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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS



A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

April 6, 2023 | Vol. 45, No. 6 | \$1.00

www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com

Velis seeks later hours for veterans' cemetery

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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AGAWAM – State Sen. John Velis (D-Westfield) has petitioned for an increase in visiting hours at the Veterans' Memorial Cemetery located in Agawam on Main St.

The cemetery is one of just two veterans' cemeteries in Massachusetts, and the other open all the time.

Velis called out the limited visiting hours at the Agawam Veterans' Memorial Cemetery. While the Winchendon Veterans' Memorial Cemetery is open to visitors 24/7, it was recently brought to Velis' attention that the gates at the Agawam Veterans' Memo-



The Veterans' Memorial Cemetery located in Agawam is only open until 4 p.m. State Sen. John Velis is looking to change that as soon as possible.

PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

rial Cemetery have been closing at 4 p.m. for the past several months.

"There are only two state vet-

erans' cemeteries in all of Massachusetts. People from all over the

CEMETERY | page 5

No universal early mail voting for 2023 election

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – When it came down to it, logistics prevailed over the will of the people as the majority of the Agawam City Council voted to opt out of early mail voting for the 2023 municipal primary and general elections.

At a public hearing held Monday night, a parade of communities members spoke against a proposal from Mayor William Sapelli and Council President Christopher Johnson to opt the town out of early mail voting for the 2023 elections.

This means only the traditional absentee ballots will be available and then voting will be held early October if a primary is needed and then on Nov. 7.

Seven city councilors were more swayed that the ultimate solution was to work on a change that will fix the town's election calendar.

Town Clerk Vincent Gioscia spoke at the public hearing Monday night. He shared a lot of statistics about recent elections, and stated his belief mail voting was not a significant enough of a factor in voter turnout to have it in the municipal election this year due to the logistical issues with securing ballots.

Gioscia explained there are only four weeks between the primary and general election, which is set by the city charter. He said the amount of time it takes to go through the logistics of the election, including

ELECTION | page 5

Charter review comes to forefront

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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AGAWAM – A massive debate over the logistics of early mail voting in municipal elections has renewed calls for charter review in town.

For many years, numerous past and present city councilors have been calling for change to the city, or an overall charter review to happen.

Council President Christopher Johnson told the city council he would specifically draft language for council approval for a charter change that would increase the length of time between a municipal primary and general election from four to eight weeks. The change is needed so the town clerk's office can entertain the possibility of future early mail-in voting being made available to all residents.

But it does not stop there. Both Councilors Robert Rossi and Cecilia Calabrese were among the town's legislative body saying full charter review is necessary.

Councilor Rosemary Sandlin,

REVIEW | page 5

Autism Awareness Month begins

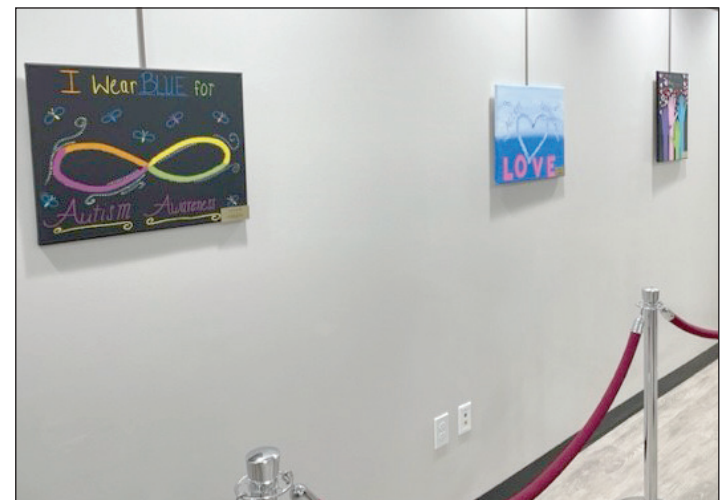
AGAWAM – Mayor William Sapelli and other city officials visited Sunshine Village to celebrate the start of Autism Awareness Month. The visit included a celebration of Sunshine's art display and a new flag being raised.



Superintendent Sheila Hoffmann, City Councilor Thomas Hendrickson, Mayor William P. Sapelli, Executive Director Gina Kos, Vice President City Councilor Dino Mercadante with new Autism Awareness flag. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Sunshine Village celebrates Autism Awareness Month.



Art from Sunshine Village is displayed.



Simpson work to be featured at ACAA meeting

Martha Simpson will be demonstrating her Eco Printing method at the monthly meeting of the Agawam Community Artists and Artisans on Wednesday, April 12 at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA beginning at 6 p.m.

The meeting will take place in the Clini Community Room. The public is invited to attend this free demonstration. Refreshments are served beginning at 6 p.m.

Simpson's artwork, as she describes it, is wild and untamed, imperfect, a bit like nature from which it mirrors itself. Botanical Printing or Eco Printing is a modern adaptation of an age-old natural dye process. When steamed, the chemicals present in leaves and flowers release themselves onto the fabric and create a mirror image. Nature's bounty is endless and using natural dyes often enhances the results.

Simpson often refers to herself as a textile artist who works with many different types of fiber. Early on she discovered there is a difference between making and creating. Making is the putting together of certain elements that you hope will provide a desired result. Machine stitching led to making doll clothes and then adult clothes, always someone else's pattern. Creating on the other hand was different. Creating is coming up with something new, taking the old techniques and birthing something unique, free, having its own spirit. It isn't a pattern but a journey.



Simpson will be demonstrating Eco Printing at the meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, April 12.

Through the years Simpson has enjoyed spinning fiber from raw wool, natural dyeing, knitting, crewel embroidery, needlepoint, stitchery, and years past, rug hooking and braiding rugs. For many years she has done both wet and needle felting which ultimately led to botanical printing on wool and fabric. Printing images of the leaves and flowers around her felt like a new creative experi-



The work of Martha Simpson will be featured at the next ACAA meeting.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

ence, each outcome different. Mother Nature doesn't believe in patterns.

Simpson is a self-taught artist. Learning Botanical Printing online with an Irish environmental naturalist and later from an Israeli woman whose work she admired, led to different techniques and classrooms filled with students from around the world, each bringing their particular flora to the experience. Her work has been shown in juried galleries in Connecticut and around New England. She has received blue ribbons for excellence and best in show. During the past

eight years she has taught wet felting, needle felting and botanical printing in museums and with local artists.

Simpson's formal education consisted of obtaining a degree in Early Childhood Education from Tufts University and later a Master's Degree from UConn in Gifted and Talented Education. She developed and taught programs for the gifted and talented before switching careers to become a financial advisor for over thirty years in the Hartford area. Simpson resides in Broad Brook, Connecticut.

ACC in need of new members

AGAWAM – The Agawam Cultural Council is asking citizens of the Agawam community to consider becoming a member of the council. The Council awards thousands of dollars of grants to local schools, artisans, and other groups to benefit the arts, humanities, and sciences in Agawam. This fiscal year, the Council has awarded \$25,605, more than half of which was granted to our

schools here in Agawam. These grants have funded field trips and special educational activities for the students of Agawam, which have greatly enriched their lives.

Serving as a member of the Council means attending one meeting per month. Our next meeting is April 18 at 6:30 p.m., in the Peirce Room at the Agawam Public Library.

Town Easter Egg Hunt re-set for this weekend

AGAWAM – On Saturday, April 8, the Agawam Parks & Recreation Department, Agawam Lions Club, and Agawam Rotary Club will present the 2023 Easter Egg Hunt at School Street Park. The event will begin at the pavilion though parking will be available on both sides of the park.

No advance registration is necessary and there will be a charge of \$5 per family/car payable on entrance to the park.

Participants are advised to arrive early as the hunt will begin at promptly at 10 a.m. Please bring a container of some kind to collect eggs.



There will be hunts for three age groups, age four and younger, age five to seven, and age eight and older, with special prizes in each area.

Allergy-free gift bags will also be available on request.

The event was postponed from April 1 due to rain.

Volunteers needed for flagging



AGAWAM – The Agawam Veterans' Council is seeking volunteers to flag veterans' graves on Saturday, April 22 with a rain date of April 29. Anyone interested in participating meet at 8 a.m. at the Springfield Street Cemetery (across from Sacred Heart Church), Feeding Hills.

Sherman to speak at Garden Club

AGAWAM – The Agawam Garden Club will meet on Tuesday, April 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Judy Clini Conference Room at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam. Refreshments will be served. After a short business meeting the speaker will be Alexander R. Sherman, the City Forester for the City of Springfield, MA, who will present a program on urban forestry. Mr. Sherman is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire (B.S., Forest Ecology 2001) and University of Massachusetts (M.S., Urban Forestry 2013). He holds a professional certificate in Geographic Information Systems from Penn-



Alexander Sherman

sylvania State University and various industry credentials, including ISA and Massachusetts certified arborist. Alex has also taken part in several trainings and deployments of the USDA Forest Service Urban Forest Strike Team (UFST) and is a trained UFST team leader. Mr. Sherman notes that "urban forestry

is increasingly important considering a changing climate and increasing urban populations. More frequent and severe extreme weather events has made understanding how to manage urban trees before more critical than ever."

