.1 to allow for the keeping of chickens at the premises identified as 59 Simpson Circle.

Doreen A. Prouty  
Chairperson, ZBA  
03/14, 03/21/2024

## Legal Ad AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Agawam Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, March 28, 2024 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 Application of the Agawam DPW for work to be performed at 108 Perry Lane subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

By Order of  
Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman  
AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
03/21/2024

## LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL

The Agawam City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, April 1, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.** in Veterans Hall located at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of 88 Agawam, LLC aka Shield Hotel Management, LLC for a zone change request for 1422 Main Street, Agawam (Parcel ID K4-1-7) from Business A & Residence A-2 to entirely Residence A-2 (ZC-2024-1). This public hearing will also be live-streamed on the Town of Agawam's website at [www.agawam.ma.us](http://www.agawam.ma.us) and televised on Cable Access Channel 15. ZC-2024-1 is available for public inspection by emailing the office of the City Clerk for an electronic copy at [vgioscia@agawam.ma.us](mailto:vgioscia@agawam.ma.us).

BY ORDER OF:  
Rosemary Sandlin  
City Council President  
03/14, 03/21/2024

## PUBLIC NOTIFICATION FOR WRITTEN QUOTES

The Agawam Housing

Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites written quotes from Contractors for the **"Paint underside of balconies"** project at Meadowbrook Manor, Buildings #1 through #6 (667-3), 66 Meadowbrook Manor, Agawam, MA (DHCD# 005150) for the Agawam Housing Authority, in accordance with the documents prepared by Jody Barker, AIA | Architecture + Design, LLC.

The Project consists of: **repainting the underside and front of existing concrete balconies at buildings #1 through #6 at the project site.**

The work is estimated to cost \$61,000.

Quotes are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A (2)(B) & to state prevailing wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive.

**For projects with an estimated construction cost of over \$100,000**, by DHCD contractual requirement, General Bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM), according to Article 2.1 in Section 00.21.00 Instructions to Bidders, in the category of: **Name of Category or State "Not Applicable."** No Filed Sub Bids are required.

General Bids will be received until **2:00 p.m., Friday, April 5, 2024** and publicly opened forthwith.

This project is being Electronically Bid (E-Bid). All Quotes shall be prepared and submitted online at [www.Projectdog.com](http://www.Projectdog.com) and received no later than the date & time specified above. Hard copy Quotes will not be accepted by the Awarding Authority. For assistance, contact Projectdog, Inc. at 978.499.9014.

General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five percent (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternates), and made payable to the Town of Agawam Housing Authority.

Contract Documents will be available electronically or for purchase at [www.Projectdog.com](http://www.Projectdog.com) on **Wednesday, March 20, 2024, Project Code: 860999.**

The job site and/or existing building will be available for inspection at **10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, March 27, 2024.**

For an appointment call:  
**RCAT PM:**  
**Hugh Mackay**  
**Phone: 774-366-6093**  
**e-mail:**  
**Mackey@worcesterha.org**  
03/21/2024

## LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL

The Agawam City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, April 1, 2024 at 7:00 PM** in Veterans Hall located at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear an Ordinance to amend Chapter 180 and Chapter 114 of the Code of the Town of Agawam as sponsored by Mayor Christopher Johnson (TOR-2024-2) regarding Class 1 and Class 2 licenses. This public hearing will also be live-streamed on the Town of Agawam's website at [www.agawam.ma.us](http://www.agawam.ma.us) and televised on Cable Access Channel 15. TOR-2024-2 is available for

public inspection by emailing the office of the City Clerk for an electronic copy at [vgioscia@agawam.ma.us](mailto:vgioscia@agawam.ma.us)

BY ORDER OF:  
Rosemary Sandlin  
City Council President

03/14, 03/21/2024

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD24P0498EA

Estate of:  
**Nicholas Buoniconti, Jr.**  
**Date of Death: 04/25/2023**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Kimberly Benjamin-Prokop of Westfield MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Kimberly Benjamin-Prokop of Westfield MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Personal Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/05/2024.**

**This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: March 08, 2024  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate

03/21/2024

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD24P0559EA

Estate of:  
**Walter Arthur DeFilippi**

**Also known as:**  
**Walter A DeFilippi**  
**Date of Death: 01/15/2024**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Judith D. Asselin of Southwick, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Judith D. Asselin of Southwick, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/11/2024.**

**This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: March 14, 2024  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate

03/21/2024

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD24P0478EA

Estate of:  
**Lillian R Depalo**  
**Date of Death: 01/06/2024**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Holly Harrison of East Longmeadow, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Holly Harrison of East Longmeadow, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond in

**unsupervised administration.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/17/2024.**

**This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: March 12, 2024  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate

03/21/2024

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD24C0082CA

In the matter of:  
**Emily Laine Greeson**  
**CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**

A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by **Emily Laine Greeson of Agawam, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Emily Laine Bugli**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/09/2024.**

**This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.**

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: March 12, 2024  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate

03/21/2024

## LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given by **Langonet Towing** pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.255, Section 39A, that on **March 22, 2024** at 63 Ramah Cir S, Agawam the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy the garagekeeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.

