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AGAWAM

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Clubs host used clothing and book exchange

By **Christina Gioscia**
Correspondent

AGAWAM – On Friday, March 13, Agawam Zero Waste Club, in collaborating with Agawam High School National Honors Society and Agawam High's Environment Club began collecting donations for their Annual Kids' Used Clothing and Book Exchange. On Saturday, March 14, the clothing and book drive began at Agawam Public Library for free shopping. This was the 8th annual exchange. The program began in 2018 as just a clothing drive, skipped a year due to the COVID pandemic, and began accepting books in 2022.

Nancy Bobskill shared her role in the clothing and book exchange, as well as the Environmental Club and NHS role in the event.

"Our club organizes and advertises the event and volunteers the days of the

event," Bobskill said. "We asked the Environmental Club and National Honor Society students to co-host this event as we needed more volunteers, they enjoy volunteering, some require community service hours and are great to work with. The Environmental Club takes up a clothing and book collection at the high school and gets the word out about the event within the school system. They may also volunteer at the event. The National Honor Society volunteers on both days of the event. This year, 22 students volunteered."

Bobskill said the club's mission is all about conservation and recycling.

"Our Club's mission is to promote reuse and sharing as a normal part of our culture, to prevent usable materials from entering the landfill and to build community. Our annual goal is to make sure

CLUBS | page 12



Rainy Day Parade

Despite the rainy conditions, Agawam was well represented in this year's Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade. Above, the Agawam High School marching band had their rain gear on this year. Right, the 2026 Agawam Colleen and Court. More photos and details on page 7 and 12.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY KARA WALSH-VEY



State representative candidates spar on committee attendance

By **Gregory A. Scibelli**
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – Third Hampden District State Rep. Nicholas Boldyga, R-Southwick, is fighting back against what he believes is corruption and back-room politics on Beacon Hill.

After he was recently

called out by his opponent in this year's election, Democrat and Agawam City Councilor Thomas Hendrickson for not attending committee meetings during the past year-plus, Boldyga said not only are the sessions completely corrupt, but votes within those committees are not honored as

it relates to sending bills to the main floor in the House of Representatives.

Much like resolutions and ordinances are referred to sub-committees for recommendations at the city council level, bills submitted to the State House are sent to committees, sometimes made up of House members,

some Senate members, and some joint committees, for evaluation whether or not to move forward.

Boldyga said the committee process is "rotten at its core."

"The only purpose it serves is to provide cover for the corruption, secrecy and closed-door decision mak-

ing on Beacon Hill that shuts out the public and rank and file members," Boldyga said in a statement responding to Hendrickson. "Thousands of bills are filed and hearings are held for show — almost all of them never reach the floor. Leadership decides behind closed doors what advances, ignoring testimo-

ny, silencing members, and even ignoring committee votes."

Boldyga referenced a Boston Globe report that conducted a 2024 analysis of state legislature committees.

"Their 2024 analysis

RACE | page 12

Agawam Public Library hosts monthly writers group

By **Christina Gioscia**
Correspondent

AGAWAM – On Thursday, March 19 Agawam Public Library's Writer's Group held their monthly meeting in the Franklin Pierce Conference Room. Meetings are always held on a Thursday each month. The group is run by award-winning author Katherine Anderson.

Anderson kicked off the meeting by asking each member what they've been working on and then asking if anyone would like to share. Two members shared with the group on Thursday, Sarah Gay and Kimberly Hatroni. After each member read a little of what they've been writing, the group and Anderson herself provided feedback and ideas on how to strengthen the writing.

We then spoke with Anderson about how the club got started, future goals, and why it's such an important resource for local writers. Anderson shared the club started before the COVID-19 pandemic and continued after.

"Writing is such a solitary



Katherine Anderson, Ed Dion, Joann Dion, Kimberly Hatroni, Sarah Gay, and Jeff Souders at the Agawam Public Library Writers Group on Thursday, March 19.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

activity and it's important for us all to have a community we can reach out to," Anderson said. "Having a regular opportunity to share our work, talk through issues of craft, and just generally get outside opinions is extremely important when you're a writer. It helps you get out-

side your writing bubble and it gives aspiring authors an opportunity to see the process in action and build their confidence. Everyone has a story to write; sometimes it takes a community to help you find a way to put it on paper."

She said the group wants

to have more regular meetings.

"We have talked frequently about making the group a more regular occurrence," she said. "Right now, we meet once per month, but it would be great if we met more frequently and perhaps the running of

the group could be passed around so that members get to experience different group structures and activities. I also think it would be beneficial to run hands-on workshops for processes like writing query letters, land-

WRITERS | page 12

Easter Egg Hunt this Saturday

AGAWAM – This Saturday morning, the Agawam Parks and Recreation Commission will once again partner with the Agawam Lions Club to host an Easter Egg Hunt for children at School Street Park.

You do not need to register in advance. The cost to participate is \$5 per family/car payable upon entry to School Street Park.

You are advised to arrive early as the hunts will begin promptly at 10 a.m. Parents or guardians should bring a container of some kind for children to use to collect eggs.

There will be three separate hunts for different age groups. There will be a four years and younger hunt, an age 5 to 7 hunt, and one for ages 8 and older. There will be special prizes available in each hunt and allergy-free gift bags can be obtained upon request.

The weather forecasted for Saturday is not looking good as of press time, and the rain date for the event is Saturday, April 4.



April programs, events at the Agawam Library for kids, teens

AGAWAM – April is a fun month at the Agawam Library. We will have three scavenger hunts for kids of all ages during the month of April. The first hunt will have a hippo theme and will run Apr. 6 to 11. The second hunt will have a tiger theme and will run Apr. 13 to 18. The final April hunt will have an alligator theme and will run Apr. 21 to 25. You don't have to register to participate in the scavenger hunts. Just drop by any time the library is open. Most people spend about 20 minutes doing the scavenger hunts at the Agawam Library.

When you're finished with the scavenger hunt you can help us cover our Poet-Tree with poems! Stop by to pick-up a special "leaf." Then write an original poem, or copy your favorite poem, onto the "leaf." We will hang the poem on our Poet-Tree for all to see. This activity is for kids, teens, and adults. This activity is available all of April. You can write as many poems as you like, there is no limit.

We will also have lots of other fun, free activities for kids and teens happening at the Agawam Library during the month of April. Below is a listing of everything that's going on for kids and teens this month. Some events re-

quire registration. To register, call 413-789-1550 ext 3 or go to our website agawamlibrary.org.

Art and Stories - For ages 3 – 5

Tuesday, Apr. 14 and 28 at 9:30 a.m. - Drop-in.

Join us for a short story time followed by an art project. We will explore simple art concepts and experiment with materials. Please wear clothing that can get messy.

Baby Storytime - For birth – 18 mo.

Thursday, Apr. 2, 16, and 30 at 9:30 a.m. - Drop-in.

Join us as we learn a little American Sign Language, read stories, sing, & play together.

DIY Bath Fizzers - For grades 5-6

Wednesday, Apr. 1 at 6 p.m. - Registration is required

Create your own spa night supplies with simple materials. You'll head home with a couple personalized bath fizzers and an instruction sheet!

Family Take and Make Crafts - For all ages

First Day of the Week & Thursdays - While supplies last - Drop-in & pick up.

A new Take and Make craft will be available the first day of each week and again on Thursdays.

Geometric Art - For grades 3-4

Wednesday, Apr. 15 at 6 p.m. - Registration is required

Let's take math and make it pretty. Using masking tape, we'll create art with sharp lines and fun shapes.

Grow, Play, and Learn - This program is provided by Pathways for Parents.

Wednesdays and Fridays

Ages 0-2 at 9:30 a.m.

Ages 3-5 at 10:30 am - Drop-in.

No class the week of April 20 due to school vacation. Stories, songs and skill building, led by an Early Childhood Developmental trained staff member, guiding caregivers in strengthening interactions with their child.

Music with Mr. Liam - All Ages

This program is provided by Pathways for Parents.

Saturday, Apr. 25 at 9:30 a.m. - Registration is required

Join us for an energetic show filled with drums, the ukulele, puppets, and comedy as Mr. Liam (Liam Hurley) plays old favorites & silly parodies!

Oobleck Hour - For grades K-2

Wednesday, Apr. 29 at 6 p.m. - Registration is required

Join us for a reading of Bartholomew and the Oo-

bleck by Dr. Seuss and then make your own oobleck.

Paul Revere Event With Kevin Driscoll - For kids of all ages

Tuesday, Apr. 21 at 6 p.m. - Registration is required

Join us for an evening of patriotic fun & laughter as Agawam celebrates 250 years of the American story, as told by ventriloquist Kevin Driscoll. This program is funded in part from by the Agawam Cultural Council. This program is brought to us by the GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club.

Pre-K Pals - For ages 2 - 5

This program is provided by Pathways for Parents.

Monday, Apr. 6, 13, 27 at 11 a.m. -

Registration is required

No class the week of April 20 due to school vacation. Each week, we will focus on an area of development and provide fun activities to support your child to learn through play.

Special Saturday Drop-in Craft: Googly Eye Butterfly Craft - For All Ages

Saturday, Apr. 25 All Day - While supplies last - Drop-in & pick up.

Children will enjoy assembling the butterflies and adding their own unique touch

with googly eyes and vibrant colors.

Stroller Strides with FIT4MOM - For parents & their child ages 1 month - 10 years old

Saturday, Apr. 18 at 9:30 a.m. - Registration is required

This program is brought to us by FIT4MOM. Stroller Strides is a 60-minute total-body workout with strength, cardio, and core training, all while engaging the little ones in a stroller.

Teen Advisory Board - For grades 7-12

Wednesday, Apr. 8 at 6 p.m.