Agawam Cultural Council plans New York City trip

AGAWAM – Now that pandemic conditions have eased, the Agawam Cultural Council is once again sponsoring a "Plan Your Own Day" Bus Trip to New York City, scheduled for Saturday, May 20. While proof of vaccination is not required and masks are optional, the Council recommends the continued wearing of masks while on board the bus.

From the CDC:

"Travel contributes to interstate and international spread of COVID-19. Wearing masks that completely cover the mouth and nose reduces the spread of COVID-19. People who never develop symptoms (asymptomatic) or are not yet showing symptoms (pre-symptomatic) might not know that they are infected but can still spread COVID-19 to others. Masks also offer protection to the wearer from exhaled virus in the environment."

Traditionally, New York activities such as museum and gallery exhibits, theatre and music performances, street festivals and shopping are available to those going on the trip. On the bus, a member of the Council will be available to help with information and suggestions along the way. We will attempt to make five stops in Manhattan: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Rockefeller Center/Radio City, Times Square/TKTS, 34th Street (Macy's), and the South Street Seaport. Riders may elect to get off at any of these scheduled stops. The bus departs the Roberta G. Doering School (Middle School), 68 Main St, Agawam, rear parking lot at 7 a.m. sharp. The return trip will leave New York City at 6:30 p.m. and be back in Agawam by about 9:30 p.m.

Further details, a map to the departure point, plus a wealth of useful NYC links, can be found at www.agawamcc.org (click on "Bus Trips" or

"Our Favorite Links").

Tickets will become available mid-March, 2023. The price is \$50 per person for both residents and non-residents alike. Seating is unreserved, and limited to 54 passengers, on a first come / first served basis. Please note that seats cannot be reserved by phone.

To reserve your seat(s), please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with a check made out to "Agawam Cultural Council" to:

Agawam Cultural Council, 153 Anthony Street, Agawam, MA 01001.

Important: a phone number or e-mail address must be included with the check, only so that we can reply to confirm receipt, or to notify if the trip is cancelled.

Current ticket availability, updated as requests are processed, plus contact info for the Bus Trip Coordinators can be found on the Cultural Council's "Bus Trips" page at: www.agawamcc.org.

Lions Club sets up collection containers

AGAWAM – The Agawam Lions Club is proud to partner with Soapy Noble, a wonderful new car wash, in Feeding Hill on 219 Southwestfield St. The Lions Club has set up two bottle collection containers in the vacuum area of the car wash. All proceeds from these bottles will be distributed to local charities by the Agawam Lions Club. The Lions Club thanks Soapy Noble for their proactive leap into community service as newcomers to our town.

The Agawam Lions club is a major charity fundraising organization. It donate to many local clubs in need including, youth clubs, school scholarships, the food pantry, veterans, and our top priority is Massachusetts Eye Research to which we have donated over \$500,000 in the past 20 years.

Cooper's Accepting Donations for Dress for Success

AGAWAM – For a limited time Cooper's Gifts Apparel Home of Agawam is accepting donations of professional attire for Dress for Success of Western Massachusetts.

Interview-appropriate women's clothing, shoes and accessories will be collected at Coopers through April 30.

"We invite everyone to Spring-clean their closets and change a life," said Kate Gourde, Owner of Cooper's Gifts Apparel Home.

Donations must be like-new, clean and on hangers. All professional attire is welcome, but DFS has expressed that their greatest current needs are for plus size clothing, pocketbooks and scrubs. No casual clothing, please.

"Just ask yourself 'Would I wear this to an interview?' If the answer is yes, Dress for Success can put it to good use," Gourde said.

The mission of Dress for Success (DFS)

is to empower women to achieve economic independence by providing a network of support, professional attire and development tools to help women thrive in work and in life. They provide each client with professional attire to secure employment, but they are about much more than simply a new outfit. Besides physically equipping the client with apparel and accessories, their programs furnish her with a confidence that she carries forever and the knowledge that she can actively define her life, the direction she takes and what success means to her.

"We have held clothing drives for DFS for years; our customers consider it a convenience. Especially for people West of the river, it's easier to bring donations here than up to the DFS Boutique on Boston Road," Gourde said. Items may be brought to the shop anytime during the month of April. Cooper's is located at 161 Main St.,

Agawam, and is open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays 12 to 4 p.m. Cooper's will be closed on Easter Sunday. Questions may be directed to Diane Jacobs from Dress for Success of Western Massachusetts, call (413)732-8179.

"This drive coincides with Dress for Success as our April Round Up charity; so it's the perfect time to spread the word of their mission and really help them out," Gourde said. Each month Gourde chooses a local charity to receive the profits of the store's Round Up program through which customers are invited to round up their purchase total to the next dollar amount. Gourde will then match 50% of the total collected. The program has donated over \$47,000 to local organizations since its inception in 2014. More information on the Round Up program and how to nominate a charity, may be found on Cooper's website www.coopersgifts.com/round-up/



End of life seminar

AGAWAM – Join Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home for a Lunch and Learn at the Agawam Senior Center, located at 954 Main Street on Friday, April 14 at 12 noon. Colonial Forastiere will provide a delicious lunch for you while you take part in their informative seminar, "To Bury Or To Cremate? That Is The Question."

Join Pre-Planning Director, Gary Szweczyk from Forastiere Smith Funeral & Cremation for a free lunch as he answers one of the most frequently asked questions to come up during the pre-planning process. He will discuss the options that are available to you for burial, cremation, and both to help you make the best decisions for yourself and your loved ones. Please register by calling Kristina at 413-726-2836. You must register by Tuesday, April 11.

All ages poetry contest at the library

AGAWAM – Celebrate National Poetry Month this April by participating in the Agawam Library's Poetry Contest. Poets of all ages are invited to submit their original poems for the chance to win a prize. Not a poet? Not a problem. Patrons can still participate by voting for their favorites and sharing the love of literature. Submissions will be accepted April 1 through April 13



and voting will begin April 17. For more information on submitting and voting, please see details below.

To Enter a Poem:

Submissions will be accepted between Saturday, April 1 at 9 a.m. and Thursday, April 13 at 9 p.m. Submit your original poem by: 1. Emailing cpope@agawamlibrary.org and including your name, grade, phone number, and the poem's title in the body of the email, or 2. Bringing it to the Children's Desk or Information Desk at the library. If you plan to submit your poem in person at the library, please do not write your name on the poem; instead, please put your name and other information on our entry form that is available at the Children's Desk and the Information Desk.

To Cast Your Vote:

Submissions will be displayed anonymously in person at the library and on our website at agawamlibrary.org beginning Monday, April 17 at 9 a.m. The categories are: grades 1-4, grades 5-8, grades 9-12, and adults. Children's poems will be displayed in the Children's Room, teen poems will be displayed in the Teen Area, and adult poems will be displayed on the round display shelf located near the New Fiction shelf. Voting will take place between Monday, April 17 at 9 a.m. and Saturday, April 29 at 5 p.m., and may be done in person at the library or on our website. You are only allowed one vote per category.

Each category will have a first place and second place winner. Winners will receive a \$10 Barnes and Noble Gift card and book of all of the poems entered in the contest. For any additional questions, please contact Library Associate, Charlie Pope at cpope@agawamlibrary.org or call (413) 789-1550 X8867.

Catholic Women's Club meeting

AGAWAM – Celine Hamilton-Quill from the Ronald McDonald House in Springfield will be the speaker at the April 10 meeting of the Catholic Women's Club of Agawam. Refreshments will start the evening at 6:30 p.m., in the St. John the Evangelist parish center gymnasium, at 833 Main St., Agawam. It will be followed by the club's monthly business meeting.

Celine will present a power point program about the facility after the business meeting. Members are invited to bring travel-size female toiletries, baby books and soda tabs that evening to be donated to the home. Any Catholic woman residing in Agawam/Feeding Hills or member of one of the town's Catholic parishes are welcome to attend this event.

St. Peter's to host dinner-dance

AGAWAM – St. Peter's will host a dinner dance from 5 p.m. to 12 midnight on April 22 at the Springfield Sheraton Hotel located at Monarch Place in downtown Springfield, MA. Proceeds will benefit the church ministries. Tickets are \$55 each, \$100 couple and kids \$25. Included is your choice of one meal with not substitutions (rosemary and garlic chicken, roast prime rib au jus,

New England baked scrod, vegetable napoleon) kids meal is chicken fingers. Please RSVP by April 8, 2023 no tickets sold at the door. Parking is validated.