**2008 Nissan Altima**  
VIN: IN4AL21E88N525071  
Tyshun Cleveland  
24 Harvard Street  
Springfield, MA 01109  
03/07, 03/14, 03/21/2024

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413) 748-8600 Docket No. HD24P0210EA

Estate of:  
**John Podgorski**  
**Also Known As:**  
**John L. Podgorski**  
**Date of Death:**  
**November 13, 2023**  
**INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **David J. Podgorski** of Suffield, CT

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

**David J. Podgorski** of Suffield, CT has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
03/21/2024

## Legal Ad AGAWAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Agawam Historical Commission will be holding a public hearing at **7:00 PM on Tuesday, April 9, 2024** at the Captain Charles Leonard House, 663 Main Street, Agawam. The purpose of this hearing will be to review the Demolition Permit for the Timothy Collins House, 71 Bridge Street, North Agawam, which comes under the Town of Agawam's Demolition Delay Ordinance.

By Order of  
**David Cecchi**, Chairman  
AGAWAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
03/21, 03/28/2024

**Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.**



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**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT**

The Town of Brookfield is seeking an experienced full-time Highway Superintendent. Full job description at [brookfieldma.us](http://brookfieldma.us). Please submit resume and cover letter to [selectmen@brookfieldma.us](mailto:selectmen@brookfieldma.us). Application review will begin after March 28th. Resumes accepted until position is filled. Brookfield is an equal opportunity employer.

**SQUIER & CO.** is looking to hire an oil truck driver. \$40,000-\$60,000 full time. Squier will provide CDL school for the right candidate! Email: [squieroil@verizon.net](mailto:squieroil@verizon.net). Call **413-267-3184** or visit us at 5 Squier Ave., Monson, MA. Monday-Friday.

The Town of Huntington is seeking a part-time **HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** for 16 hours per week. Applicants must be proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook. Hours are flexible, but must be worked during the regular highway department hours of Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to assist the Highway Superintendent. Application and complete job description are available online at [www.huntingtonma.us](http://www.huntingtonma.us) or by emailing [admin@huntingtonma.us](mailto:admin@huntingtonma.us). Position is open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

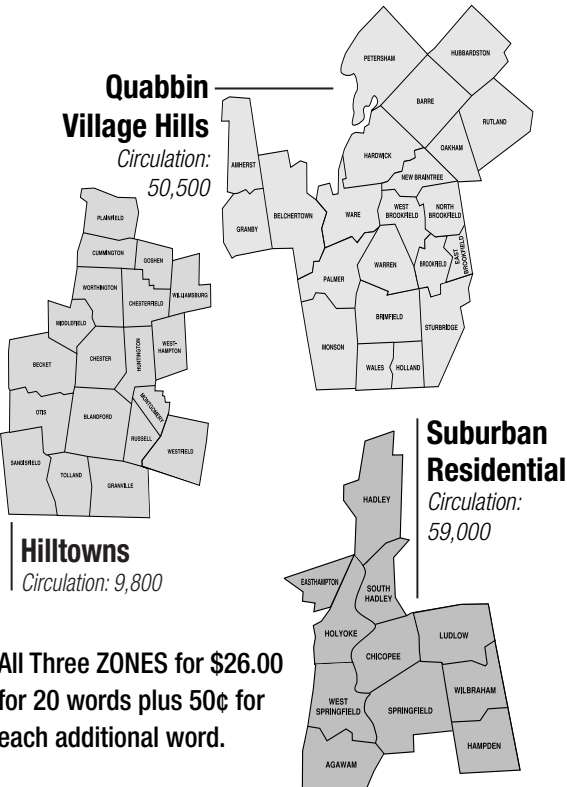
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**PROGRAMS ■ from page 1**

where they are and to provide high-quality special education services in-district, which I think is really a benefit of our district," Walsh said. "Having that wide variety of programs allows us to be really flexible in how we meet students' needs."

Students are able to use services across a variety of the programs so they can develop a system that works best for them.