Make plans for teen library programs and the Teen Space, and eat pizza! Members of the Teen Advisory Board can earn community service hours for their participation. If you'd like to join, contact Evan at edelano@agawamlibrary.org or 413-789-1550 extension 3.

Teen Afterschool Drop-in - For grades 9-12

Every Monday the Agawam Public Schools are in session (new day!) at 2 p.m.

Stop by the library after school and visit the Activity Room. Play our Nintendo Switch, try out the air hockey table, eat snacks, or just hang out! No registration necessary.

Teen Crafternoon - For grades 7-12

Wednesday, Apr. 22 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Visit the Teen Space for some crafting time! Do our suggested craft or use our materials to make something totally different.

Teen Take and Make Craft - For grades 7-12

Available starting Wednesday, Apr. 1

Stop by the Teen Space to pick up a Take and Make Craft kit. They'll be available until we run out of supplies. No registration necessary.

Teen Trivia Thursday - For grades 7-12

Every Thursday the Agawam Public Schools are in session from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Visit the Teen Space and answer a trivia question to get a small prize.

Toddler Time - For 19 mo. - 36 mo.

Monday, Apr. 13, 27 at 9:30 a.m. - Drop-in.

Join us as we read stories, sing, and play together.

Yoga with Miss Lisa - For ages 2 - 5

This program is provided by Pathways for Parents.

Friday, Apr. 24 at 3:30 p.m. - Registration is required

Songs, movement activities and games help to bring the yoga practice to young children.

Feline Friends appreciative of donations

AGAWAM – Feline Friends recently expressed their gratitude for the recent donations sent to their charity:

We are incredibly grateful for the response to our appeal for help with supplies. We have received packages at the professional office at 532 Springfield St. (at the corner of Cleveland St.) in Feeding Hills and at the Agawam Public Library. Financial donations have arrived by check at P.O. Box 174, Feeding Hills 01030 as well as PayPal: @FelineFriendsRaffle. Venmo: @FelineFriends. Please include name and contact information with donations if you would like an acknowledgement. Venmo donations do not provide addresses or email information.

We appreciate every sin-

gle donation. Local pick up is available by calling 786-5019.

We are happy to announce that we will be holding a donation drive on Saturday, April 18 at 47 North West Street in Feeding Hills. The Community Grange #382 will have a vendor craft supply sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on that date. We look forward to seeing our friends.

Thank you to our generous March donors : Glenn Grabowski, Glen Birk, Joan Eckert, Linda Britain, Kerri LaBerge, Ken Kurowski, Mike Scantlen, Carl and Cheryl Kaufman, Joanne Lamson, Amber Higbee, Karen qne Mike Dolan, Michelle Parent, Amelia McMeans, Gloria Pereira, Michell Brill, Judy Clini, Emily Everett, Dawn Struck, Robert and Ida Shultz, Wendy Hollis, Denise

Broderick, John Murphy, Valerie Schumacher, Kristy Raymond, Susan Whitney, Diane Dean, Lynn Eaton, Deborah Hasty, Judith Roberts, Katie Heald, Adam David, Sheila Kida, Joanne Daurizio, Julie Gillette, Abigail Farrar, Felicia Farrar-Gorcynski, Crystal Mengele and the family of Judy Govoni.

Feline Friends Inc. is a community-based, nonprofit sanctuary that does not discriminate against any cat based on age, gender or disability.

More information about our sanctuary may be found on our website at felinefriendsinc.org or our Facebook page at Feline Friends Cat Sanctuary. Contact us with questions at info@felinefriendsinc.org or by phone at 413-786-5019.

Sensory Friendly Egg Hunt set for Apr. 4

HOLYOKE – Wistariahurst Museum is egg-static to bring back our Sensory-Friendly Egg Hunt for a third year! Designed for families with sensory sensitivities, this festive egg hunt focuses on gentle exploration and enjoyment so every bunny feels comfortable and welcome. This year's egg hunt will take place indoors throughout the halls of Wistariahurst. Weather permitting, outdoor games and activities will add some egg-stra fun to the event. Each child can gather eggs and exchange them for prizes ranging from candy to fidget toys. Hop to it and register for one of the available time slots. Registration is available for free on Wis-

tariahurst's Eventbrite page.

When interviewed at last year's egg hunt, Museum Director Megan Seiler noted "The city of Holyoke does an amazing job putting on a big egg hunt downtown, but not every kid thrives in that environment... So we wanted to be able to offer a more quiet, more calm space for kids who might have sensory sensitivities." Wistariahurst is egg-cited to bring this event back for after families in Holyoke and beyond enjoyed this event the past two years.

Families can sign up for timed entry to ensure smooth check-in between 2 and 4 p.m. on Saturday, Apr. 4. Families are welcome to enjoy the egg hunt any time

during their timeslots, and each time slot will be limited to 10 families. If you are late for your time slot, don't worry. We still encourage all registrants to attend even if they are running late. Families are also welcome to explore the gardens and enjoy outdoor games, weather permitting, during the event.

Outside of this event, we have open hours on Mondays from 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and Tuesdays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., and our gardens are open every day from dawn until dusk. We also host Sensory Friendly Sunday Funday events monthly. Hop to it and get your tickets for this year's Sensory Friendly Egg Hunt.

Catholic Women's Club holding special meeting

AGAWAM – All Catholic Women's Club of Agawam members are encouraged to attend the club meeting on Monday, Mar. 30, in the Fr.

Joyce Room of the St. John the Evangelist Parish Center at 6 p.m. It is to discuss what direction our club will go in the near future. Bring

your thoughts, ideas and any recommendations you have. Members are encouraged to attend this important meeting.

Community Grange seeking vendors

AGAWAM – Do you have an overabundance of craft supplies and don't know what to do with them? Community Grange #382 located at 47 North West

Street in Feeding Hills is holding a vendor craft supply sale on Saturday, Apr. 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Table rental is \$20 for an 8-foot table with two chairs or

\$15 for a 6-foot table with 2 chairs. Hurry, table space is limited. Please contact Pauline at psosnowich@gmail.com for information.

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Liberty Tree to be dedicated

AGAWAM – Inspired by, and in remembrance of Boston's original Liberty Tree – and those found throughout the colonies in the years leading up to, and during, the war for independence – the Agawam Historical Association will dedicate "Agawam's Liberty Tree" at the historic Thomas Smith House, 251 North West Street, Feeding Hills at 2 p.m., Sunday afternoon, Apr. 19, in hopes of inspiring future generations of patriots to endeavor toward a "more perfect union."

After remarks by historical association president David Cecchi, the national anthem will be sung by Chelsea Casamento, a member of the Agawam High School Chamber Choir. Members of the 25th Continental Regiment will provide a color guard & musket salute. Refreshments and tours of the ca. 1757 Smith House and 1920 Delmore Hawthorne garage will follow.

The tree, an American Elm, was planted on the grounds of the National Register-listed property last November. The Agawam His-

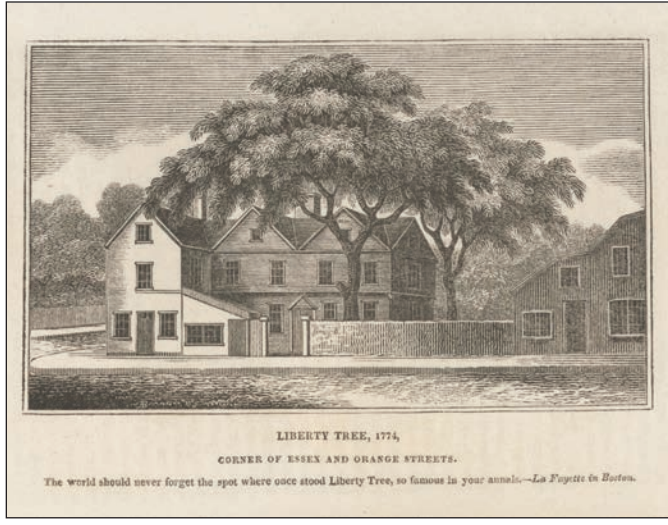


Illustration of The Liberty Tree in Boston. From A History of Boston, the metropolis of Massachusetts, from its origin to the present period, by Caleb H. Snow. Published in Boston by Abel Bowen; printed by Munroe and Francis, 1825. Houghton Library, Harvard University.

torical Association wishes to thank the Cascio Company, a third-generation landscaping and lawn irrigation business located on Meadow Street, Agawam, for generously donating and planting the tree.

This event is free and open to the public. Seating is limited; guests are encouraged to bring a lawn chair.

Information about these, and other Agawam Historical Association events planned for 2026, can be found at agawamhistory.org and the Agawam Historical Association's Instagram and Facebook pages.

The private non-profit, all-volunteer Agawam Historical Association preserves and presents Agawam and

Feeding Hills history and provides educational opportunities at its quarterly meetings. The association archives and displays artifacts pertaining to the Town of Agawam and its Fire Department in the Marilyn P. Curry History Room and Chief Russell "Rusty" Jenks Apparatus Room, both located in the Agawam Historical & Fire House Museum, housed in the former Elm Street Fire Station at 35 Elm Street in Agawam Center. The association owns, and has preserved, the ca. 1757 Thomas Smith House, at 251 North West Street in Feeding Hills, in largely original, unrestored condition; the property was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2005. The association also offers an annual scholarship to an Agawam high school senior pursuing higher education in a history-related field. For more information, please visit agawamhistory.org or follow the Agawam Historical Association on Instagram and Facebook. Volunteers and new members are always welcome.