The event will begin at 5 p.m. social hour, then 6 p.m. dinner, followed by 8 p.m. dancing/raffles. Tickets are available on Eventbrite.com or by calling 413-736-8567.

Sat. & Sun. April 22-23 10am - 4pm

"Ashley Heron," an acrylic by Ellen Westerlund Westfield, Massachusetts

Southwick Cultural Council 22nd Annual Fine Art Exhibition Show & Sale

Featuring more than 40 artists from Western MA and Northern CT. Oils, acrylics, watercolors, wood carvings, sculpture, photography, mixed media, and more. Live art demonstrations. Remembrances from the Southwick Historical Society. Musical performances each day.

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Opinion

Guest Column

Heavenly scents define two favorite Easter plants



For the last few days my dining room has been filled with a wonderful fragrance – Hyacinths in bloom.

To me, at least, they are simply the “smell of Easter.” Don’t worry, I didn’t forget about Easter Lilies- they smell great too.

More on those beauties in a bit. The hyacinths I speak of were purchased in the fall on clearance. I actually think I was out Christmas shopping when I spotted a bag marked 50% off.

I paid around \$3 for 10 bulbs. The bulbs looked and felt fine, no mold and not soft or dried out. Once I got them home, the mesh bag was placed in my mudroom where temperatures run about 50-55 degrees. There they sat for the longest time going through a chilling process.

Sometime in early March I found the bag and potted five bulbs in individual 4” pots and the other half I placed in forcing glasses. Vases, really, the kind that are an hourglass shape, whereby all but the very bottom of the bulb stays dry.

Roots are initiated where the bulb comes in contact with the water. I put the pots and vases back in the cool mudroom to give them a chance to root.

Once roots form down the side of the vase (you can see them through the glass) and green begins to emerge from the top, it was time to share them with my friends so that they could watch the blossoms unfold.



Hyacinths

It took about 10 days once the bulbs were moved into the warm house for the flower stalks to emerge and for the individual flowers to open. And boy, when they do, you know it.

As I mentioned, the fragrance is heavenly! I wish I would write dates down, so that I could time the flowers better, but with how busy life is I am happy they got planted at all, even if they are blooming a week before Easter!

There is no guarantee that flowers forced in a vase can be replanted in the garden, but those in pots should be just fine planted the ground post-bloom. Be sure to “deadhead” the blooms and let the greens ripen before moving in the garden once the weather improves; remember, these plants have been coddled indoors and may not be able to withstand a frost.

What nice lead into a conversation about our other favorite Easter flower – the Easter Lily, of course!

Most people assume that it should be hauled off to the compost pile once it has finished blooming. On the contrary, it can become a regular feature of your perennial garden providing you give it the appropriate care.

First, remove any spent flowers from the plant as you did with the hyacinth. We all know that the process of “deadheading” redirects energy away from seed making and back to the



Easter Lilies

bulb. Leaves, however, are left in place until they have browned; as long as they are green they are photosynthesizing and helping the bulb grow stronger.

A large, healthy bulb will give you the best chance of return.

When the weather has warmed up, it’s time to plant your lily in the garden. Sink the bulb about 3” below the soil surface- just about the depth that it was in the pot. Don’t expect much out of it the first season or even next spring.

Easter lily growers manipulate the plant to bloom much earlier than it would normally. Its natural bloom time is during the summer months.

Hopefully, you will enjoy pure white blooms and a heady fragrance at the height of barbecue season! These same rules can be applied to those of you looking to rebloom colorful Asiatic or Oriental lilies you received as Easter gifts as well.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.



Palmer resident and bird photographer sent an email this week. He said there was a snow goose in Palmer and it was his first time seeing the bird in this area. He shared this photo he took of the snow goose.

Snow geese are about 29 inches long and are mostly white with black wing tips, which are prominent in flight. Immature snow geese are either light or dark gray with dark legs and bill.

Snow geese winter along the Atlantic and Pacific coast and summer in the tundra where they nest. They are highly colonial and winter in huge flocks, which can number in the tens of thou-



Snow Goose

sands. The female snow goose lays three to five white eggs in a nest of grasses and down placed near the water.

They dig up roots and tubers of aquatic plants and also feed on waste grain and tender shoots of grass. They make a high pitched honking.

Years ago, Ricky Adams in New Braintree called me to come see a flock of snow geese,

which had landed in his field. It was a first time sighting for me and a thrill. Another Oakham resident was also there to see the geese.

Blue heron rookery

I received an email from a Hardwick resident. He said, “There is a great blue heron rookery at a beaver pond not far from my home in Hardwick. My wife and I often walk there. Last week my son and daughter-in-law counted 20 blue herons.” He said there were approximately 13 heron nests and one osprey nest. They are keeping an eye out for the return of the osprey.

Purple finch and more

An Oakham couple recently saw a purple finch at their feeder. They also have lots of goldfinches and the males are sporting their spring yellow feathers.

Bears and more

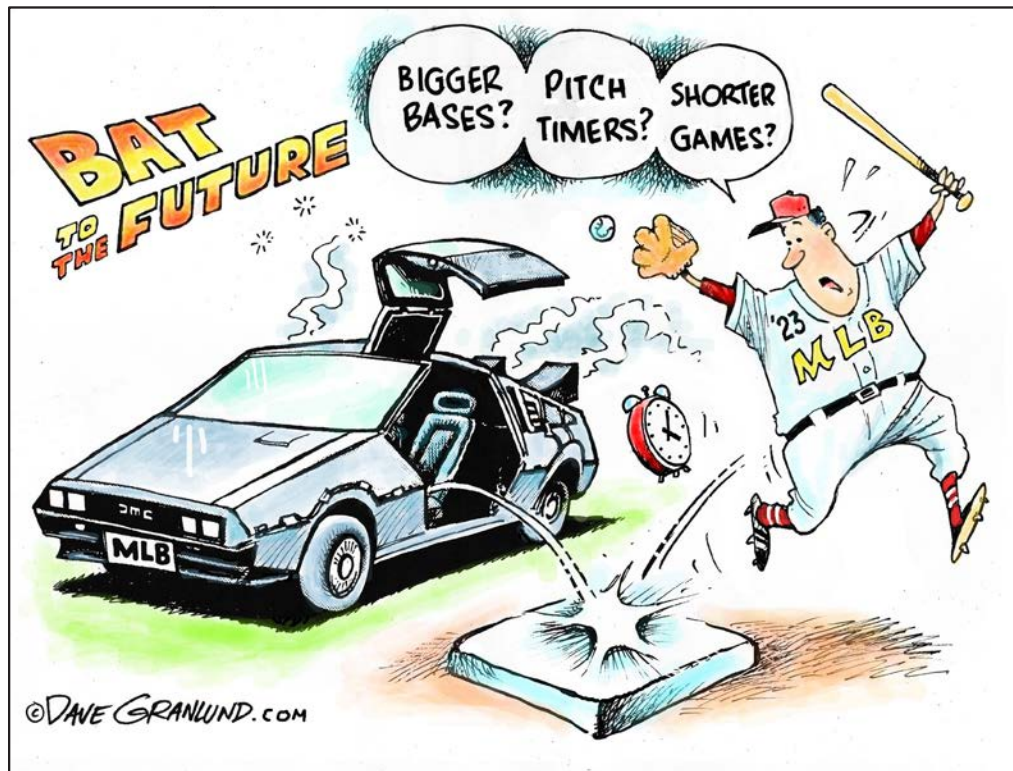
I r said in a previous column about bears being out of hibernation and the loss of my suet feeder. An Oakham resident reported in an email he saw a bear crossing my road on two different occasions. He said, “I actually saw it twice. The first time was on Saturday, March 11 around 7:15 p.m. crossing between your home and your daughters, heading into the woods across from your residences. The following evening, I saw it again at 8 p.m. crossing at the same spot heading in the same direction. It wasn’t a big bear and I couldn’t tell if it was collared or not.”

He also said he was at work Monday night during the recent heavy snowstorm. While walking outside he noticed a bird, slightly smaller than a cardinal, flying under the light, then landing on the ground, then flying again. He was not sure what kind of bird it was, but it seemed confused by the bright, exterior lighting.

More blackbirds

I now have over a dozen red-winged blackbirds coming to my feeders. Since the bears are out of hibernation, I only put a small amount of seed out in the morning for the birds. I no longer have suet cakes hanging outside.

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.



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cgriswold@turley.com
\$35 per year pre-paid
(\$40 out of state)
Newsstand \$1.00

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters. All letters are subject to editing for content and length. The deadline is Monday at noon. Please send letters to Agawam Advertiser News, care of Turley Publications Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, or e-mail aan@turley.com.