"We can have a little bit of this and a little bit of that," Walsh said.

Even with these programs, there are some children who need further specialized care that Agawam has to place out of the district.

Currently there are 23 students placed OOD, with 19 in day placements and four in residential placements. Ten of those students moved into the district with IEPs calling for OOD placement.

The OOD placements the district currently uses are: Valley West School, Helix-Mill Pond, Berkshire Hills Music Academy, The May Center and Amego.

These placements come at a high cost for the district, with costs per year per student for each being \$62,508.95, \$70,896, \$86,706.40, \$149,197.32 and \$444,550.92, respectively.

"All of these placements have additional costs to them, like transportation, these are just tuition rates," Walsh said. "I think it highlights the importance financially of us keeping our kids in-district, too."

In contrast, according to Walsh the

most expensive child to educate in-district this past year was \$74,000. That included a paraprofessional, a special education teacher, transportation, summer services, occupational therapy and physical therapy.

"Yes, it was expensive to educate that student, but when you compare it to the potential cost of sending a student like that OOD and, really, what's right to do for that kid, I think it's well worth it," Walsh said.

In deciding what the best IEP is for each student, Walsh confirmed that they will discuss with educators and the student's family, especially before making the decision to place OOD.

Additionally, even when a student is placed OOD, Walsh confirmed that they try to keep them integrated in the Agawam community.

"I think it's really important to maintain that connection for students and families to their home schools," Walsh said.

There are OOD who are doing clubs and participating in sports at AHS. Some students will even return from their OOD placement. OOD students are also welcome to participate in graduation activities at AHS.

The school committee appreciated Walsh's presentation. They were impressed by Walsh and her team's ability to construct a budget around the needs of each student.

"I think it's a tribute to the school district that we can build that into our budget and do what's best for the kid," Committee Member Michael Perry said.



The interior demolition of the building is complete, now the construction team is working on building out. TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA

**POLICE ■ from page 1**

"It went from being an office structure to being a public safety structure, so under the codes its different structural requirements," Johnson said.

The majority of the structural work is complete and now the team is working on the build out of the interior.

As the police transition over, Johnson wants to assure the people of Agawam that the police will remain fully operational.

"The police are working on the transition plan, the moving plan," Johnson said. "It's not going to be a situation where we close the police department for a long weekend, it's obviously a service that has to be maintained 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

Currently the police are working on developing a plan as to which portions of the department will move over first and how to best transfer more delicate items.

"It's more complicated than it sounds," Johnson said. "At the existing building there's significant areas of evidence storage for existing criminal cases involving the department, so making sure we follow all the necessary rules regarding change of

custody of evidence and so forth."

The current police department is a building that used to be an elementary school and was built about 100 years ago. It was renovated to be the police headquarters in the 1980s.

"At this point the building and the equipment is significantly beyond its useful life," Johnson said. "There are significant problems creeping up in the building relative to the structure and so forth."

The new facility will help with those issues and will provide additional space. This additional space will be beneficial as the police department continues to grow and add specialized services.

Johnson is unsure what will happen to the old building. He thinks they may either look into keeping it for municipal use or try to interest a developer in the site, depending on the salvageability of the building.

"We're trying to look at all potential options at this point," he said. "We're looking at options of redeveloping the site, if not the building."

The project itself has been in progress since early last year, with construction beginning in fall of 2023.

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The Town of Worthington is seeking to fill the position of Assistant Treasurer/Tax Collector: 7-10 Hours a week, the position consists of assisting in the collection and posting of real estate, personal property and motor vehicle excise taxes. Assist in mailings and general office duties. Special requirement: Must meet the requirements to be bonded. Proficient in communicating with the public, computer skills, record keeping, and clerical skills. Please send a cover letter and resume to **Town of Worthington, Tax Collector's Office, P.O. Box 213, Worthington, MA 01098** by: April 11, 2024.

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# Area fire chiefs stress importance of smoke/CO detectors

By Dalton Zbierski  
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EAST LONGMEADOW – Led by State Fire Marshal John Davine, fire personnel from across the state gathered at the East Longmeadow Fire Department on the morning of Feb. 22 to emphasize the significance of maintaining working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

“We have carefully reviewed the recent data from fatal fires and have noticed some trends,” Davine said. “A total of 45 people lost their lives from fire in Massachusetts last year, and nearly 70% of those deaths took place in the home. Two-thirds of those fire victims were older adults ages 65 and up. Tragically, more than half of those homes that had fatal fires did not have working smoke alarms.”