Agawam's Liberty Tree was generously donated and planted on the grounds of the historic Thomas Smith House in November 2025 by Agawam's Cascio Company; from left are Lucas Blackack and Kyle Pilon. The tree will be dedicated by the Agawam Historical Association at a ceremony on Sunday, Apr. 19.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Free line-cook training classes at HCC begin March 30

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College will be running a new edition of its free, line-cook training program at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute beginning March 30.

The six-week daytime program runs until May 8. 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. There are no classes on April 6, April 27, and May 4.

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

"HCC tries to meet the needs of its students by offering multiple options for start days and times," said Paul Sheehan, assistant

project coordinator for culinary arts programs. "Over the last few years, we have offered our free line cook training as separate day and evening programs to help students find the schedule that works best for them."

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

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

ing 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.

Town rolling out the 'Great American Rain Barrel'

AGAWAM – The Town of Agawam is excited to announce they have partnered with The Great American Rain Barrel Company, offering Rain Barrels for sale to Agawam residents.

A rain barrel collects water from the roof when it rains and stores it for use during dry weather to water house plants or outside plantings. Collecting water in a rain barrel is an excellent way to save some of the runoff and take the pressure off our water supply and stormwater management systems. By using the rainwater on your gardens you are helping to replenish your groundwater and benefit our water supply. Collected rainfall is especially valuable during droughts or dry conditions. It contains more nutrients and less salts than tap water, so it's great for plants.

"Installing rain barrels to downspouts that are draining to driveways, walkways

and other areas that flow directly into our streets and stormdrains can greatly reduce the amount of runoff entering our wetlands, rivers, and streams" said Mayor Christopher Johnson. "This program not only helps keep our waterways clean from contaminants picked up along the way, but helps homeowners reduce their water footprint and usage. It's a win, win for everyone".

According to the US EPA, 30% of daily water use is outdoors. The EPA also states that rain barrels could save the average homeowner 1300 gallons of water annually. A 500 square foot roof can fill a properly installed 50-gallon rain barrel in approximately one hour. One full rain barrel will water a 200-square-foot garden.

The 60-gallon Great American Rain Barrel will be available in four colors; Earth Brown, Forest Green, Nantucket Gray, and Ter-

ra Cotta. Prices will range between \$80 to \$89. Each barrel will contain a spigot, drain plug, debris screen, removable lid, overflow elbow and instructions inside the barrel. Residents are encouraged to read ordering instructions and product information available on website before ordering.

Rain Barrels may be ordered by visiting www.greatamericanrainbarrel.com/community. Residents should choose Agawam under the Community Program section to view product options. Deadline to order is midnight April 5th. Residents should arrange to pick up their orders at the Department of Public Works 1000 Suffield Street on Thursday, Apr. 16 from 3 to 5 p.m.

For additional information please call the Department of Public Works at 413-821-0600 or email recycle@agawam.ma.us.

CWC Scholarship applications available

AGAWAM – Application forms for the Catholic Women's Club of Agawam's scholarship are available. Applicants must be a child or grandchild of a club member and a graduating high

school senior. The forms will be available at the club's monthly meetings in March and April or at the St. John the Evangelist Parish Center office at 833 Main St., Agawam MA, Monday -Thursday,

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Completed forms and all requested information must be returned by Apr. 30 to the email or mailing address on the application. No late applications will be accepted.

Class of 1967 needs help organizing reunion

AGAWAM – Agawam High School Class of 1967 will be holding its 60th reunion sometime in calendar

year 2027. We are seeking our classmates that have not been contacted recently. Please contact John DeVec-

chi with your name, address and phone number(s) to agawam67@aol.com

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Preschool Enrollment **Agawam Early Childhood Center**

Are you an Agawam resident looking for a comprehensive, competitively priced preschool experience for your 3 or 4 year old child? The Agawam Early Childhood Center (ECC) will begin accepting applications for both morning and afternoon sessions for the 2026-2027 school year beginning March 23, 2026.

- The ECC provides all students with a standards-based education that builds the foundation for all future learning with the Agawam Public Schools.
- We meet the needs of children with and without disabilities and follow a developmentally appropriate curriculum where all children learn through play hands-on activities.
- We offer half-day sessions at the ECC Perry Lane 3-year-olds 8:30am-11:10am and 4-year-olds 12:10-2:50 pm.
- Applications are currently available at the Family Resource Center or you can download the application via the Agawam Public Schools website (agawamed.org). Select "Schools" - Early Childhood Center, select "Menu" - select "ECC Enrollment Information."




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contact@partnersrestaurant.com

Opinion

Guest Column



Social Security reduced my monthly payment

Dear Rusty:

My last Social Security payment decreased by about \$400, so I went to my online SS account and found a November 2025 letter explaining that my 2024 tax return showed a greatly enlarged Adjusted Gross Income.

Thus, SSA decided to withdraw monies, as of January 2026, from my bank account because I'd owed far more monies to them. The letter itemized my greatly diminished 2026 SSA monthly payment, explaining should my next tax return show a regular AGI, then SSA would return my SS income to regular amounts and return every prior month's deficits? Said letter also mentioned an optional recourse, that of compiling an "Appeal" to regain my ongoing decreased income. The extra amounts now withdrawn for Medicare Parts A and D alone are outrageously high. I'm a retired senior citizen on a fixed income.

According to SSA, my having sold a piece of land in 2024 allows SSA to decrease my SS income. Has this become a common practice against U.S.A. senior citizens? Thank you in advance for your input.

Signed:
Feeling Wronged

Dear Feeling Wronged:

From what you have shared, it appears that your SS benefit amount has been affected by a provision known as Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount. IRMAA isn't really a Social Security issue, rather it is a Medicare premium thing. But when IRMAA applies, it reduces your net Social Security payment because Medicare premiums are automatically taken from your Social Security benefit, thus making your net SS payment less.

If you look at your gross Social Security payment at your online "my Social Security" account you will see that your gross SS payment did not change, but your Medicare premium did, thus affecting your net SS payment. IRMAA, essentially, makes Medicare a "means tested" program, where those with a higher AGI can pay a higher Medicare Part B (and Part D) premium.

However, IRMAA is usually based on AGI from two years prior to the current year because your current AGI information isn't available from the IRS when Medicare premiums are determined in October of each

year. FYI, you may have received a notice in the mail in early December telling you what your 2026 Social Security and Medicare amounts would be.

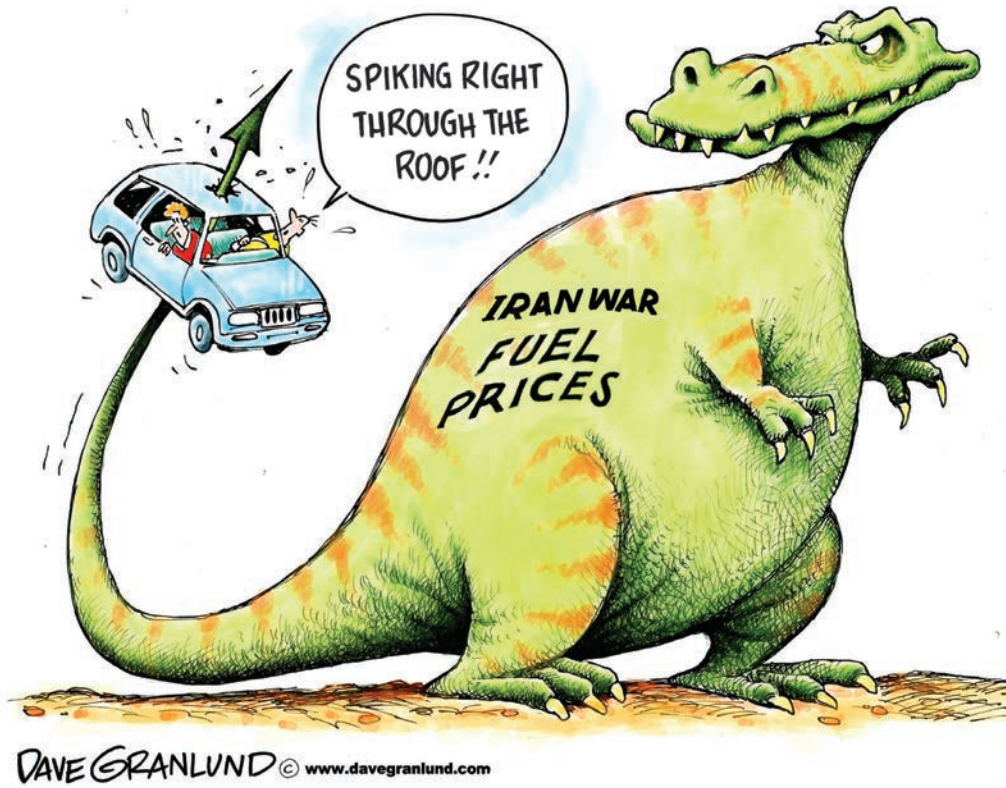
In a nutshell, the land you sold in 2024 apparently increased your AGI to exceed the base IRMAA thresholds, which are \$109,000 if you file your taxes as a single or \$218,000 if you file your income tax as "married/jointly." And the IRMAA supplements are "progressive" (higher if your AGI is more), so if your Medicare premiums went up by about \$400 about twice the 2026 standard premium, it's likely that your 2024 AGI was over \$137,000 if you filed as a single or over \$274,000 if you filed as "married/jointly." FYI, you can see the 2026 IRMAA brackets/premium amounts at this link: www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare/medicare-premiums.html

A couple of additional points:
Your Medicare premiums will, indeed, revert to the standard amounts for 2027, if your 2025 AGI amount is under the IRMAA threshold for your tax filing status.

There is no premium for Medicare Part A, which is coverage for inpatient hospitalization care, because you are receiving Social Security benefits. However, there is a premium for Part B of Medicare (which is coverage for outpatient medical services) and you must also separately pay a premium for Part D, which is coverage for prescription drugs offered by private insurers. And these IRMAA supplements apply even if you have a Medicare Advantage plan from a private insurer.