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The Agawam Advertiser News (USPS 001-170) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.

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Multiple events during vacation week for kids

AGAWAM – During the week of April 18 to 21, the Agawam Senior Center will be offering some kid-friendly programs during school vacation week.

We would love to have your grandkids join us. We are going to have “kid friendly” lunch options too.

Please call Kristina to register for any

of the following days. We look forward to making that special time with your grandchildren extra fun.

April School Vacation is coming and you have the grandkids?

Let us help you fill part of your day with some fun activities together.

Ice Cream and Card Making

Tuesday, April 18, join us for a Free Ice Cream Social at 12:45 p.m. with Card Making with Lauren to follow. Lunch this day is macaroni and cheese.

Ed the Wizard

Wednesday, April 19, Ed the Wizard will

be here to share his magic with everyone at 1:30 p.m. Lunch is low sodium hot dogs.

Minions the Rise of Gru movie

Friday, April 20, we will be offering a kid friendly movie in the afternoon at 1 p.m. Minions the Rise of Gru. Lunch is Chicken Cordon Bleu.

ELECTION ■ from page 1

drawing numbers for ballot position for the elected offices, submitting the ballot for being printed, and getting the versions of the ballots back from the state.

Because of the time it takes to accomplish those things, there is just a small window to get mail ballots sent out and voters have only a short time to send them back to the town.

“The state and federal elections are allowed to accept mail ballots up to three days after the election,” Gioscia said. “But that is not allowed for municipal elections. If I don’t have a mail ballot by the day of the election, the vote will not count.”

Gioscia and Johnson both suggested there should be eight weeks between the primary and general elections to make the early mail-in balloting easier.

There is not enough time to enact a charter change for this year, which is what swayed the majority of the council to vote for an opt-out this year.

The vote was displeasing to an overwhelming majority of residents who spoke during the public hearing. Several more spoke in name only to oppose the opt-out.

Councilors Thomas Hendrickson, Robert Rossi, Gerald Smith, and Rosemary Sandlin voted with their constituents, favoring having more options to vote.

Speakers at the hearing used terms like restricting or suppressing the ability to

vote by not offering mail voting.

Henry Kozloski mentioned that mail-in voting is being used in state and federal elections and voters should have the same ability at municipal elections, a point countered by Gioscia because of the short period of time between the primary and general elections in municipal years.

Two others who have been vocal about the issue were Corinne Wingard and Susan Grossberg, who referenced a “20%” increase in voter turnout from the 2019 municipal election to the 2021 municipal election.

The 20% number, however, is direct comparison of the two turnout numbers. The 5,500 voters who turned out in 2021 was 20% more than the turnout in 2019. But the overall voter turnout was 19% in

2019 and went up to only 24% in the 2021 election. There are approximately 22,000 voters in Agawam, Gioscia said. About 100 mail ballots were part of that turnout in 2021. Gioscia also projected the increase in voter turnout was due to the fact there was a contested race for the mayor’s seat. Sapelli was unopposed in 2019.

Gioscia pointed out absentee ballots are available for a variety of reasons, even as simple as an applicant who says they will not in Agawam on the day of the election. He encouraged residents to avail themselves of the absentee process. The clerk said he only turned away one application during his tenure, and that was only due to an individual who would not sign the application.

REVIEW ■ from page 1

a former state representative for Agawam, also has been seeking charter review.

“It’s something I wanted when I was elected as state rep, and it’s something I spoke of when I ran for city council,” Sandlin, who is in her third term on the council, said.

Calabrese said she and Housing Com-

mittee member Corinne Wingard have been seeking charter review for many years and she was pleased to hear so many councilors citing a need for charter review.

Johnson said there is a procedure that allows for a committee to be put together and for the charter to basically be re-written. But that complete re-writing and review of the entire charter is a lengthy process that could take years of work.

A more simplistic charter change, like the one the council will seek for the election process, has a three-step process.

“It first goes to the council for approval,” Johnson said. “Then it goes to the state legislature for approval, and then it comes back for a ballot vote an election.”

The process is similar to that of home rule legislation that is used for a number of different items, like the attempt to change

the mayor’s term from two to four years. That ballot question failed in the 2022 election.

It is unclear when a full charter review could come in front the city council or how long it would take, but with several councilors speaking in favor of the need to review, it could finally come forward this year.

The entire city council is up for election this fall.

CEMETERY ■ from page 1

state come to Agawam to visit their loved ones and it is absolutely heartbreaking to hear that folks are unable to do that because of these limited hours,” said Velis, who is the Senate Chair of the Legislature’s Veterans and Federal Affairs Committee and a veteran himself.

“Closing the gates at 4 p.m. means that people with 9-5 work schedules don’t even have time to visit on the weekdays,” Velis said. “The men and women who reside in the Agawam cemetery selflessly served and sacrificed for our nation. Their families and friends should be provided every opportunity to visit them and pay their respects.”

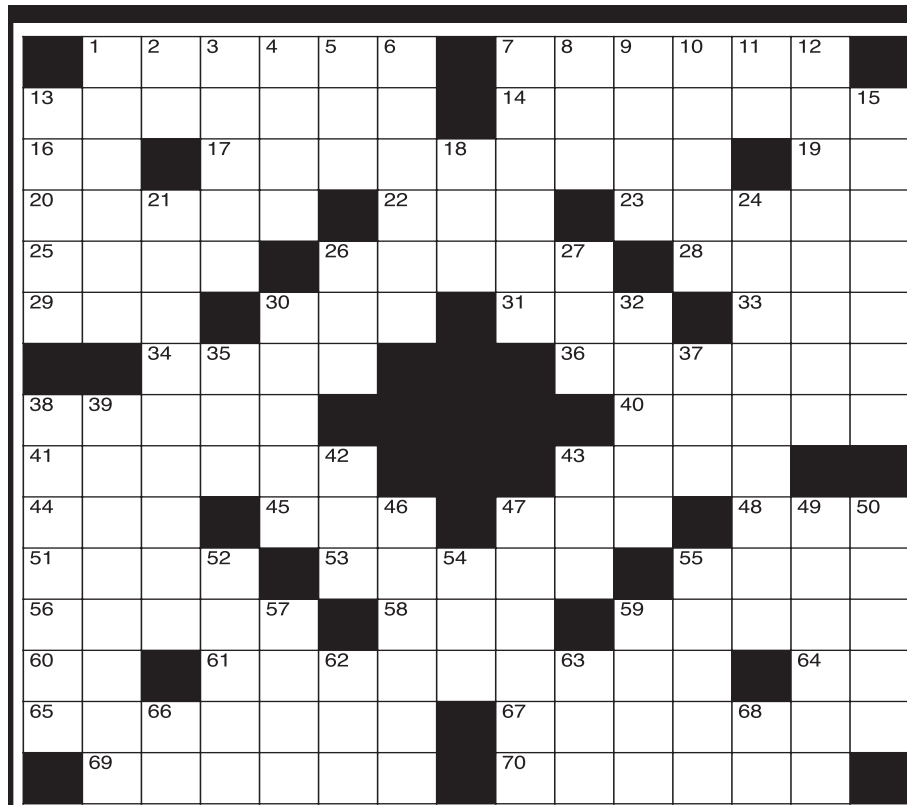
Velis did not go as far as to expect the cemetery to be open 24 hours a day, but

did say 4 p.m. is too early versus a closing around 8 p.m. especially when it is a regional cemetery and visitors could be coming from all over the region to visit their loved ones.

Velis noted that as of March 1, the Executive Office of Veterans’ Services (EOVS) now has a new Secretariat and that he has already reached out to them to raise this issue.

According to Linnea Walsh, director of communications for the state Executive Office of Veterans’ Services, said the decision was made in last October to close the gates at 4 p.m. daily, due to its close proximity to a major tourist attraction, staffing challenges, and concerns over ensuring the safety and security of the site.

