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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

April 24, 2025 | Vol. 47, No. 8 | \$1.00

www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com

AHS project begins

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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AGAWAM – Without any delays, the Agawam High School project got underway as students left the campus for 10 days.

Bulldozers and other heavy equipment occupied the west side of the large parking lot and begun staging work last Friday. Construction crews were on the job, but students were off for the Good Friday holiday, and are off all week for spring vacation. Sports are still going, but the school is otherwise closed during the day.

As construction begins, there will be some minor disruptions to student and staff's schedule.

Student pick-up and drop off will be rerouted throughout construction and they currently estimate that about 100 parking spaces on the property will be lost.

For sports, one practice field will be lost so both lacrosse teams will share the turf field for practices.

Additionally, home softball games have now been moved to Borgatti Park.

According to several presentations made by the mayor, who also chairs the school committee, the work will take about four years and there will be a lot of moving parts to the construction.

The total high school building should be 211,575 gsf and the Early Childhood Center is planned to be 21,150 gsf.

There will be a roadway going around the total property of the project, with access points on Mill and Cooper Street, similar to the current building.

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Great weather for Easter Egg Hunt

AGAWAM – The second attempt to hold the Agawam Parks and Recreation Annual Easter Egg Hunt was a huge success.

The weather was in the low 80's for the hunt, which was held at School Street Park once again and was co-sponsored by the Agawam Lions Club.

Members of the Lions Club assisted the Parks department in executing three hunts for the different age groups.

There was a great turnout on the day before Easter as local children got to hunt for not just eggs with candy, but also the potential to win prizes.



Members of the Agawam Lions Club volunteer for the event.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Beverly Tetreault and Bonnie Waters run the allergy-free table.



Raffle prizes were available for egg hunters who found golden coins.



See more photos on page 10.

Alice Collins is ready to hunt for Easter eggs.

Students head to State House



Agawam High School students Lucy Chivers and Christina Ritter recently went to the Massachusetts State House in Boston to participate in a Student Government Day, where they debated a bill brought before the mock House of Representatives, and then voted on it. They also heard from guest speakers throughout the day, many of them actual members of the Massachusetts State House of Representatives.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Capital Improvement Plan proposal submitted

By Gregory A. Scibelli
 gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – While the high school project is underway and the new police station is nearing completion, taking up a large portion of debt service for the next several years, the town still needs to deal with other projects to contend with.

Each year, the mayor submits a five-year Capital Improvement Plan, which is endorsed by the Agawam City Council.

It is not a guarantee that all the projects included in the plan will be completed each fiscal year, but it provides the town a guideline to follow for capital projects the town needs to prioritize.

Much of the town's resources are into the police station and the high school,

but funds are still needed to keep up with other town needs.

For FY2026, the general fund proposals include equipment for the DPW, money dedicated for sidewalks and road improvements to go along with Chapter 90 highway funding from the state, improvements to some traffic lights, work to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bridge, building maintenance and fire equipment, and nearly \$900,000 for project to improve the intersection at Suffield, Cooper, and Rowley streets.

It is possible that Mayor Christopher Johnson will include funding for all the projects in his general project proposal, which is also coming in the next month. The city council usually ap-

proves the budget in June.

The FY2027 proposals, which are around \$2 million, include improvements to the fire department's dispatch operations, and a feasibility study for the recreation center at Perry Lane Park.

Highlights of the proposals between 2028 and 2030 include town building automation upgrades, a rescue boat for the fire department, a boiler replacement at the Agawam DPW facility, and fire department hose and extraction equipment.

The CIP program will also have projects that will require borrowings and subsequent debt service, and projects paid for by the enterprise funds, including water and sewer.

Current debt includes the police department, li-

brary roof, Still Brook Park, and an Aerial truck for the fire department.

The town will also take on some minor debt for the replacements of the roofs at the town's four elementary schools. The town has submitted the roof projects for the MSBA's accelerated repair program, which will help provide the funds for the projects if approved.

The DPW roof is also in need replacement.

The water and sewer projects include a number of water mains and sewer outfalls.

The city council will review and hold a public hearing on the CIP at their first May meeting on May 5. Members of the community have the ability to appear at the meeting and give input on the plan.