Unfortunately, your only "recourse" is, as SSA suggested, to appeal the IRMAA supplement, but that is usually successful only if you can prove you had a "life changing event," which caused (or will cause) your AGI to be less than that used to determine your IRMAA surcharge. Your best option at this point will likely be to appeal using a "Request for Reconsideration" (Form SSA-561) asking that your 2026 Medicare premium be based on a recent year's (e.g., 2025) lower income.

Finally, IRMAA isn't really a new thing - it was enacted in 2003, effective in 2007. But it does have a profound effect on many seniors, as I explained in this article I recently published on the topic: <https://amacfoundation.org/irmaa-a-medicare-surprise/>.



Plants to celebrate Easter and then some

It's hard to believe that in just a little over a week we will be celebrating the Easter holiday!

I am sure that many readers will be either receiving the Easter lily as a gift or purchasing one for someone else. Its pure white, intensely fragrant blooms are emblems of new life and hope for the future - I can think of no better symbol of the holiest day on the Christian calendar than this one.

If you find yourself in the market for an Easter lily this week, select one that is deep green and has more buds than open flowers. It should be proportionate in height and not top heavy.

If outdoor temperatures remain chilly, be sure to cover the plant well upon exiting the store, and don't leave it in the car while you do other er-

ands!
the pot to drain in the sink for a few minutes after each watering.

Once home, the Easter lily prefers temperatures around 65 degrees and bright but indirect light. Water thoroughly, but allow the soil to dry out in between waterings.

Be careful for the decorative foil or plastic wrapper - sometimes water will pool in the bottom, keeping the soil too moist. If you like how the wrapper looks, poke some holes at the base and place the pot on a shallow saucer to catch any water that drips out. Dump the saucer as needed. You can also remove the wrapper and allow

To prolong the life of your plant, be sure to remove the anthers before the pollen ripens. This will also prevent the pollen from staining the pure white flowers and your nose!

As flowers start to wither, cut them off - this will keep it looking its best and redirect energy back to the bulb.

Once the soil warms, the Easter lily can be planted outside in full sun and well-drained soil. Sink the bulb with foliage and stem attached, to a depth of three inches and water well.

After the original foliage dies, cut it back to the soil surface. New growth will soon emerge. Lilies benefit from a layer of mulch to keep their roots cool. Although



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An Oakham resident saw a yellow-bellied sapsucker also known as yellow-bellied woodpecker at her suet feeder earlier this month.

They have a long pointed bill and the typical black and white feather pattern of the downy and hairy woodpeckers. Sapsuckers are larger than downy woodpeckers and smaller than hairy woodpeckers. The yellow feathers are muted and not that visible as the resident noted. They also have vertical, white wing patches. Both adult males and females have a red forehead. However the male has a red throat and the female, a white throat. Their young have brownish coloration, but they do have the white wing patches

As the name sapsucker implies, these woodpecker drill holes, row after row, to get at the sap found in many native species of trees such as aspen, birch (paper and yellow), elm, eastern hemlock, sugar maple, etc. in springtime. Other birds such as ruby-throated hummingbirds, bats and insects also



drink from these "sap taps."
People who burn wood most likely have seen the neat rows of holes drilled by the sapsucker in some of the wood from their pile.

The drumming of the yellow-bellied sapsucker is very distinctive, consisting of a roll with clearly separated taps at the end and sometimes at the beginning "tap-tap trrrrrrrrrr ta-ta-tat-tat." Both sexes drum. Ritual tapping at the lower rim of the nest hole is a rather common acoustic signal.

The yellow-bellied is the only sapsucker seen in the eastern half of the U.S. and

across the northern forests. These sapsuckers are migratory, which is a fairly rare trait for woodpeckers. They live in a variety of habitats from low-lying floodplains to mountainous forests at 10,000 feet. Their breeding range extends from Alaska to Newfoundland and south along the Appalachians. They winter across the East from New Jersey west to Texas and all the way south to Panama.

A common breeding display involves males pointing their bills skyward as they showcase their red throat

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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 newspa-

per 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.

Gloria McLellan Scholarship applications now available

AGAWAM – The Agawam Community Artists and Artisans (ACAA) have kicked off their annual scholarship fundraising program, designed to be awarded to high school and college students from Western Massachusetts who are pursuing further education in Visual Arts.

Deadline to apply for the Gloria McLellan Memorial Scholarship is May 1. Students can apply at www.agawamarts.com.

Anthony Nguyen of Springfield, Sarah McDonald of Longmeadow, and Charles Santiago of Chicopee were each awarded \$1200 scholarships last year.

The scholarship is named after Gloria McLellan, a local artist and one of the founding members of ACAA.

Funds for the scholarship are raised through the ACAA's New England Mo-

saic Project, which has just launched in local Western Mass libraries. Through the libraries, anyone can pick up a blank canvas, apply art to it, and return it by May 15. The canvases become part of a 24-foot Mosaic display. The canvases are sold at two events in August with net proceeds going directly to the scholarship.

Scholarships will be awarded in June for the 2026 fall semester.

Rotary Club accepting scholarship applications

Rotary Club now accepting scholarship applications

AGAWAM – The Agawam Rotary Club is now accepting applications for four 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.

With the exception of the Ray and Reita McCarroll Memorial scholarship which is awarded to graduating seniors from both Agawam and West Springfield, the awards are limited to resi-

dents of Agawam.

A full description and application for each of these scholarships can be found at the Agawam Rotary Club's webpage at agawamrotary.org. Click on "Scholarships" at the top of the home page. Please note that applications must be received by Apr. 1.

BACKYARD ■ from page 4

patch for an interested female. Though both sexes are involved with excavating nesting cavities; males do most of the work. Occasionally, sapsuckers visit bird feeders for suet.

Bald eagle and turkey vultures

Early this month, a Worthington resident sent an email. He said he had a "lucky and thrilling sighting of an eagle, white tail obvious, circling on high with three turkey vultures and he called it "intra species cooperation" or more likely, the eagle using the vulture's ability to find carrion.

I saw three turkey vultures along Route 122 in Barre near Vernon Avenue on March 16. I saw two turkey vultures in Oakham on St. Patrick's Day. Their return is a sign of spring.

Robins

Huge flock of robins. Last week, I saw a huge flock of robins, probably close to 100 birds fly over head along Route 32 in Gilbertville. Robins overwinter in this area, but large flocks are the returning robins that migrate.

Canada geese

The Canada geese are also returning. I saw quite a few geese in a cornfield in Spencer last week. I also saw about a dozen or saw fly overhead.

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.

Turkey vultures

On Feb. 11, the Brimfield resident saw a turkey vulture in the center of Palmer near the intersection of Routes 20 and 32. This week, his wife saw 25 turkey vultures flying above that area. They often see vultures soaring over that area and the first of the year shows up in mid-February. He said, "I believe the vultures nest in the area, possibly on or near Mount Dumplin that is just north of the turnpike ramps."

Other birds and more

The Brimfield residents still has lots of junco about as well as a healthy the gray squirrel population. Recently they saw two and sometimes three red squirrels. He is enjoying the longer days and looking forward to

warmer temperatures.

Red-tailed hawk

A Rutland couple saw a red-tailed hawk quickly grab a gray squirrel her husband shot. They watched it hungrily consume a "warm meal" in the yard. They moved their feeder nearer to the house due to the deep snow. They have lots of black-capped chickadees and woodpeckers come to the new location

Bluebirds

An Oakham resident sees bluebirds on a daily basis. She enjoys watching them.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005. The Palmer office has a new phone system and I will be getting an extension where messages may be left. I will publish the number as soon as it is set up.

GARDEN ■ from page 4

they are quite hardy, do provide some winter protection in the form of straw, evergreen boughs or the like.

With any luck you will be delighted with big, beautiful white flowers next summer. Although lilies bloom in spring under the controlled conditions of the greenhouse, they bloom naturally during the summer months.

Another good and widely available option for Easter gift giving is a pot of spring bulbs.

With tulips, daffodils and hyacinths to choose from, there will no doubt be a fragrance and flower color that appeals to you. Be sure to choose them in bud, rather than full flower because warm household temperatures will cause them to burst into bloom in no time.

To maximize indoor bloom time, enjoy in your living space during the day, but move to a basement, spare room or garage each night where temperatures are cooler, but not freezing!

The great thing about forced bulbs is that they can be enjoyed in the house this Easter and next year in the garden.

Daffodils and hyacinth are the most dependable repeat bloomers. Tulips (depending on the type) may bloom great the following season but then take a few years off-time to recharge before blooming again.

If you wish to plant your bulbs outside, remove spent flowers as they wither and allow the foliage to brown. At this point stop watering and let the bulbs dry out. They can be planted outdoors in spring, or saved until the fall for planting as you normally would.

Sometimes I get the job done in spring, although it does feel odd to be doing it then, simply so I won't forget to plant them in the fall!

Primroses are plentiful at florist shops and nurseries this time of year as well, and they too make great Easter gifts. Even though they are usually sold in small pots, it's hard to miss their brightly colored flowers poking up through basal foliage.

They come in almost every color of the rainbow.

Many types of primrose make great garden plants; check the label to make sure the one you purchase is hardy before planting it outdoors. I have had a clump of primroses blooming for years now that started out as a potted plant.

An inexpensive but cute gift idea is to insert a pot of primroses into a basket and fill in around it with Easter "grass," this way it can be enjoyed as a centerpiece before it makes its way to the garden.

These days I prefer green paper "grass" purchased at the craft store, or make your own by use of a shredder. It is less problematic for pets.