The cemetery is less than a mile away from Six Flags New England.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Colas
- 7. Single-celled animals
- 13. The rear car of a train
- 14. Endangered
- 16. It cools your home
- 17. Helper
- 19. “The First State”
- 20. More aged
- 22. Partner to cheese
- 23. Type of wrap
- 25. From a distance
- 26. Satisfies
- 28. “Dallas Buyers’ Club” actor Jared
- 29. God of battle (Scandinavian)
- 30. Cooking utensil
- 31. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 33. Able to perform
- 34. Big man on campus
- 36. Second epoch of the Tertiary period
- 38. Porticos
- 40. Alban and Peter are two
- 41. Gets up
- 43. Humble request for help
- 44. One-thousandth of an inch (abbr.)
- 45. Unhappy
- 47. Hint or indication
- 48. A way to plead
- 51. Digits
- 53. Broadway actress Daisy
- 55. Jewish calendar month
- 56. Author Gore
- 58. Peacock network
- 59. White poplar
- 60. Promotional material
- 61. A period of calm
- 64. Take too much
- 65. Emit energy
- 67. Something you can take
- 69. Mended with yarn
- 70. Inconsistent

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Calm down
- 2. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
- 3. One who pretends
- 4. Hang glide
- 5. Distinctive practice
- 6. Mariner
- 7. Peaks
- 8. Queens ballplayer
- 9. Geological times
- 10. Twofold
- 11. Atomic #13
- 12. Tranquillizing
- 13. Metric weight unit
- 15. Indicates
- 18. Unwanted rodent
- 21. Partly cooked with hot water
- 24. One who can be recommended
- 26. Resembles a bag or pouch
- 27. Midway between south and southeast
- 30. Sets up for a photo
- 32. California white oak
- 35. More (Spanish)
- 37. After B
- 38. Decorated tea urn
- 39. Island
- 42. Car mechanics group
- 43. Wordplay joke
- 46. Cut a rug
- 47. Prickly plant
- 49. Speech in praise of a deceased person
- 50. European buzzard
- 52. Influential linguist
- 54. West African languages
- 55. Siskel’s partner
- 57. Skinny
- 59. Oblong pulp
- 62. Consumed
- 63. Small, mischievous sprite
- 66. Powerful lawyer
- 68. Indicates position

NOTICE

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Mariachi band brings Mexican folk music

AGAWAM – Season 19 of the Agawam Cultural Council's Applause Series continues on April 7 at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam when Mexican Mariachi band Fiesta del Norte presents ¡Fiesta del Agawam! Showtime is 7 p.m.; doors open at 6:15 p.m. This performance will also be livestreamed on Agawam Comcast channels 1074 (HD) and 15 (SD).

Dressed in traditional sombreros and "charro" outfits, the Fiesta del Norte repertoire spans the Mariachis of Jalisco to the Nortenas of Chihuahua, to the harp music of Chiapas. Played on authentic instruments such as guitar, vihuela, guitarron, violin, trumpet, and with beautiful singing throughout, the musical numbers are interspersed with song translations, storytelling

and cultural insights.

Fiesta del Norte is a Hartford-based ensemble that has serenaded New England audiences at major festivals, First Nights, colleges, schools, libraries, town greens, and senior centers since 1986.

The hallmark of every Fiesta del Norte concert is the wonderful audience participation that takes place, with singing, dancing, hand-clapping, maraca-shaking, and the joyful calls or "gritos" heard with every song. All cultures and age groups are welcome — put on your sombreros and celebrate Mexico with Fiesta del Norte!

Production sponsor of ¡Fiesta del Agawam! is People's United Bank. The Agawam Cultural Council would also like to thank bankESB, Elaine Carlson, E. Cecchi Farms, OMG, Inc., PeoplesBank, Howie and Mary

Jo Safford, Anthony Suffriti, TD Bank, Westfield Bank, and the Westfield Cultural Council for their generous support as Applause Series season sponsors.

This concert is free and open to the public. Please consider calling (413) 821-0604 to let us know you'll be attending.

For more information on the activities and virtual offerings of the Agawam Cultural Council, please visit their web site, www.agawamcc.org. The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and is funded, in part, by the MCC. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.



The Agawam Cultural Council's Applause Series continues its 19th season with a program of traditional Mexican folk music on April 7. Fiesta del Norte will present ¡Fiesta del Agawam! at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Traveling rehab advice program

AGAWAM – Have you ever fallen and ended up in the hospital needing in-patient rehabilitation before returning home and are unsure where to go? Have you ever needed a short stay while your caregiver is going away on Vacation? Or are you in need of more care than what can be provided at home?

If you answered yes to any of these questions or would like more information please join us Wednesday, April 12 for a presentation on planning for Rehabilitation, Respite, and Long Term Care

planning with Hailey Lyne, Admissions Director for Genesis Healthcare. Pastries and Donuts will be provided.

The main topics that will be covered are:

- Short Term-Rehabilitation Care
- Respite Services
- Long Term Care

In-patient Skilled Nursing Care planning can be confusing and time consuming, so let me help you get the jump start on it. Please call Kristina at 413-726-2836 to register.

Vet's council seeking new members, volunteers

AGAWAM – The Agawam Veteran's Council is looking for active, auxiliary and volunteer members:

Anyone interested in serving on the Council must:

- Be an Honorably Discharged Veteran from the Armed Forces.
- Be a resident of Agawam.

Anyone interested in becoming an Auxiliary Council Member:

- Honorably Discharge Veteran
- Would be a non-voting member

Anyone interested in volunteering:

- Need not be a veteran
- Volunteer your time for the following events:

Flagging placement, Memorial Day Parade, summer concerts, Veteran's Day events, cleanup projects throughout the town etc.

Please send a letter of intent for any position to:

VSO, Christopher Lanski
681 Springfield Street, Suite 2
Feeding Hills, MA 01030

The mission of the Agawam Veteran's Council is to work together in the best interest of and for the welfare of the Veterans of the Town of Agawam. We organize and implement Memorial Day and Veteran's Day activities in the town and assist in other patriotic events throughout the year.

HAPPY EASTER!

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Come for paint, sweets social



AGAWAM – On Thursday, April 20, join the Agawam Senior Center for a fun Paint and Sweets Class at 1:30 p.m. Lunch this day is Spaghetti and Meatballs. Bring your grandchildren to the Senior Center for this kid friendly instructional painting class.

Cost per person is \$20. Call Kristina at (413) 726-2836 to Register. We will be painting an adorable Spring Gnome.

Happy Easter

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USDA INSP. FRESH SMOKED BLUE SEAL EASTER KIELBASA (Local from Chicopee) **\$4.99** lb

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SPORTS



Boys volleyball scores opening sweep

AGAWAM – Last Thursday afternoon, Agawam High School boys volleyball started out their regular season with a 3-0 sweep of Putnam Vocational. The Brownies are off to another good start as they continue a successful program. The Brownies next face Chicopee Comprehensive on Friday, April 7.

Ezekiel NGuessan reaches back to keep this ball in play.

PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Nicholas Uschmann tries to make a block.



Dennis Nesen serves to start off a play.



Daniel Yovenko sets from the back line.



Eric Nazarets goes straight up for a set.



Benjamin Tokarev goes vertical for the spike.

Brownies fall in season opener

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School boys lacrosse team beat the rain last Friday afternoon, taking on Westfield in the season opener for both teams.

Westfield jumped out to a lead early, improving to a 7-4 lead at halftime.

Agawam threatened to change the momentum early

in the second half, but a turn-over led to a goal for Westfield, and eventually a 16-7 win. Agawam travels to Northampton on Thursday, April 6.



Brayden Federico makes a run toward a teammate.



Brayden Federico passes away.

PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Jaden Holloway looks to make a run at the goal.



Casey Thomas sends a pass away ahead of pressure.



Liam Grealis emerges from a faceoff with the ball.

Sports

Locals among Bessone award winners

WEST SPRINGFIELD – The annual awards honoring high school hockey players in Western Massachusetts were announced today by the Amo Bessone Awards Committee, which will present the awards during an April 13 reception at 6 p.m. at the Dante Club in West Springfield. Each of the eleven major Bessone awards include a \$500 scholarship.

Senior forwards Josh Iby of the Pope Francis Preparatory School and David Noel of Minnechaug Regional High School will receive Amo Bessone Awards, presented to this season's overall most valuable players.

Sam Cocchi, a senior forward at Ludlow High School, will receive the Kevin J. Major Award, which recognizes the most valuable player in the Fay/Wright Divisions.

Senior goalie Joshua Bordeaux of Greenfield High School will receive the Bruce Landon Award for goaltending excellence this year, while senior forward Ben Corbin of Ludlow High School will receive the Gene Grazia Award, which recognizes the season's outstanding offensive player.

Agawam High School's senior defenseman Ryan Maloney will receive the Rob Murray Award, which recognizes a player with a high level of leadership, physical play and dedication. Longmeadow senior forward Joe Mikaelian will receive the Harold Passerini Award for outstanding athletic, academic and community achievement.

Co-winners of the committee's Joe Buchholz "Coach of the Year" Award for this season are Derek Chandonnet of Belcher-town High School and Paul Rivest of Lud-

low High School.

Recipients of this year's Aldo Altobelli Rookie of the Year Awards are Dom Fiorentino of Minnechaug Regional High School, Sean Kefalas of Ludlow High School, Jack Laurie of Greenfield High School and Felix Goeckel of the Pope Francis girls' team.

Families and friends of award recipients are welcome to attend the reception and presentation of awards on April 13. Award recipients may contact the Bessone Committee's Dave Tuohey at david2e@comcast.net for additional information.