May activities announced for Agawam Public Library

AGAWAM – Marvelous May at the Agawam Library begins with a program you won't want to miss. Local historian David Cecchi returns to the library on Monday, May 5 at 6 p.m. in the Clini Community Room. Mr. Cecchi will present the fascinating history of his hometown with photographs and artifacts from the Agawam Historical Association archives and his own extensive collection. Around Agawam and Feeding Hills is Cecchi's fifth title in Arcadia Publishing's Images of America series, following Agawam and Feeding Hills (2000); Agawam and Feeding Hills Revisited (2005); Riverside Park (2012); and The Big E, Eastern States Exposition (2016). Copies of all books will be available for sale and signing by the author. Proceeds from the sales of the three Agawam and Feeding Hills books benefit the Agawam Historical Association. Please register for this event, as it will fill up quickly.

Would you like less stress and more energy? On Tuesdays in May, we are pleased to offer Qigong: Meditation in

Motion at 11 a.m. in the Clini Community Room. Qigong (pronounced Chee-Gong) is an ancient Chinese practice to enhance health and healing in the body, mind, and spirit. Using deep breathing, standing exercises/stretches, and flowing movements, Qigong helps clear tension out of the body while calming the mind and balancing emotions. This practice will leave you feeling both relaxed and energized. Join instructor Pamela Cincotta and give it a try! Participants are asked to bring a yoga mat, wear loose, comfortable clothing and bring bottled water. This series of classes is suitable for all levels, including beginners. Tuesday, May 6 at 11 a.m. is the first of six sessions that will meet each Tuesday at 11 a.m. through June 10. Please register for this program.

Chair Yoga continues on Wednesday mornings at 9:05 a.m. in the Clini Community Room. Join yoga instructor Heidi Taberman for an hour of gentle chair yoga in this weekly class. This is a drop-in event. Please note, Chair Yoga will not meet on May 21.

Did you know that the library has a growing collection of board games? Patrons can check out games like Sounds Fishy, Wingspan and Exploding Kittens. We also have more traditional games like Monopoly, Scrabble and Catan. Games check out for one week with an automatic renewal for another week. Check out one of our games an join us for Adult Board Game Night on Wednesday, May 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the Clini Community Room. Celebrate the joys of a drop-in, fun game night with board games and snacks.

On Saturday, May 10 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, the Agawam Library will offer a Community Art & Paint Session for the New England Mosaic Project. Join us for a paint/art session in conjunction with Agawam Community Artists and Artisans and contribute to their mosaic project. Come to the library to paint or decorate a canvas that will be donated to the New England Mosaic Project. The canvases will be auctioned and proceeds will fund scholarships for local art students. This year's

theme is "New England Treasures". A variety of art materials will be available at the library for attendees to use, or feel free to bring some of your own materials to make your piece more unique. Please register for this event.

May is Women's Health Month and the library welcomes Occupational Therapist, Dara Clauson for an insightful discussion on the benefits of pelvic floor therapy. Join us on Monday, May 12 at 6:30 p.m. and again on Friday, May 16 at 10 a.m. for a conversation designed to support women through every stage of life—from trying to conceive to menopause. Both sessions will take place in the Clini Community Room. Please register for either time.

The library welcomes talented artist, illustrator and author Ruth Sanderson on Thursday, May 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the Clini Community Room. In conjunction with her art exhibit on display in our gallery this month, Ruth Sanderson will discuss her career as a successful author and illustrator, having over 90 published books. She will

show details of her process, and answer any questions people might have about writing and illustrating for children. Ruth co-founded and taught for many years in the graduate program in Children's Literature and Illustration at Hollins University in Virginia. Her signed children's books and prints will be available for purchase after the event. Ruth's website is www.ruthsanderson.com. This event is sponsored by the Agawam Center Library Association. Please register for this event.

Our Adult Writers Group will meet on Thursday, May 15 at 6 p.m. in the Peirce Conference Room. Tea & Trivia continues on Tuesday, May 20 at 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday, May 21 at 2:30 p.m. in the Clini Community Room. Our May Library Tech Sessions will feature a discussion and demonstration of the C/W MARS Catalog and App. Join us on Wednesday, May 21 at 6:30 p.m. and Tuesday, May 27 at 10 a.m. in the Clini Community Room. Participants are asked to bring any device you plan on accessing the catalog through and also

their C/W MARS account information to log in. Please register for all of these events.