As you plan for Easter, make these plants part of your celebration, and enjoy them in the garden thereafter!

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

leaf, with its crinkled pale green leaves.

Over the years I have found that there are just a few obstacles to growing great basil. Seeds should be planted indoors – rarely will they do well from an outdoor sowing.

Start basil about the same time that tomatoes are sown, in mid to late March. Make shallow furrows and space the seed one-eighth of an inch apart in rows within a small pot or seed pack. When true leaves form pluck out the tiny seedling and transplant it into a cell of a four or six pack, or an individual tiny pot.

Grow on indoors until the weather improves. Basil is particularly cold sensitive, so be sure that all danger of frost has passed before transplanting it into the garden.

Downy mildew disease was discovered to be prevalent some years back. While I don't take any particular precautions, and my basil shows little sign of the familiar leaf blotching, Richters does offer seeds of resistant varieties for you to try if this disease has

been troublesome in your garden.

Basil foliage has also been known to burn if planted outdoors without a period of hardening off. For this reason, gradually get seedlings used to bright sun and wind over the course of a week before planting in the ground.

Provide your transplants with fertile, well-drained soil in a sunny spot. If, over the course of the summer you notice that the leaves are no longer grass-green, but instead are pale or even turning brown, your plants may have a nitrogen deficiency.

I usually have had to "top dress" my basil twice after planting, each time with a sprinkling of balanced organic fertilizer and some aged compost. Usually they green up in a matter of days.

Basil has the insatiable desire to flower. We must "deadhead" or the plant will fulfill its earthly desire to reproduce by making and dropping seed, all at the expense of foliage production.

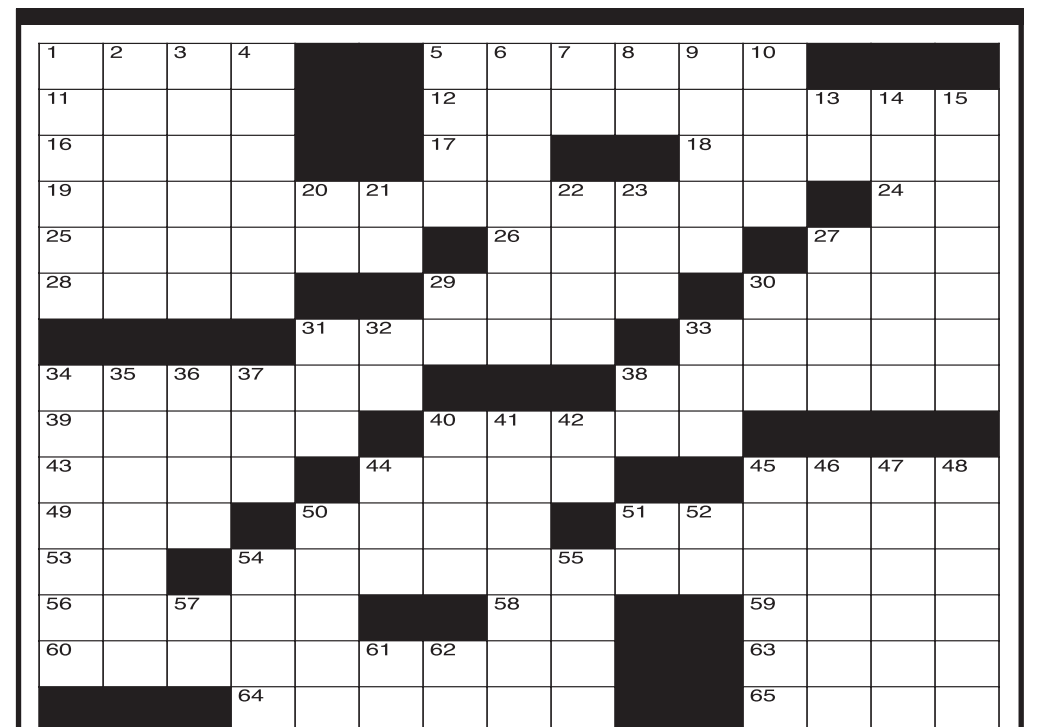
Since we grow this plant for its leaves and not its seed, or its flowers for that matter, clip away the buds at the first sign of them. Another challenge to basil growing has been the Japanese beetle.

Basil leaves riddled with chew marks should best be removed. Japanese beetles are relatively easy to hand pick in the morning and at night.

A gentle tap on a leaf will easily knock beetles into a wide mouth jar of soapy water positioned underneath. Ideally, basil leaves should be harvested after the dew has dried in the morning but before the sun shines too brightly; at that particular time its oils are the most pungent.

Enjoy the new catalog recommendation and be sure to get those basil seeds started by the end of the month.

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



- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| CLUES ACROSS | 34. Have an impact on | CLUES DOWN | 33. Partner to cheese |
| 1. "Bird of Paradise" constellation | 38. Violent disorder | 1. Some are "secret" | 34. Snack nuts |
| 5. Red Sox WS winner Bronson | 39. A French river | 2. Intestinal openings | 35. Quadruped's body part |
| 11. Whirl | 40. Early Mesoamerican civilization | 3. Distant planet | 36. Locate |
| 12. The State Dept. has a notable one | 43. Messenger ribonucleic acid | 4. Assembly possessing high legislative powers | 37. Pitching statistic |
| 16. Energy, style and enthusiasm | 44. Musician Clapton | 5. Genus of typical owls | 38. "_, myself and I" |
| 17. Part of the mind | 45. Ancient Greek sophist | 6. One with distinctively colored hair | 40. Utah city northwest of Provo |
| 18. Mountainous country | 49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.) | 7. Red cross | 41. Football players in the trenches |
| 19. Type of beverage | 50. Valley | 8. An alternative | 42. One who runs the show |
| 24. Atomic #109 | 51. A way to unwind | 9. Abominable snowmen | 44. Wood |
| 25. Opposite of falsities | 53. Atomic #93 | 10. About ear | 45. Performing artists |
| 26. Female sheep | 54. Recommending | 13. The opening letters | 46. Slang for a cut |
| 27. Rocky peak | 56. Indigo bush | 14. Feeling of regret | 47. More breathable |
| 28. Sensitive information sharing environment | 58. Larry and Curly's pal | 15. Atomic #39 | 48. Most crafty |
| 29. Ethnic group of Thailand | 59. Off-Broadway theater award | 20. Luteinizing hormone | 50. Provokes into action |
| 30. Patron saint of Rome Philip | 60. Fencers | 21. Atomic #55 | 51. University of Dayton |
| 31. Psychedelics | 63. Small Eurasian deer (pl.) | 22. Carries a debt | 52. Sodium |
| 33. Japanese pine | 64. Relating to songbirds | 23. Albanian monetary unit | 54. Large fish of the mackerel family |
| | 65. A way to assign | 27. Semitic abjad letter | 55. Not one |
| | | 29. Yes | 57. _ and behold |
| | | 30. Negative | 61. Sports highlight show |
| | | 31. Earn a perfect score | 62. "The Great Lakes State" |
| | | 32. Connecticut | |

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Senior Center announces new upcoming activities

AGAWAM – Here are some upcoming activities happening at the Agawam Senior Center. Some require registration or confirmation. Information in the details below:

Stroke Support Group
Thursday, March 26 at 10 a.m. in the Conference Room
"Hello everyone my name is Carol Swenor and I had a stroke 42 years ago, I am here today I believe in the power of credit and sheer experience. Living with the effects of a stroke can be challenging, but none of us have to face it alone. This group is a place to support one another, learn from each other and remind ourselves that we are more than our stroke. I volunteered at Mercy Hospital for over 15 years, while I ran a support group for stroke victims it was very successful. I hope you will join me as we can discuss ways to help one another. Call Kristina at 726-2836 to register.

Jewelry Making with Sandy
Monday, Mar. 30 at 9:30 a.m. in the Garden Room

Join Sandy as she helps craft some of the most beautiful bracelets, earrings and

necklaces. Cost is \$3 for the class plus supplies. Please call Kristina at 413-726-2836 to sign up.

The Power of Food & Nutrition
Tuesday, Mar. 31 at 1 p.m. in the Garden Room

Free Presentation by Big Y's Consulting Dietitian, Kathy Jordan, MS, RDN, CPT
Join me as we discuss how to use food and nutrition to increase energy and vitality, prevent illness, and live healthier, longer lives. Learn about food choices and nutrition as fuel and support for your body & brain. Realize the role of diet in reducing risks for heart disease, diabetes, cancer, and dementia through diet. Discover how healthy food choices and lifestyle habits improve daily function, mood, and long-term well-being. Call Kristina at 726-2836 to register.

German Language and Culture Experience
Monday, Apr. 6 at 10 a.m. in the Garden Room.

Have you been interested in learning a NEW language and about a new culture? Now you have the opportunity to do so. We are looking

for 5 or 6 participants who want to learn to speak German and learn more about its culture, community and population. Call Kristina at 726-2836 to register. Starting Monday, Apr. 6 at 10 a.m. in the Garden Room.

Medicare Savings Program Information
Tuesday, Apr. 7 at 1 p.m. in the Dining Room

Is your monthly income at or below \$2935 (Individual) or \$3966 (Combined Income for a Couple)? If so, you likely qualify for assistance paying your Medicare Part B premium of \$202.90 monthly. Erica Beaudry, Independent Insurance Agent, will present information about this valuable program and will be available to help members complete this very short application. Be sure to bring your Medicare Card.

Yoga
Tuesday, Apr. 7 at 6:15 p.m.

You asked...we listened Starting Tuesday, Apr. 7 at 6:15 p.m. we will begin offering Evening Yoga with Heidi. Heidi currently teaches our Thursday afternoon chair yoga class. This new Tuesday evening class will be a tradi-

tional floor yoga class. The cost of the class will be \$3. We hope you will join us. All ages welcome.