There was a time in the state’s history where a single fire could take the lives of 492 people, as occurred during the Coconut Grove nightclub fire in Boston in 1942, so 45 fire fatalities statewide in 2023 represents generational progress, but more progress could be made if all residents installed working detectors.

Westfield Fire Chief Patrick Egloff noted that 30% of the state’s residential fire deaths last year occurred in Western Massachusetts. Egloff is vice president of the Western Massachusetts Fire Chiefs Association, which represents more than 100 communities west of Worcester, ranging from larger urban centers to small rural towns and everything in between.

“No matter where we work, we all agree on one thing: working smoke and CO alarms are vital, lifesaving tools that belong in every home, apartment, moving house and dorm,” Egloff said.

Egloff relayed that fire personnel are realistic and know fires will occur as long as people are cooking, heating their homes, smoking and using electricity. However, almost every fire death can be prevented if residents install, test and maintain their smoke detectors and alarms.

“Smoke alarms alert you to the danger and give you time to escape safely, especially in the overnight hours while you’re sleeping,” Egloff said. “The sooner you know about the danger, the faster you can escape, and the sooner we’re notified, the faster we can be there to help.”

Davine, formerly the Northampton fire chief, said that in the case of several dozen fatal fire incidents last year, investigators found smoke alarms disabled, outdated



State Fire Marshal John Davine takes to the podium at the East Longmeadow Fire Department on Feb. 22 to talk about the importance of having working smoke and CO detectors and alarms. TURLEY PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

or altogether missing.

Springfield Fire Commissioner B.J. Calvi spoke of a tragedy that occurred in the city on March 30, 2023, during a structure fire. Multiple people were trapped in the residence and couldn’t escape.

“When (firefighters) made entry and knocked down the fire, they found two elderly adults who never made it out of their bed. The subsequent investigation showed that there were no smoke detectors present in the house,” Calvi said.

Calvi noted that there were five fire fatalities in Springfield last year, of which four had no smoke detectors present.

“These are tragedies that could have been averted and need to stop,” Calvi said, noting that all the fatal fires in Springfield last year occurred between midnight and 8 a.m.

“Please don’t spend a single night in your home without a working smoke detector,” he said.

Easthampton Fire Chief Christopher Norris encourages residents to check their detectors and alarms when they change their clocks, as the devices don’t last forever. If you don’t remember when you installed your smoke detector, the manufacturing date is printed on the back.

“Smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years. If your alarm was made before February of 2014, or if there’s no date at all, it’s time to replace it,” Norris said. “We recommend alarms made by

well-known, national brands. You should be able to find most of these at your local hardware stores.”

Chicopee Fire Chief Dan Stamborski said smoke detectors and alarms are the first line of defense against a fire in your home and that everyone should know what to do when the alarm goes off.

“That’s where your home escape plan comes in,” Stamborski said. “First and foremost, take a look around your house on a daily basis, be sure to keep furniture and clutter away from your doors, windows and stairways because you don’t want anything blocking your way out during an emergency. And, when we respond to your home, you certainly don’t want to impede our access to get to you.”

Stamborski encourages families to practice their escape routes and choose two or more ways to leave the building, which can include windows if you are on a lower floor. Pick a meeting place outside; it should be a safe distance away where everyone can gather.

“Once you’re at the meeting place, never go back inside, not for anything. Call 911 and let the firefighters enter with their protective equipment,” Stamborski said.

Once you create your escape route, practice it often, both during the day and at night until it becomes muscle memory. Also, sleeping with your bedroom door closed is the simplest way to keep fire, smoke and carbon monoxide out.

“You’d be amazed how much protection a simple closed door offers,” Stamborski said.

Wilbraham Fire Chief Michael Andrews spoke about CO, a poisonous gas created by burning fuels that is often produced by home heating equipment. CO is harmful and potentially fatal, especially for young children or older adults.

“What makes CO so dangerous is that you can’t see it, smell it or taste it. Carbon monoxide is a silent, invisible killer,” Andrews said. “Carbon monoxide poisoning is one of the leading causes of accidental poisoning deaths in the country. Here in Massachusetts, more than 350 people end up in the emergency room each year because of CO poisoning.”

Last year, in Massachusetts, there were more than 5,000 calls reporting carbon monoxide, and the vast majority ended safely because people had working alarms.

Andrews said be sure to have CO alarms in every level of your home, test them every month and replace the batteries twice a year. The alarms themselves need to be replaced every five, seven to 10 years; one can check the manufacturer’s instructions or look up the make and model online to find out.

“Finally, if you hear it going off, get outside and dial 911. Don’t disable them or write it off as a malfunction. Let us check to see if it’s safe,” Andrews said.

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