The library has a great May line-up for Virtual Author Talks! On Wednesday, May 7 at 2 p.m., join Dr. David Rosmarin for a discussion of his book *Thriving with Anxiety*. Author Liann Zhang presents *On Writing a Brilliant, Dark, and Diabolical Thriller* on Wednesday, May 14 at 7:00 p.m. And Judy Blume fans will want to tune in on Wednesday, May 21 at 2:00 p.m. for *How Judy Blume Rewrote Childhood for All of Us* with Author Rachelle Bergstein. Please note that these author talks will be held virtually. More information and registration can be found by visiting: <https://library.org/agawamlibrary>

Registration for adult programs is open now. Please visit our online calendar at www.agawamlibrary.org to register, or call the Information Desk at (413) 789-1550 X4. Our programs are often supported by the Agawam Center Library Association. Please note that the library will be closed on Monday, May 26 for Memorial Day.

Golf Tournament scheduled to help Parish Cupboard

AGAWAM – Once again, we gather for a fun day of golf followed by a wonderful dinner to support The West Springfield-Agawam Parish Cupboard and its pantry and meal programs that feeds the hungry and people in need. Our 31st event includes 18 holes of golf

(Scramble format), lunch, dinner, contests, raffles and prizes. Enter a foursome or sign up alone and we will place you in a foursome. It will be held on Saturday, May 31 with registration from 11 a.m. to 12 noon. There will be a shotgun start at 12 noon. Social hour for the dinner

will be at 5 p.m. The cost to play is \$125 which includes dinner. For dinner only, it is \$30 per person. Please send payment to Parish Cupboard 738 Main Street West Springfield, MA 01089. Any questions call Bob at 413-734-7969 or email Parishcupboard@aol.com.

Grants awarded to area farmers

AGAWAM – Grants of up to \$2,500 have been awarded to 116 farmers in Western Massachusetts as part of this year's Local Farmer Awards. These grants, totaling \$267,850, supporting a variety of farm operations and capital improvement projects, are community-funded by the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation in partnership with Big Y, the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture, the Irene E. and George A. Davis Foundation and other community funders. This year, the program celebrates its 11th year with a record number of recipients.

Charlie D'Amour, Executive Chairman of the Board, Big Y comments "As the growing season begins, we're proud to support local farmers by investing directly in them and their success—whether they're planting crops, tending to dairy and livestock year-round, or producing seasonal favorites like maple syrup. These grants aren't just about dollars—they're an investment in our communities and support the stability and growth of our local farms to help ensure that they can continue to feed our communities for generations to come."

The Local Farmer Awards program helps new and established farms make essential investments—such as irrigation, storage, and equipment upgrades—with farmers also contributing their own resources to strengthen their operations.

Karl Prah, farmer and owner of Underline Farm in Easthampton received an award to purchase new grain silos. "This grant means everything to our farm", says Prah. "With the rising cost of grain, being able to store feed in bulk will help us keep costs down and keep our meat prices affordable for local families."

"With 788 projects supported to date in our region, we've seen firsthand how these grants, funded by community businesses and individual philanthropists, help farmers make meaningful improvements that strengthen their businesses", says Cari Carpenter, director of the Local Farmer Awards. She continues "this year, the program received 207 applications, leaving 91 worthy projects unfunded—clearly illustrating the growing need for support among the region's farmers. Our local farmers rely on our collective efforts, and we should all consider purchasing fresh, locally grown products when possible."

In addition to the funding partners, Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation, Big Y, the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture, and the Irene E. and George A. Davis Foundation (new this year), other generous funders include Ann & Steve Davis, Charles & Elizabeth D'Amour, Robin and Audrey Taylor, Barbara Deslauriers, PeoplesBank, DeNucci Group Merrill, Eastern States Exposition, Andrews, HP Hood, Baystate Health, Three County

Fair, Smith College (new this year), bankESB, Country Bank, and Franklin First Federal Credit Union.

The following summaries indicate the breadth and depth of the impact of the 2025 Local Farmer Awards:

- Most grants were awarded to farmers in Hampshire County (37.07%) and Franklin County (31.90%), followed by Berkshire (20.69%) and Hampshire (10.34%).

- Vegetables were the most common primary product (32.76%), followed by meat (15.52%), maple products (10.34%), and fruit (9.48%). The rest of the main products include a diverse range such as milk, hay, flowers, and more.