Maincures with Jane
Monday, Apr. 13 in Seminar Hall

Jane is a licensed nail specialist, who will give your fingernails that extra special attention and love they deserve. She is offering simple manicures that include clipping, filing, soak, massage of the hands and your choice of color. These appointments are 15 minutes each. The cost is \$15 per person. Call Kristina at 413.726.2836 to book.

Timeless Beauty: Makeup for Mature Women with Joby Rogers

Tuesday, Apr. 14 at 1 p.m. in the Dining Room

Join us for a transformative, beauty experience designed for Mature women of every age. The M4MW Forum is an exclusive Beauty Experience that appreciates You. A sanctuary designed for the woman who seeks to elevate her natural elegance. Join us for an immersive journey into the secrets of professional Makeup Artistry tailored

specifically for your face and skin's unique features. Get the "Inside Info" on the latest products, techniques, and MakeUp kit "Must-Haves" that actually work. Participate in hands-on demonstrations that demystify the makeup experience through a transformative, versatile and simple makeup routine that enhances your natural features. You will leave with more than just techniques. You'll walk out that door with the confidence of a Woman who knows she is 'Timeless' and prepared to look stunning for every one of life's occasions.

Topics of exploration include...

- Keeping Your Makeup & Brushes Clean & Sanitary
- Using The Right Tool For The Right Application
- Explore Application Techniques
- Choosing The Right Concealer & Foundation For Your Skin Tone
- Interpreting Skin Tones & Color
- Contouring, Highlighting, Blushing
- Eye Shadow Color Rules & Application Advice

• Shaping & Correcting Brows
• Lip Color Rules and Advice on Reshaping Lips
• Questions and Evaluation of Your Personal Make-Up Collection
• If applicable, A selection of Product Purchase opportunities will be available.

Free Raffle Giveaway. Space is limited.

• Pen and paper are recommended.

• Participants are encouraged, but not required, to bring their personal makeup and Brushes for a professional evaluation.

• Participants are encouraged, but not required to attend without make up on.

You must call Kristina to register, cost is \$20 per person limited to 20 people

Zumba Gold Time
Fridays, 2 p.m.

Are you ready to feel the beat of the music and have fun exercising at the same time? Zumba Gold is for you.

Join us on Tuesday evenings at our new time of 5 p.m. or Friday afternoons at 2 p.m. for only \$3. Bring a friend and have a blast as you burn calories.

Annual CROP Walk set for Apr. 26

AGAWAM – The Agawam/West Springfield CROP Hunger Walk will take place on Apr. 26 to help neighbors facing hunger around the block and around the world. With recent cuts to federal nutrition, healthcare, and humanitarian aid programs, organizers say this year's Walk is more urgent than ever. A portion of funds will support the Parish Cupboard, which serves people from Agawam, Feeding Hills and West Springfield. The balance of money raised will support CWS (Church World Service) programs worldwide.

Across the United States, reductions to key safety net programs - including SNAP (food stamps), Medicaid, and the Child Tax Credit - are pushing more families to seek help from community food

programs. At the same time, the withdrawal of U.S. foreign assistance has shuttered life-saving services abroad, leaving organizations like CWS to keep vital food, health, and shelter programs running in refugee and crisis-affected communities.

Here in West Springfield, Agawam and Feeding Hills, the annual CROP Hunger Walk helps to stock the Parish Cupboard with emergency groceries and supports the lunch program. Globally, donations sustain emergency food assistance, healthcare access in refugee settings, climate-smart agriculture, and long-term solutions that strengthen food security.

Faith communities, school and civic groups, and local businesses can all participate in the Apr. 26 event. To register or donate, visit <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/event/agawam-ma>. Groups can also form a walk team online. Promotional resource packets will be available at the Mar. 7 Parish Association meeting at Grace Lutheran Church, 1552 Westfield Street in West Springfield from 9 to 10 a.m. Materials are also available by contacting Diana Forfa at First Congregational Church in West Springfield. For more information, please email drforfa@hotmail.com or call 413-739-6608.

Those who can't walk can donate or sponsor a walker - every step and dollar helps! The local event raised over \$11,000 in 2025. Organizers hope to surpass that total this year to meet the growing need.

Historical Association names scholarship for Curry

AGAWAM – The Agawam Historical Association is proud to offer one (1) \$1,000 scholarship to an eligible graduating senior of Agawam High School in memory of Marilyn P. Curry. Curry moved to Agawam in 1964 and lived there until her death in 2021. She was deeply committed to the preservation of history in her adopted hometown, as the longtime chair of the Agawam Historical Commission, a trustee of the Captain Charles Leonard House, twenty-term president of the Agawam Historical Association, and town historian. The Marilyn P. Curry History Room in the Agawam Historical & Fire House Museum was dedicated in her honor in 2025.

Applicants must be a graduating senior of Agawam High School and intend to continue their education enrolling at an undergraduate level college/university or technical/trade school in the fall of 2026. Applicants must follow all application requirements to be considered. All application material must be received no later than April 10, 2026. In addition to the monetary award, the scholarship recipient will also receive a four-year family membership to the Agawam Historical Association.

The Agawam Historical Association, a private, non-profit organization created in 1962, preserves and promotes the rich history of

Agawam and Feeding Hills through informational programs at its quarterly meetings, educational events at the historic Thomas Smith House, and its collection of artifacts and records at the Agawam Historical & Fire House Museum.

Scholarship applications may be obtained through the Agawam High School Guidance Office, or by visiting the Agawam Historical Association website: <https://www.agawamhistory.org/scholarship>.

For more information, please contact Agawam Historical Association Scholarship Committee chair Alan Rogers at 413-789-6017, 413-207-1575, or alan@urbureau.com.

Community shredding day set for Apr. 11

AGAWAM – The Town of Agawam has announced that it will host a free document shredding event for residents on Saturday, Apr. 11 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the DPW Annex, 1000 Suffield Street. Weather permitting. Event will be cancelled if raining.

Valley Green Shredding will provide an on-site mobile

shred unit to securely and confidentially shred residential documents for free. In an effort to service as many Agawam residents as possible, residents are asked to limit their confidential documents to two standard size boxes or two recycling bins per vehicle. All three-ring binders and binder clips should be re-

moved. Paper clips, staples, spiral bound notebooks are all acceptable. Participants are asked to place all materials in the trunk, bed trunk, or cargo area of the vehicle and to please stay in the vehicle upon arrival.

For additional information please contact the Department of Public Works at 821-0624.

Garden Club scholarship applications now available

AGAWAM – Applications are now available for the Agawam Garden Club 2026 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 resources, 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 clubs annual May meeting. Completed applications along with transcripts and references must be submitted to Denise Carmody, 40 Primrose Lane, Agawam MA 01001 by Apr. 1. Applications are available through Agawam High School or can be found on our website at agawamgardenclub.com.

Junior Women's Club scholarships

AGAWAM – The GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Clubs offers scholarships to graduating AHS and home school students who live in Agawam/Feeding Hills.

Please consider applying through our website ~ easy to do with all electronic applications. Download the

application form, save and rename, and submit it.

We offer two separate applications ~ one general and one for field of education.

The April 1 deadline will be strictly adhered to. For more information, go to <https://www.agawamgfwc.com/scholarships>

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Brownie pride on display at parade



The Agawam Fire Department was well-represented.

HOLYOKE – It was not ideal conditions, but that did not stop the Agawam contingent from participating in the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade. Agawam has regularly been a part of the festivities. This year, town officials, city officials, the Colleen and her court, and award winners were all marching in Holyoke. Also back this year was the Agawam High School marching band.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY KARA WALSH-VEY

Right, 2026 Parade Marshal, former Mayor William Sapelli leads the way.



Agawam and Irish pride among the Agawam cheerleaders.



Above, Citizenship Award winner Lisa Bruno-Santaniello waves to the crowd. Left, some of the instruments had to be "weather-proofed" for this year's parade.



Above, Agawam's twirlers were bundled up in the rainy weather. Right, City Councilor Peter McNair followed by School Committee members Wendy Rua and Shelley Borgatti-Reed.



Mayor Christopher Johnson, followed by City Council President Anthony Russo and City Councilor Ed Borgatti.



SPORTS

Perfect day for a road race: Holyoke runs 49th holiday 10K

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – A warm and hot day is not ideal for running long distances, but give a harrier a 40-50-degree day, and it's the perfect environment make great time.

Louis Serafini, of Cambridge, experienced that as he completed a sub-30-minute 10K in the 49th running of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Road Race last Saturday afternoon. Serafini completed the hilly course throughout downtown Holyoke in 29:45. He had a great pace going, averaging 4:47 a mile with thousands of people cheering him on as he completed the course 50 seconds ahead of the runner-up.

Yankarlos Diaz was the second-place finisher. He comes from Manchester, CT. He completed the 6.3-mile course in just 30:35.

This year's top female finisher was Rachel Schilkowsky. She comes from Providence, RI and placed 12th overall. She completed the course at 34:03, winning the race for the very first time.

Among local finisher, Monson's Matt Provost came in at 34:15. He had a pace of about 5:30 per mile.



According to the results provided by Presidential Timing, which took over the timing of the race last year, nearly 4,900 runners, male, female, and many children and teenagers, completed the 10K race.

In addition to the ideal temperature for running, the day was sun-splashed and beautiful, making for a great setting for the running of the race, which had more than

6,200 runners signed up.

The race included multiple waves of competitors, and also included a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem by a member of the Holyoke Grand Colleen Court, Bridie Bowler.

Crews in the city did an excellent job preparing for the race, getting the course prepared despite a lot of snowfall during the past couple of months.