The Bessone awards are the legacy of Amo "Betts" Bessone, who grew up in West Springfield and gained national recognition as NCAA Division I Coach of the Year when his Michigan State hockey team won the national championship in 1966. Bes-

one coached Michigan State for 28 years and recruited many players from Western Massachusetts, including Aldo Altobelli, Henry Campanini, Harold Passerini, Ken Mattoon and Gene Grazia, who was a member of the 1960 USA Olympic Gold Medal team.

In 1967, local friends of Bessone established the Bessone Award, which started with a single award but has grown with assistance from the Exposition Area Alumni Scholarship Fund, the Dante Club and a growing list of business and individual sponsors. Awards presented by the committee recognize several of Bessone's players as well as the region's hockey legends, including Eddie Shore, Bruce Landon, Joe Buchholz, Rob Murray, Billy Ryan and Kasey Bellamy.

Bonsignore takes fourth at Richmond Raceway

RICHMOND, VA – Justin Bonsignore scored his second consecutive top-five finish in the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour season on Saturday, April 1 at Richmond Raceway. Driving in the Virginia is for Racing Lovers 150, Bonsignore started from the outside of the front row after qualifying there on Friday, March 31. Following qualifying, rain fell at Richmond, and postponed the race to Saturday – following the conclusion of the NASCAR Xfinity Series 250.

Early in the 150-lap race, Bonsignore was running inside the top few rows when crew chief Ryan Stone made the decision to head down pit road for a few fresh Hoosier tires. Bonsignore raced back up to 13th in the field prior to the next caution, then stayed out when many others pitted, and rocketed to the lead quickly for a few laps. After being passed for the lead, he fell to the bottom of the top-10 before the next caution, then made his charge back to the front at the end.

Bonsignore passed Doug Coby for second late – and crossed the line fourth at the finish – after a tough battle with J.B. Fortin



Justin Bonsignore places fourth in an early-season race on Saturday, April 1 in Richmond, VA.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

and Max McLaughlin over the final laps. The Holtsville, New York native and his Kenneth Massa Motorsports team had Coastal Fiber LLC on the car for the Richmond race.

"All in all, it was a good day," Bonsignore said. "The guys you need to beat for the points, we feel like we beat today. Austin Beers (race winner) has been on point in the first few races as well. We came away with a good finish in a tough battle there in the last laps. The two guys we were racing were just a little bit better on the last lap. It was a lot of work for our team with two days here in Richmond – but we're going to go home and start working for the next one."

Justin Bonsignore will return to the track on Saturday, May 6, for the third race of the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour season – the Duel at the Dog 200 – at Monardnock Speedway. Fans can find more information on that event at JDVProductions.com and more information on the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour at NASCAR.com. For more information on Justin and his team, visit JustinBonsignore.com and follow Justin's Athlete page on Facebook.

Registration open for 2023 Summer Bay State Games

WOBURN – Registration for the 41st annual Bay State Summer Games is now open. The 2023 Summer Games will include thirty sports with competitions from June 3 to July 29 at venues throughout eastern and central Massachusetts including Game On in Fitchburg, Boston Sports Institute in Wellesley, Union Point Sports Complex in Weymouth, and New England Sports Center in Marlborough. Bay State Games participants range in age from 5 to over age 75 and represent more than 300 Massachusetts communities as well as surrounding New England States in some sports. From grassroots participants to accomplished amateur athletes, the Bay State Games provide opportunities for the athlete in all of us.

Eight high school showcase sports will take place for a variety of sports, including baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball, and volleyball. Athletes currently in grade 8-11 who live or go to school in Massachusetts are eligible to attend regional tryouts during the month of June. These tryouts will determine teams representing the various regions of the Commonwealth that will compete against each other in July. Check each sport page for specific eligibility requirements.

The Summer Games include a wide variety of individual sports including swimming, track & field, figure skating, pickleball, wrestling, weightlifting, archery, judo, badminton, and more. These sports are open to a wide range of ages and skill levels from youth participants to masters-aged athletes. Adaptive sport divisions in archery, swimming, and track & field are

offered, as well. Bay State Games also organizes tournaments for pre-existing teams in girls lacrosse, rugby, and 6v6 field hockey.

The 2023 Summer Games will feature Game On in Fitchburg as the host venue for 8 sports. Bay State Games expects 1,500 athletes and their families to attend competitions at Game On during the second week of July. "We are excited to expand the roster of sports being held at Game On this year," said Kevin Cummings, Executive Director of the Bay State Games. "This state-of-the-art facility allows us to enhance the athlete and spectator experience and provide a true Olympic-style multi-sport atmosphere for our participants."

An additional feature in 2023 is that in over a dozen sports, athletes who win a gold, silver, or bronze medal at the 2023 Bay State Games will qualify to participate in the 2024 State Games of America in San Diego, California. The State Games of America feature more than 8,000 athletes from over 30 different state games programs nationwide. To see the list of qualifying sports, please visit www.statgamesofamerica.com.

In addition to sports programming, Bay State Games offer college scholarships, a sportsmanship initiative, college internship opportunities, and a High School Ambassador program.

For more information on all sports in the 2023 Summer Games, links to online registration, and information on other programs, go to www.baystategames.org.

For questions, email info@baystategames.org or call 781-932-6555.

Worcester Railers fall against Adirondack Thunder

WORCESTER – Not next year, probably, but somewhere down the road Railers fans will turn on their TVs to see an episode of History's Mysteries investigating why their team can't beat the Adirondack Thunder.

This strange turn of events in the playoff drive added another chapter Saturday night at the DCU center with the Thunder beating Worcester, 3-1, even though the home team had a 33-22 edge in shots on goal.

The outcome disappointed an enthusiastic crowd of 5,681 on Military Night. It was the sixth largest crowd of the season.

Adirondack has taken 9 of a possible 10 points in the last five games between the teams. Worcester still has a one point lead in the North Division playoff race but the Thunder has two games in hand. The Railers have four games left, three against Adirondack, so they are hardly out of the race but they have to find a way to score.

How do they do that? "Shoot the puck," coach Jordan Smotherman said. "When we're in scoring areas we don't shoot the puck."

That was really evident in this defeat. If Railers forwards did not make the extra pass when they were in scoring areas, they made one too many moves with the puck trying to get even closer.

Worcester's shots on goal margin included a 22-3 margin in the second period when there were times it seemed as though the Railers were playing with a two-man advantage.

The outcome might have been different if Worcester had played a better first

period. The Thunder scored twice to take 2-0 lead as Sebastian Vidmar registered a power play goal at 5:04, then Matt Jennings converted a breakaway at 18:55, beating Henrik Tikkanen with a backhand.

The Railers only goal came in that second period. It was also on a power play as Nolan Vesey snapped a 14-game goal drought at 12:44 by firing a 20-footer past Thunder goaltender Isaac Poulter, who was great.

The final Adirondack goal was an empty netter by Travis Broughman with 10 seconds left in the third period.

A word about Thunder goaltending in general.

Aside from Friday night when Adirondack used two rookie goaltenders in the Railers' 5-4 overtime victory, Poulter and Jake Theut have combined to stop 121 of 125 Worcester shots in their team's four recent triumphs.

Even though they are still mathematically in fourth place, the Railers' hold on a playoff berth is tenuous. The Thunder is playing almost perfect hockey; they have earned at least one point in 11 straight games.

Worcester's road to the playoffs is a bumpy one, but the way the Railers need to play is not complicated.

"You can't play just 40 minutes of hockey," Smotherman said. "We show it for glimpses of time, and it's on the leadership in that (dressing) room. You have to coach everybody up, bring guys together."

And take the shot, not make the pass.

Sports

Springfield Thunderbirds win 6-5, sweep Charlotte Checkers

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - The Springfield Thunderbirds (36-23-2-5, 79 points) survived a roller-coaster game against the Charlotte Checkers (35-23-5-3, 78 points) and propelled themselves into solo possession of third place in the Atlantic Division with a heartstopping 6-5 overtime victory on Saturday night at Bojangles' Coliseum.

The first period proved to be one of the most chaotic 20-minute frames in recent memory, as the two clubs combined for more offensive output than the entire game on Friday. It took Springfield only 39 seconds to take the first lead of the night, as Martin Frk located a loose puck in his feet in the goal crease off a centering feed by Matthew Peca. Frk shuffled it home past J-F Berube for his 30th goal of the season, equaling the T-Birds' single-season goal-scoring record.

The early lead would evaporate quickly, though, as Zac Dalpe scooped up a rebound near Vadim Zherenko and pounded home his 200th career AHL goal, evening the score, 1-1, at 4:45.