- While nearly half (47.41%) of recipients have been in business for over 20 years, a significant portion (39.65%) are newer farms with 10 or fewer years of experience. This includes 20 farms (17.24%) in their first five years and 26 farms (22.41%) operating for 6-10 years, demonstrating strong support for newer and growing farm businesses.

- The most commonly funded equipment categories included livestock equipment/feeders (18.97%), general equipment (9.48%), tractors/implements (7.76%), and permanent structure improvements (7.76%).

- A significant portion (76 out of 116) of projects introduced new technology to the farm.

Local resident reflects on successful prom date



On April 25, 1975 Giselle Remillard and Stephen Maloney attended the Notre Dame, Springfield, Prom. Giselle and Stephen met while working at Baystate Medical Center, in the Dietary Department in 1975. Notre Dame, being an all-girls high school at the time, required the young ladies to find a prom date on their own. Giselle had to work up the nerve to ask a guy she had only known for a few months to escort her to her high school prom. That prom date in 1975 eventually led to a wedding date in 1980. To Giselle, Stephen said, "Fifty years later, I'm so glad you asked me to be your date for the Notre Dame Prom. I can't imagine a life without you. Happy 50th Prom Anniversary, Love, Steve."

SUBMITTED PHOTO

AHS Play to raise curtain on May 1 and 2

AGAWAM – The AHS Drama Club presents Puffs: Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic & Magic. The Agawam High School Drama Club presents this off-Broadway hit comedy, a parody of the story of a well-known wizarding school that became a cultural phenomenon. Tickets will be on sale at the door on May 1 and 2 at 7 p.m. in the Agawam High School Auditorium. There will be a bake sale and raffle prizes at each performance. Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$8 for students and senior citizens. This show is rated PG. The auditorium is wheelchair-accessible. Please come to support the Performing Arts Department. For more information, contact jaeger@agawamed.org or 413-374-3688.

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New activities added to Senior Center calendar

AGAWAM – The Agawam Senior Center has released several activities for April and early May. Senior residents are encouraged to try and come down and see what the senior center is all about.

talk about fascination topics such as muscle testing, energy levels, orbs, the significance of color and more. I look forward to having you a part of our discussion.

Hearing Checks Available Continuing Sessions With Glenn Olsen

Friday, April 25 at 1 p.m. Conference Room
A little about me, I was a long term successful Physical Science Special Educator. In January of 2010 I had a severely disabling stroke. For the past 15 years I have focused on rehabilitation from my injuries with both traditional and non traditional methods. We have discussed topics essential to living a healthy life style such as foods, nutrition, and vitamins. We will continue to

Michelle A. McCarthy, Rmt – The Heart To Heart Healing Connection

Monday, April 28 in the Library
must sign up in advance
Reiki is a Japanese stress reduction and relaxation technique. It is based on the idea that a "Life Force Energy" flows through each of us. When your Life Force Energy is low, you are more likely to feel the effects of stress or to feel ill. Reiki is a "hands on" method of reducing stress, promoting relaxation and creating balance in ourselves and our actions. Appointments on Monday, April 28th starting at Noon. Call Kristi-

na at 726-2836 to book your appointment. Cost is \$20 per 20-minute session in the library.

Are You at Risk for Osteoporosis?

Wednesday, April 30 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the Garden Room
Our Wellness Event will focus on: Bone Health Screening
- Uses portable, non-invasive ultrasound to assess risk for osteoporosis or osteopenia.
- Takes about 30 seconds; results displayed on a screen.
*For informational purposes only; not for diagnosis or treatment. Consult your doctor for further testing.
Grip Strength Screening
Knowing your grip strength can be helpful in determining overall health.
This educational seminar

will be offered by Connie from Fallon Health. Please contact Kristina to sign up.

Volunteer Appreciation Week

April 21st-25th
Have you been greeted with a friendly HELLO, enjoyed the treats of the coffee shop, sat in the pristine library, received a brown bag, enjoyed an exercise class, or one of our delicious meals with beverages to boot....OR have you ever wondered how the dining room is "magically" set up for a big event...let me tell you.....volunteers.
Yes, that's right volunteers are the magical glue that hold the Senior Center together....they are the silent heroes and shining stars.
With the month of April highlighting volunteers who do so much, we too would

like to take this opportunity to send a big thank you to each and everyone of our volunteers, please know we could not be able to do what we do and offer what we have if it wasn't for you. So if you see a volunteer give them a high five and say thanks. We appreciate you.