While there were plenty of local runners, race results showed individual participate from all over New England, New York, and New Jersey. There were even some international runners.

Last Saturday's even included a fun run for children and a walk as well that have been traditions in recent years. Prior to the race, there were musical performances and other entertainment downtown.



Above, the runners are off in the 49th running of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Road Race. Left, Colleen Bridie Bowler sings the National Anthem.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Louis Serafini, of Cambridge, won the 10K race at 29:45.



Rachel Schilkowsky, of Providence, RI, was the top female finisher at 34:15.



Brett Abbott heads for the finish line.



Bradley Montanez completes the course.



Aidan Monaghan is nearing the finish.



Carter Woodrum, of Agawam, hustles toward the end.



Isabella Laprise represents Brownies at All-Star game



SPRINGFIELD – Last Friday night, the Girls Senior All-Star Game took place at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. Agawam was represented in the matchup by Isabella Laprise. Laprise had an excellent regular season for Agawam High School, and led the team to an appearance in the Western Massachusetts Class A Tournament.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Top photo, Agawam's senior representative drives into the paint. Left, Isabella Laprise heads for the hoop. Right, Agawam's senior representative drives into the paint.



Railers hold off Thunder in victory, snapping three-game losing streak

WORCESTER – Days like this have been rarer than eclipses of the sun for the Railers this season.

They snapped a three-game losing streak in front of a large, raucous crowd at the DCU Center Sunday with a 4-3 victory over the Adirondack Thunder. The good news does not end there. The two teams directly ahead of them in the fight for fourth place in the North Division, Reading and Trois-Rivieres, both lost.

So, everything that could have gone right for Worcester did and that has not happened very often this winter, espe-

cially in recent weeks.

Beyond that, the 6,030 fans saw one of the best games of the season, with the outcome in doubt until the final seconds.

The triumph allowed the Railers to close to within eight points of fourth place Reading and within one point of the fifth-place Trois-Rivieres Lions.

Worcester fell behind early, 2-1, then scored the game's next three goals to build a 4-2 lead. The Thunder closed to within a goal with 8:44 to go and the final minutes were bedlam with four penalties

totaling 11 minutes and four power plays being called.

Anthony Callin, Ryan Miotto, Anthony Repaci and Riley Piercy had the Worcester goals. Thomas Gale picked up the win in net with a 26-save afternoon. Jeremy Brodeur was the losing goaltender.

It may, or may not, be a coincidence that events began to turn in the Railers' direction when Railers forward Max Dorrington fought Adirondack defenseman Jackson van de Neest in front of the Thunder net at 14:48 of the first period.

It was a real heavyweight

fight, one of the season's best.

The two fighters were a combined 12 feet, 10 inches tall. Together they weighed 450 pounds with Dorrington giving up a little in both height and weight. He did not give up anything in terms of the battle, however, and wound up on the positive side of the scorecard.

"I thought our physicality was right," coach Nick Tuzzolino said. "We didn't get down like we had in a lot of the other games, go on our own page once we start to lose the lead...I think tonight they just stuck with it no matter what happened.

"It was a physical start and I think that Max getting into that fight kind of settled stuff down."

Brandon McManus gave the visitors a 1-0 lead a mere 2:47 after the opening faceoff but Callin responded at 3:41 from in close. Dylan Wendt got the lead back for Adirondack at 14:21 and it was 2-1 going into the second period.

Miotto tied it at the 2:21 mark of the second period as he and Lincoln Hatten worked a textbook 2 on 1. Repaci got the Railers a 3-2 lead with just 16 seconds left in the period; he was credited with the goal

when the puck went in off an Adirondack defenseman who was just outside the crease.

Piercy scored on a neat deflection at 3:52 of the third period. It turned out to be the winner as Patrick Grasso scored on a high deflection at 11:16.

Repaci was 1-1-2 and plus-2 to lead the Railers offense. Cam McDonald was plus-2, also. The teams combined for 12 power plays with Adirondack having eight of those. While he was pointless, Cole Donhauser had a terrific game killing those Thunder penalties.

Shorthanded goals lead to win for T-Birds

BELLEVILLE, ON - The Springfield Thunderbirds (25-28-6-2) rode a fantastic night from their shorthanded unit to a 5-3 win over the Belleville Senators (24-30-8-1) on Saturday night at CAA Arena.

The Thunderbirds' penalty-killing unit had a first period for the ages. As if going 3-for-3 was not impressive enough, Springfield added not one, but two shorthanded tallies in the opening 5:31 of the contest. Chris Wagner set up Alek Kaskimaki for the first one, just 1:48 into the festivities, sliding a 2-on-1 pass to the crashing winger in the low slot before Kaskimaki deked to his backhand to beat Mads Sogaard.

On Springfield's second

kill of the period, Dylan Peterson picked off a loose puck at his whole blue line and finished off a shorthanded breakaway with a forehand snapper through Sogaard at 5:31, making it a 2-0 score.

Tyler Boucher would bring Belleville back to within one when he banked a centering pass off a T-Bird and past Will Cranley at 7:48 of the first, cutting the score to 2-1.

However, Springfield used offensive zone time from a man advantage to strike back at 16:24 as Zach Dean feathered a smooth saucer pass to Juraj Pekarcik for the T-Birds' third goal of the period and first even-strength marker of the night.

With the teams skating

4-on-4 early in the second, Sam Bolduc netted his first goal as a Senator as he wristed a shot through a screened Cranley to make it a 3-2 game just 55 seconds into the middle stanza.

However, the one-goal score would last only another 55 seconds before Peterson cashed in for his second of the evening, tapping a loose puck past Sogaard in the blue paint following a pass from Pekarcik.

With the 4-2 advantage, Springfield added still more insurance at 5:42 when Chris Wagner stole a breakout pass in the neutral zone and tapped the puck forward for Dillon Dube, who slipped a forehand through Sogaard's five-hole for Spring-

field's fifth goal on just 13 shots.

Sogaard's night came to an unceremonious end, as he gave way to Leevi Merilainen, who promptly picked up where he left off from a 40-save shutout in Springfield on Jan. 24, stopping the final eight T-Birds shots of the period to keep the score at 5-2 heading into the third.

Belleville far outshot Springfield in the third, but the T-Birds kept the Sens from high-danger chances, relenting only a late power-play goal by Carter Yakemchuk at 17:45 of the final period. Cranley picked up his third win of the season in his home province, stopping 23 in the win, including 14 in the final period alone.

Bruins and MIAA announce 2026 Sportsmanship Awards

BOSTON – The Boston Bruins and the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association announced today, March 19, the recipients of the 2026 Boston Bruins-MIAA Sportsmanship Awards.

Each year, the Boston Bruins and MIAA partner to honor student athletes from boys and girls high school ice hockey leagues across the state for exem-

plifying a commitment to sportsmanship, teamwork and dedication both on and off the ice. Award winners will be honored during the second intermission of last Thursday's game against the Winnipeg Jets. Among the awardees were Anthony Barbarini from Agawam High School, who was selected representing the Fay/Wright Division.

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections, but

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

Sports

More players wanted for new team in Pioneer Valley League

SOUTH HADLEY – The Pioneer Valley Baseball League, an adult baseball league for players who are age 18 and over, is now fully open for registration for the 2026 season.

New players are especially wanted for the new sixth team. There are several spots open for that sixth team, so players interested in joining the league should get signed

up as soon as possible to claim a spot.

The adult league will be administered by the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, and a registration link is on the home page of the league's website www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. Thought it will be under the Quabbin umbrella, there will be no major changes in how the league is operated.

This year, the PVBL will have a 22-game regular season schedule followed by a double-elimination playoffs. The league, which had five teams last year and had to utilize multiple byes throughout the season, will be fielding a sixth team this season.

The league is a wood-bat only league utilizing playing under regular baseball

rules though all players do bat. The league operates on a Saturday-Tuesday schedule. Games are played on Saturday mornings with 10 a.m. starts typical and on Tuesday evenings with start times in the 5:30 to 6 p.m. range. The league will start play in late April and run through the end of August. There are slots open for both full-time players and part-time players. The

fee for full-time players will be \$260 with part-time players getting up to 11 games for \$130. Fees paid go toward the operation of the league, paying for insurance, umpires, fields, and baseballs. No one profits in any way.

In addition to the new sixth team, there are limited open roster spots on the other teams in the league, so get your registration in as soon

as possible to participate in this season.

Games are played at ballfields throughout the region from as far south as Southwick's Whalley Field, through South Hadley's Beachgrounds and up north at Frontier Regional High School in South Deerfield.

For any questions, please go to the league website for more information.

Registration continues for new players in QVBL

SOUTH HADLEY – Registration for new players in the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, an over-28 recreational league, continues. The league is now headed for its open practices for new players and the new-player draft for players looking to join the league.

There will be open practices for all players but specifically targeted at new players scheduled for Mar. 29 and Apr. 4 at times and locations to be announced. The draft is currently scheduled to take place on Apr. 4 following that practice. Any players who sign up will be contacted directly for the time and location of the open practice.

For the 2026 season, the

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

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

Those elements will return along with a 16th game with an opponent to be determine as the league's board explores possibilities for interleague matchups with another league in the region.

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

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

The registration is live at www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. 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.

ACAA New England Mosaic project underway

AGAWAM – The Agawam Community Artists and Artisans' 2026 New England Mosaic project is officially off and running.

This year's Mosaic theme is "New England Treasures."

Net proceeds from the project fund scholarships for Western Massachusetts high school and college students pursuing an education in visual arts.

The 2026 Mosaic project kicked off recently at eight local libraries and the West Springfield Senior Center.