As would become a theme in the period, the fans would not have to wait long for more offense, as Kean Washkurak spun a shot from the slot through Berube's arm at 5:08 to restore the T-Birds lead, 2-1.

Just over five more minutes later, operating on their first power play the night, the Checkers tied it again on a right-circle wrist shot by Aleks Heponiemi at 10:16, making it a 2-2 game.

Once again, though, there was a rebuttal, as Springfield used its first power play to get right back in front, with Scott Perunovich turning into the shooter, beating Berube over the glove at 12:33 for his second of the season, making it 3-2.

Berube's night would come to an early and unceremonious end just 1:04 later when Nikita Alexandrov got his second point of the period, beating the veteran goalie off the inside of the far post at 13:37, making the T-Birds lead 4-2.

However, Charlotte continued to push the issue, and Matt Kiersted blasted a shot through Zherenko at 18:04 off a set play on

a face-off, and the Checkers cut the deficit down to 4-3 heading into the intermission break following a seven-goal period on 22 combined shots by the two clubs.

Thunderbirds head coach Drew Bannister elected to insert Joel Hofer into the game at the start of period two, and his team responded by outshooting Charlotte 17-7 in the middle frame while also generating the only goal of the second at 2:22. Frk stopped just inside the zone on the left side, allowing Peca to join the attack, and the centerman beat newcomer Evan Fitzpatrick high to the stick side to make it a 5-3 game.

After Peca's goal, though, Fitzpatrick did his part to keep Charlotte close, denying 16 shots in the second period alone in his first AHL action since December of 2021.

Down 5-3 going into the third, the Checkers turned the game on its head, outshooting Springfield 13-4 in the final period and using their power play to storm back. First, Dalpe got his second goal of the

night and 20th of the season, as he lifted a rebound over Hofer's glove at 1:11 of the third to make it 5-4.

The Thunderbirds spent much of the final period in their own zone, and it finally hurt them with just 2:54 to play, as the Checkers tied the score with their third power-play marker of the night. Gerry Mayhew found his way to the side of Hofer's net and was able to stuff a loose puck in through the Springfield netminder to tie the score, 5-5.

For a second straight night, extra time was needed, but not before the T-Birds had to survive the final 1:35 of regulation while shorthanded once again. After killing the remaining 25 seconds of power play time for Charlotte to begin overtime, play carried on at 4-on-4. With no real numbers advantage, Alexandrov found his way into the slot area and took a wrist shot that fortuitously ricocheted off a defenseman's stick and flailed past a stunned Fitzpatrick to give the T-Birds the win at 3:26 of the extra frame.

Public Notices

MORE PUBLIC NOTICES ON PAGE 11

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given by Langonet Towing pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.255, Section 39A, that on April 17, 2023 at 63 Ramah Cir S, Agawam the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy the garagekeeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.
2004 Honda Civic
 VIN:1HGEM22904L082285
 Miguel Burgos
 860 Meadow Street
 Chicopee, MA 01013
 03/30, 04/06, 04/13/2023

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL AD

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on **Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 6:00PM** at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Sawyer, for construction of a 15' x 30' shed on concrete slab on property at 292 S. West Street.
 By Order of Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
 AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
 04/06/2023

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Robert J. Bartnik to Bank of America, N.A., dated September 18, 2009, recorded with Hampden Registry of Deeds in Book 17996, Page 307; which mortgage was assigned to Champion Mortgage Company by Assignment dated September 18, 2012, recorded in Book 19452, Page 591; further assigned to Bank of America, N.A. by Assignment dated February 4, 2016, recorded in Book 21063, Page 374; further assigned to Secretary of Housing and Urban Development by Assignment dated April 21, 2016, recorded in Book 21187, Page 45; further assigned to Home Preservation Partnership, LLC by Assignment dated September 26, 2022, recorded in Book 24780, Page

112; and further assigned to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as Owner Trustee of the Residential Credit Opportunities Trust VI-B by Assignment of Mortgage dated September 29, 2022, recorded in Book 24780, Page 115, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at **11:00 a.m. on the 8th day of May 2023** at the mortgaged premises described below, being known as 63 Coronet Circle, Agawam, MA all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

Certain real estate situated in Agawam, Hampden County, Massachusetts being known and described as Lot #17 as shown on a Plan of Lots recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds Book of Plans 77, Page 47, to which plan reference is hereby made for a particular description.

Subject to restrictions of record.

Subject to rights of American Telephone and Telegraph Company dated July 6, 1922, and recorded in said Registry in Book 1141, Page 489, if applicable.

Subject to rights of Western Massachusetts Electric Company and New England Telephone and Telegraph Company, dated January 27, 1959, and recorded in said Registry in Book 2657, Page 141.

Together with rights in common with others lawfully entitled thereto to use Coronet Circle for all purposes of a public way.

The Mortgagee reserves the right to postpone the sale to a later date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the sale and to further postpone at any adjourned sale date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the adjourned sale date. The Mortgagee further reserves the right to open the bidding at the time, date and place appointed for sale, and if no bids are received, or the bids received are deemed unacceptable to Mortgagee, to postpone the sale to a later date by public proclamation.

Said premises will be sold subject to and with the benefit of all restrictions, easements, improvements, outstanding tax titles, mortgages, liens, rights of tenants and parties in possession, unpaid taxes, municipal liens and other public taxes, assessments or liens, having priority over the mortgage described herein, if any.

In the event that the successful bidder at the foreclosure sale shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the time of the foreclosure, the Mortgagee reserves the right to sell the property by Foreclosure Deed to the second highest bidder provided that the second highest bidder shall deposit with Mortgagee's attorneys the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein within three (3) business days after written notice of default of the previous highest bidder and title shall be conveyed to said second highest bidder within twenty (20) days of said written notice.

TERMS OF SALE: Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) will be required to bid and be paid in cash or by certified check at the time and place of sale as earnest money. The balance is to be paid in cash or by certified check within thirty (30) days of the date of the sale at the offices of Murphy & Lupan, P.A., 5 Commonwealth Road, Natick, Massachusetts 01760. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of any typographical error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the time and place of sale.

WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, AS OWNER TRUSTEE OF THE RESIDENTIAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES TRUST VI-B

Present holder of said mortgage,

By its attorney,
 Michael J. Murphy
 Murphy & Lupan, P.A.
 5 Commonwealth Road
 Natick, MA 01760
 Tel: (508) 650-9252
 04/06, 04/13, 04/20/2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 The Trial Court
 Hampden Probate and Family Court
 50 State Street
 Springfield, MA 01103
 Docket No. HD18P1891PM
 In the matter of:
 Joseph P Iellamo
 of Agawam, MA
 Protected Person/Disabled Person/Respondent
 CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the **Conservator's First and Final** account(s) of Jonathan J Davey of Quincy, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **05/01/2023**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the account(s) at no cost to you.

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. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 27, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
 Register of Probate
 04/06/2023

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given by Langonet Towing pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.255, Section 39A, that on **April 10, 2023** at 63 Ramah Cir S, Agawam the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy the garagekeeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.

2004 Chevy Impala
 VIN: 2G1WF52EX49110024
 Patrick Sheehan
 144 Autumn Street
 Agawam, MA 01001
 03/23, 03/30, 04/06/2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 The Trial Court
 Hampden Probate and Family Court
 50 State Street
 Springfield, MA 01103
 Docket No. HD20P0483PM
 In the matter of:
 Mary E Stoddard
 of Agawam, MA
 Protected Person/Disabled Person/Respondent
 CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the **Second** account(s) of Mary P Powers of West Springfield, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objec-

tion at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **04/28/2023**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

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. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 24, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
 Register of Probate
 04/06/2023

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

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Public Notices

MORE PUBLIC NOTICES ON PAGE 9

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD23P0604GD
 In the matter of: **James Tibbetts**
 Of: **Agawam, MA RESPONDENT**
Alleged Incapacitated Person
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304
 To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **David Milewski of North Adams, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **James Tibbetts** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Robin Therrien of Holyoke, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

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 AM on the return date of **04/20/2023**. 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. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: March 23, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
 Register of Probate
 04/06/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD19P0406PM
 In the matter of: **Sylvia Timothy of Springfield, MA**
Protected Person/Disabled Person/Respondent
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the Temporary Conservator's first and final account(s) of Jewish Family

Service of Springfield, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **04/28/2023**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

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. **Barbara**

M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: March 27, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
 Register of Probate
 04/06/2023

TOWN OF AGAWAM Tuckahoe Farm Master Plan Improvements Project
 Town of Agawam, MA (Owner) invites sealed Bids for Tuckahoe Farm Master Plan Improvements for installation of access road, parking lots, walking trails, improvements to existing boat launch, rehab of low-hazard dam, installation of stormwater treatment systems, construction of stream crossings, and wetland/riverfront replication and restoration. Substantial Completion: 12/29/23. Final Completion: 6/28/24.