Are You At Risk For Osteoporosis?

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Our Wellness Event will focus on: Bone Health Screening
- Uses portable, non-invasive ultrasound to assess risk for osteoporosis or osteopenia.
- Takes about 30 seconds; results displayed on a screen. *For informational purposes only; not for diagnosis or treatment. Consult

your doctor for further testing.

Grip Strength Screening
Knowing your grip strength can be helpful in determining overall health.

This educational seminar will be offered by Connie from Fallon Health. Please contact Kristina to sign up.

Manicures With Jane

Monday, May 5 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.

Catholic Women's Club meeting to be held May 15 at Storrowtown

AGAWAM – The annual May Banquet of The Catholic Women's Club will take place at Storrowtown Tavern in West Springfield, MA. It will be on Thursday, May 15, and begins at 6 p.m. with fruit/cheese platter and veggie & dip platter. The buffet dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. The menu

is salad, bread and butter, mashed potatoes, seasonal vegetables, Chicken Francaise, Yankee Pot Roast, Broiled Scrod, tea, and coffee with a dessert ice cream puff to complete the meal. Open seating will be used. The price is \$36, and checks should be made out

to the Catholic Women's Club or C.W.C and sent to Paula Raiche, 181 Leonard St., Agawam, MA 01001 by May 7, 2025. Checks may also be put in the basket at weekend Masses. No refunds will be made. The club's monthly and yearly meetings will be held after the dinner.

Museum set to re-open

AGAWAM – The Agawam Historical & Fire House Museum may have been closed for the past five years, but the archive committee of the Agawam Historical Association (AHA) has been busy during that time, organizing the association's collection of historical artifacts and ephemera for the museum's reopening, initially planned for Memorial Day 2024.

"We realized a full opening was not going to happen last year," stated AHA president David Cecchi, who, along with museum curator Anne Liptak, AHA treasurer Katy Krause, and AHA past president Sue Scantlen, make up the archive committee. "The collection had grown considerably since the museum first opened in 2002, so last winter we focused on readying the fire house portion of the museum for opening." A 'Sneak Peak' of the first floor Chief Russell "Rusty" Jenks Apparatus Room held on Memorial Day 2024 attracted more than 60 visitors.

Since then, the archive committee's attention has returned on the second-floor exhibit space. The entire space was rethought, with more room

dedicated for archive storage, and display cases, including a custom, archival display cabinet hand-built in England. The displays were rearranged to best tell the story of Agawam and Feeding Hills, and include a pair of wall maps published in 1855, one before the incorporation of Agawam as an independent town, and one after; exhibits on the history of the Agawam woolen mill; aviation in Agawam; the Hastings general store; and Riverside Park. Several styles of Agawam Gin bottles will also be displays, along with new donations from the family of Harlan Atwood, who at age 16 won the 1935 Feeding Hills Country Club Golf Championship; and the family of Leonard "Buddy" Johnson, a standout athlete of Agawam High School's Class of 1947. Atwood's championship trophy and Johnson's letterman sweater, football helmet, cleats, and numerous medals won for his track prowess are valued additions to the historical association collection.

While combing through the collection and conducting research to develop new exhibits, the archive committee made two ob-

servations: there were a lot of "new" historical photographs that had never been seen before; and a longtime member and past president of the association seemed especially deserving of recognition.

"I began to create a mental catalogue of the photos I was coming across," Cecchi said. "And realized there were enough for a new book. We thought it would be a good idea to coincide publication with the reopening of the museum." Cecchi spent last summer and fall organizing the photographs, researching, and writing Around Agawam and Feeding Hills, his fifth title in Arcadia Publishing's Images of America series, and the third to focus on Agawam and Feeding Hills. With selections from the association supplemented with images from his own collection, the book features more than 200 historical photographs from the mid 1800s through the 1990s and will be published at the end of April. Cecchi's first book, Agawam and Feeding Hills, was published in 2000 to raise funds for the renovation of the Elm Street fire station into the Agawam Historical & Fire House Museum.

Shred documents at DPW Annex

AGAWAM – The Town of Agawam has announced that it will host a free document shredding event for residents on Saturday, April 26 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the DPW Annex, 1000 Suffield Street.

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 removed. 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.