The Mosaic effort invites the public to paint/create a small 6x6-inch canvas. Last year over

200 artists participated. The returned canvases are assembled onto a 24-foot Mosaic display and are sold at two events in August.

Whether this would be your first canvas or if you are a seasoned artist, we invite you to pick up a free canvas at any of the following libraries: Agawam, West Springfield, Westfield, Southwick, East Forest Park, East Longmeadow, Longmeadow, and Chicopee; or, at the West Springfield Senior Center. Details are included with each canvas.

You can paint, draw or apply anything to a can-

vas that illustrates what you love about New England. Canvases need to be returned by May 15.

Whether you create a canvas or not, please join us at our Mosaic Unveiling on Wednesday, Aug. 5, from 5 to 7 p.m., at the Agawam Municipal Golf Course.

There, you can view the Mosaic, perhaps see a canvas you would like, and support our scholarship.

The Mosaic will also be on display at the sixth annual Pioneer Valley Arts Festival, to be held on Aug. 21 and 22 at the Polish American Club in Feeding Hills.

Public Notices

AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE

Date: March 23, 2026

As allowed under the Town of Agawam's Charter, Section 2-8, Paragraph C and M.G.L. Ch. 40A, Section 8, 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 13, 2026 at 6:30PM** for all parties interested in Agawam MA Shoemaker Ln Solar LLC's appeal of the Inspector of Buildings Decision denial for a building permit to construct an agrivoltaic dual use solar array at the premises identified as 311 Shoemaker Lane.

Doreen A. Prouty, Chairperson, ZBA

03/26, 04/02/2026

Agawam Community Preservation Committee PUBLIC HEARING April 1, 2026 at 6:00PM

Agawam Community Preservation Committee will hold its annual public hearing at the Agawam Senior Center Veterans Hall, 954 Main Street on **April 1, 2026 at 6:00PM**

03/19, 03/26/2026

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT HAMPDEN, Div.

Probate & Family Court Dept. HD26E0008PP

To Deborah A. Davignon, of Hampden County, Brian J Murphy, of Gallatin County (MT), Dennis G. Murphy, of Hampden County, Yolanda Murphy, of Hampden County, and to all other persons interested.

A petition has been presented to said Court by Paul D. Murphy, of Hampden County, representing that they hold as tenants-in-common in an undivided part or share of land lying in Feeding Hills, in the County of

Hampden, setting forth that they desire that all of said land may be sold at private sale or public auction for not less than Three Hundred and Eleven Thousand Dollars (\$311,000.00), and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof after full adjudication of the equitable claims contained in said petition and supplemental memorandum filed with the Court.

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection in said Court at **Springfield** on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **April 27th, 2026**.

Witness, **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of said Court, this 2nd day of March 2026.

Rosemary A. Saccomani, Register

03/26, 04/02, 04/09/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court

50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD23P0770EA

Estate of: **Brenda Lee Larsen**

Also known as: **Brenda L Larsen**

Date of Death: **01/21/2023**

CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

A Petition for Order of

Complete Settlement has been filed by **Mary Lou Elliott of Alburg, VT** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

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 04/24/2026.

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 17, 2026

Rosemary A. Saccomani, Register of Probate

03/26/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court

50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD25P2435PM

In the matter of: **Olivia Jane Rudd**

Of: **Feeding Hills, MA**

RESPONDENT (Person to be Protected/Minor)

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION

FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT TO

G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 & §5-405

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by

Brian Rudd of Feeding Hills, MA

Samantha Rudd of Feeding Hills, MA

in the above captioned matter alleging that **Olivia Jane Rudd** is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that

Brian Rudd of Feeding Hills, MA

Samantha Rudd of Feeding Hills, MA

(or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

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

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **04/10/2026**.

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 12, 2026

Rosemary A. Saccomani, Register of Probate

03/26/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court

50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD25P2432PM

In the matter of: **Preston James Rudd**

Of: **Feeding Hills, MA**

RESPONDENT (Person to be Protected/Minor)

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT TO

G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 & §5-405

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Brian Rudd** of Feeding Hills, MA

Samantha G. Rudd of Feeding Hills, MA

in the above captioned matter alleging that **Preston James Rudd** is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that **Brian Rudd** of Feeding Hills, MA

Samantha Rudd of Feeding Hills, MA

(or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

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

(or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

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

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **04/10/2026**.

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 12, 2026

Rosemary A. Saccomani, Register of Probate

03/26/2026

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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- 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

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Early on Friday, March 13 donations began rolling in for the Annual Kids' Used Clothing and Book Exchange.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

Agawam Public Library donations were brought and organized for the Annual Kids' Used Clothing and Book Exchange.

CLUBS ■ from page 1

all the donated materials are used. We accept all sizes of clothing, but kids are the focus. Adults are welcome to select items for themselves. We accept most books," said Bobskill.

Bobskill then told us about the process of collecting donations and what happens to anything left behind at the end of the exchange. "On the day before the event, clothing

and books are continuously brought into the library over a four-hour period by anyone wishing to donate these items. About 20 to 30 volunteers sort through the items and place them neatly on tables to resemble a clothing or book shop. Everything is then set for free shopping the following day. Almost all the donated clothing and books can be used. Items that aren't usable for this event, such as books with missing pages,

stained/ripped clothing, can usually be recycled by various organizations. Some clothing dropoff boxes accept ripped or stained clothing for recycling. Book drop off boxes generally recycle any books that can't be reused. There is a textile waste ban in Massachusetts which means clothing or items such as towels, sheets, curtains should not be placed in the trash but donated appropriately. Any items left are donated to various

local charities which varies annually. This year over 90% of clothing and books were selected by individual community members during the event. Leftover clothing and books went to the Pregnancy Care Center, Between Bridges Ministry and Organic Change for Haiti."

Bobskill explains that the library is the center of the Agawam community.

"It always takes place at the library since it's acces-

sible to the community and the staff is great to work with. Also, the space works well for this activity," Bobskill said.

This event is a team effort on behalf of Agawam Zero Waste Club, AHS Environmental Club, and AHS NHS. Bobskill is a key figure in the organization of this important event which provides free goods to so many people each year.

"Working with Agawam High School students and

staff is a joy," said Bobskill.

This event is highly beneficial for the community and the environment. By encouraging community members to donate clothing and books rather than throwing them away, goods are kept out of landfills and given a second life. For more information about upcoming APL events visit, Agawam Public Library - Agawam, (MA) Massachusetts.

RACE ■ from page 1

found that 12 committees held no hearings and considered no legislation in the prior session," Boldyga stated. "The Boston Globe followed that up with an expose series starting in March 2025 and showed Democratic leaders brought those same "do-nothing" committees back, often with the same chairs in place. These inactive panels still hand out exorbitant stipends, \$44,862 (or more in some cases, like \$61,000 for dual chairs) on top of base pay, as rewards for loyal allies. Critics, who even include former Democratic lawmakers, call it 'government theater' and 'sinecures,' with major bills crammed into last-minute, opaque 'mad dashes' at ses-

sion's end."

The Massachusetts state legislature is largely dominated by Democrats in the two chambers, with Boldyga representing the very small percentage of Republicans elected to Beacon Hill.

Boldyga's response came after a Mar. 11 press release by Hendrickson, where he said his opponent owed constituents an explanation for attendance records that show he did not attend committee hearings in 2025.

"The Joint Committee on Revenue held 15 hearings in 2025," Hendrickson stated. "According to the legislature's website, Boldyga attended none of them. The committee has also held two hearings so far in 2026, neither of which Boldyga

attended."

Hendrickson noted two other committees Boldyga is on where he did not attend hearings.

"At the very least, our community deserves an explanation," said Hendrickson. "As well as a commitment from Nick that he will begin attending his committee hearings going forward."

Boldyga, in his response, made no commitment to start attending hearings again.

Boldyga is defending his house seat against Hendrickson, a Democrat this November. Jason Perron, a former Southwick Select Board member, is looking to enter the race as an independent candidate, and is collect signatures to enter the race.

WRITERS ■ from page 1

ing an agent, self-publishing, and other parts of the business of writing, not just the craft."

She describes the group as a really welcoming atmosphere, and is geared for anyone no matter where they are with their writing

"We're a no judgment zone for writers. Regardless of where you are in your writing journey, everyone in the group is there to learn from one another and improve their craft," Anderson shared. "Even New York Times bestselling authors belong to writers' groups because the value of what you can learn from other writers can be overstated. Plus, we have a lot of fun. When you're writing solo your interaction

with others is limited but sometimes the best thing you can do for your writing is get together with others and have a good laugh."

Anderson shares her love for the cycle of giving and hearing feedback.

"I love hearing what everyone else is working on," she said. "Selfishly, I love discovering new authors and inviting them to work with my independent label, Otherwords Press. It's also a safe space to get feedback on my own work too. As I said, we are all still learning regardless of where we are with our craft, and I love getting multiple points of view on my own work. But most of the time it's just good to be in the presence of people who are as passionate about writing as I am."

Lastly, Anderson said, "We always love getting new members and there's no commitment. You can come any time, and you can participate, or you can sit and listen. We're excited about our growing community of writers, and we want to nurture that."

Local writers' groups are the foundation for many writers, both ones who are just starting out or have been writing for years. Hearing feedback from fellow writers is a great way to look at your work through fresh eyes. It's clear that Anderson and this group have a deep passion for writing and supporting each other. For more information about upcoming APL events visit, Agawam Public Library - Agawam, (MA) Massachusetts.



Melha Shriners sent in the clowns.



Fairy & Arts Festival promoted their event which will take place Sept. 12 at Nonotuck Park.



The mummers are always a fan favorite.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY KARA WALSH-VEY



Irish eyes were still smiling on a rainy parade day.



The police were keeping a close eye on the Grinch.