Bidding is per MGL Chapter 30 s39M. Prevailing wage rates per MGL c149 s26 to 27D inclusive issued by Dept. of Labor Standards.

Request electronic Bidding Documents (no cost): 04/05/23 at 12:00 p.m. by email to MunicipalBids@woodardcurran.com with complete contact information & subject line Tuckahoe Farm Master Plan Improvements. Official Bidding Documents will be available once registered. Documents from third parties are not considered official Bidding Documents.

MANDATORY pre-Bid conference: 11:00 a.m. local time on 4/12/23 at Department of Public Works conference room, located at 1000 Suffield Street, Agawam, MA.

Receipt of Bids: 11:00 a.m. 04/26/23. Submit to: Town of Agawam, 1000 Suffield Street, Agawam, MA 01001, Attn: Jennifer Bonfiglio Chief Procurement Officer with Bid security at 5% of total Bid.

Also published on www.

commbuys.com & on the MNPA website at <http://masspublicnotices.org>.
 04/06/2023

Legal Notice of Private Sale
 Notice is hereby given by USA Towing, 71 Garden St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030, sale of a motor vehicle pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, that on 04/10/2023 at 8:00 a.m., at USA Towing, said motor vehicle will be sold at a private sale to satisfy the garage keeper's lien for towing, storage and costs of sale.

2012 Chrysler Town & Country
 VIN: 2C4RC1BG6CR133354
 Plate #: KBL776 - VT
 Last known reg. owner: Timothy Susee
 212 Pleasant St. Bennington, VT 05201
 03/23, 03/30, 04/06/2023

LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL

The Agawam City Council will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.** in Veterans Hall at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of Mayor William Sapelli on an Ordinance to amend Section 94 of Chapter 180 of the Code of the Town of Agawam regarding the Wireless Telecommunications Overlay District (TOR-2023-4). This public hearing will be live-streamed on the Town of Agawam's website at www.agawam.ma.us and will also be televised on Cable Access Channel 15. TOR-2023-4 is available for public inspection by emailing the office of the City Clerk for an elec-

tronic copy at vgioscia@agawam.ma.us

BY ORDER OF:
 Christopher C. Johnson
 City Council President
 03/30, 04/06/2023



Nobody dreams of having multiple sclerosis

Some dreams are universal: hitting a ball over the Green Monster; winning the World Series with a grand slam in the bottom of the ninth inning. Finding out you have MS is not one of them.

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Adventure Tours of Warren makes travel fun for all

By Paula Quimette
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WARREN – The chance to explore the world is closer than you think, and thanks to Adventure Tours of Warren, the trip of a lifetime can start right in your own backyard.

Traveling is something Randall Decoteau has been passionate about since a young age, when he first traveled by himself to visit family.

“I was 13-years-old and I went to visit my aunt and uncle in Montreal. I went by myself on Eastern Air Lines,” he said.

Decoteau’s aunt and uncle met him at the airport and from then on, he was hooked.

“It was a nice experience,” he said.

Decoteau experienced his first trip overseas when he went to Europe between his junior and senior year of college. He traveled for two months, armed with a Eurail pass and a copy of Arthur Frommer’s “Europe on 5 Dollars a Day”.

“I went to maybe 10 countries...I love Europe,” he said.

Decoteau has now been to 48 countries and said he has “a passion for travel.”

In 2000, Decoteau used this passion when he teamed up with the Warren Cultural Council to raise money for a scholarship program by offering tours.

By 2006, he had officially formed Adventure Tours of Warren.

Within a year, Adventure Tours was offering 45 trips a year.

Since its founding, Adventure Tours has amassed a following of 800 travelers hailing from all over New England, with more than half being repeat customers.

“I have really loyal customers,” Decoteau said.

Adventure Tours takes the hassle and stress out of traveling, by providing safe and comfortable transportation so travelers can just sit back and enjoy the ride.

“I think some people might never travel if it weren’t for tours like these,” Decoteau said. “I have people tell me all the time, ‘I never would have gone here.’ They no longer have to do the driving; all they have to do is get on the bus. That is part of the appeal of group travel.”

What also makes Adventure Tours unique, is that you become part of a “travel family.”

“You’re never alone when you’re on a tour, motor coach or cruise or whatever. You always have your fellow travelers who are



Carol Haire of West Brookfield, Dot Dimo of Warren, and Carol Borowiec of Palmer are shown at the Acropolis in Athens, Greece.



A hundred hot air balloons go up all at once at the Adirondack Balloon Festival at Lake George, New York.



Randall Decoteau is shown with his camel driver Mohammed on a visit to the Giza Pyramids.

COURTESY PHOTOS BY ADVENTURE TOURS OF WARREN

part of your travel family,” Decoteau said.

While many travel agencies gear their trips toward certain age demographics, Decoteau takes pride in making his trips intergenerational.

Intergenerational travel is a “wonderful experience,” that allows people to celebrate their differences, Decoteau said. “Everyone is welcome.”

“I think we have something to learn from people that are older than us, and younger than us. It’s wonderful to see a destination through the eyes of a senior or the eyes of a child,” he said.

One of the biggest draws for young travelers is the Bronx Zoo, which Decoteau has planned every two years since he started.

“You can’t see it all in one day,” he said of the 265-acre zoo.

Independent exploration is another key feature to the service Adventure Tours offers.

“We encourage our travelers to explore neighborhoods, shopping streets, and restaurants on their own as part of the Adventure Tour experience,” Decoteau said.

Decoteau and his tour guides offer a variety of tours to suit the needs of all travelers, including theater trips, day trips, multi-day coach tours, cruises and international trips.

Adventure Tours partners with Norwegian Cruise Lines for all of its cruises and Collette Vacations for both international and domestic air tours.

Planning your cruise or an international trip is something that takes time, book early in order to get the best possible cabin locations, international flights and more.

“The earlier you book, the better you do,” Decoteau said. “You really should book a cruise a year ahead, same with

international trips.”

Adventure Tours will be offering an early booking discount for the 2024 cruise season, which includes a 12-night Eastern Caribbean cruise, a seven-night Bermuda and Maine cruise and a seven-night Canada and New England cruise.

These cruises will take place on Norwegian’s ships the Getaway and the Gem and their new ship Prima.

“What really matters is the ship experience. The dining is better than anything you do at home and the shows are wonderful,” he said.

Cruise travelers can also enjoy cocktail dates with friends, art classes like painting and origami, cooking classes, along with days spent exploring on shore.

Decoteau and a group of 24 travelers just returned from a 10-night Caribbean cruise aboard the Prima, visiting five ports.

For inexperienced travelers, one of the easiest ways to travel is a cruise. The cabins also allow travelers to enjoy their own space and privacy.

“You get to know your fellow passengers in a small group,” Decoteau said.

Adventure Tours is also offering discounts on Collette Vacations trips, which include Dec. 2-9, Magical Christmas Markets of Austria and Germany; Feb. 29-March 11, 2024, Treasures of Egypt; April 14-21, 2024, America’s Music Cities; May 22-31, 2024, Reflections of Italy; and July 21-30, 2024, Iceland: Land of Fire and Ice.

Decoteau said this is the third time Adventure Tours will experience the Treasures of Egypt, which is one of his personal favorites.

“It’s a country of contrast, rich and poor, limousines and donkey carts...to me it’s

magical,” he said.

Theater trips to the nonprofit Providence Performing Arts Center are always popular Decoteau said, booking six to eight shows a season. Adventure Tours always secures 45 prime orchestra seats.

“Their shows are every bit as good as any Broadway performance. It’s sensational,” he said.

In September, Adventure Tours offers the chance to see “Funny Girl” and the legendary crooner Johnny Mathis perform his Voice of Romance tour.

Some trips have food as the focus, including the Lake Winnepesaukee Turkey Train on Oct. 7, which not only includes a ride on the scenic railroad in 1930s train cars, but also a hot, delicious turkey dinner catered by Hart’s Turkey Farm.

The Hampton Beach Seafood Festival on Sept. 9 allows travelers to sample the flavors of New England’s seacoast, featuring food from 60 of the top restaurants. Dining options range from lobster and clams to barbecued ribs.

For entertainment, there will be sand sculpting by Master Greg Grady, along with two musical performances. Get a jumpstart on your holiday shopping by visiting the 80 craft and art vendors at the sidewalk sale.

Whether it’s riding an elephant, sleeping in a camel-hair tent in Morocco or enjoying nearby shopping and dining, Adventure Tours can help travelers make memories that will last a lifetime.

“The travel experience is one that certain people just love,” Decoteau said.

For more information about Adventure Tours or to book a trip, visit adventuretoursofwarren.com, call 413-436-5357 or email adventuretours@att.net.

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