Mayor Christopher Johnson is pleased Valley Green Shredding continues to partner with the Town of Agawam to provide our residents with this annual event. "Residents should shred any documents that contain personal information such as a social security number, bank account number or credit card number. Items like bank statements, medical records and tax documents are a few that may contain personal information that would make it easy for a criminal to steal your identity."

For more information on how to protect your person-

al information from identity theft, including how to protect your kids about text scams, understanding your credit, and identifying identity theft, visit the Federal Trade Commission at <https://consumer.ftc.gov>

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



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Opinion

Guest Column



SOCIAL SECURITY Matters
By Russell Gloor

When should my wife claim Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

My wife was born in July 1959, and her recent SS benefit estimate is \$3,337 at her full retirement age, or \$4,397 at age 70.

She is presently employed full-time and intends to continue working until she is aged 70. She is wondering when the most financially advantageous time would be to draw her SS retirement.

Signed: Planning Ahead

Dear Planning Ahead:

Obviously, the best time for your wife to get the highest possible monthly Social Security benefit would be age 70. Provided your wife's life expectancy is at least average about age 87 for a woman her current age, she will likely receive the most in cumulative lifetime Social Security benefits by waiting until age 70 to claim.

For clarity, if your wife were to choose to claim before her Full Retirement Age, her monthly amount would be less and she would be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test, which limits how much she can earn before her FRA. If the AET is exceeded, SS will take away \$1 for every \$2 her earnings are over the limit (they take away by withholding future benefits until the penalty is satisfied).

The AET (\$23,400 for 2025 but changes yearly) is in effect until your wife reaches her full retirement age of 66 years and 10 months, after which she can earn as much as she likes without penalty. Since she plans to work full time until age 70, your wife should likely not claim Social Security before her FRA. As mentioned, claiming at age 70 is probably a more prudent financial option.

Since your wife expects to continue working, she should also know that her estimated benefit will likely increase assuming her more recent earnings are among the highest over her lifetime. Social Security will review current year earnings annually to see if her current earnings warrant a benefit increase (SS benefits are always based on the highest 35 years of work earnings, and that includes earnings even after SS benefit are started). Also, the estimates provided by SS do not include Cost of Living Adjustments, which typically occur annually. FYI, the average annual COLA

increase over the past two decades has been about 2.5%.

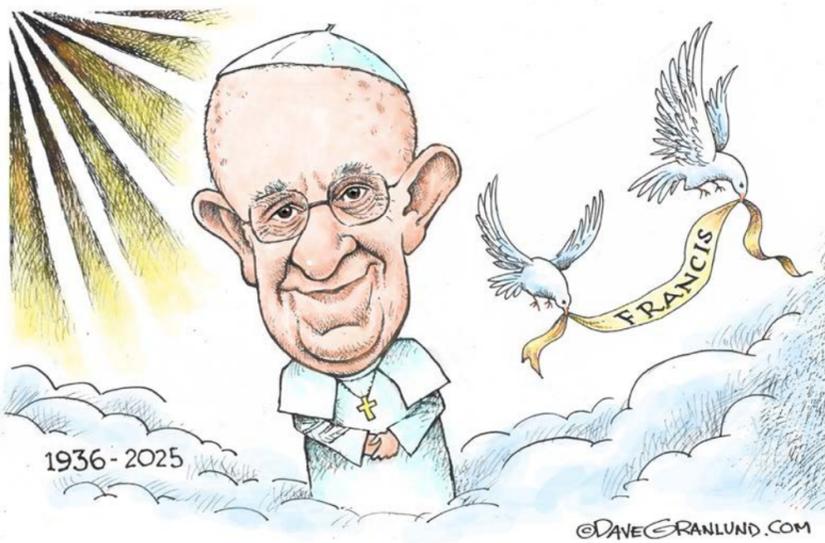
Based on her estimated FRA benefit, it is also evident that your wife will not get additional benefits as your spouse. For that to occur, your benefit at your FRA would need to be more than twice your wife's FRA amount, which it likely is not. Thus, your wife should make her claiming decision based only on her own benefit opportunity, considering her personal financial needs and her life expectancy.

FYI, your wife's "breakeven age" the age at which she will have collected the same amount of SS money by claiming at age 70 vs. claiming at her Full Retirement Age, is about 82 years of age. Thus, assuming her life expectancy is more than 82, it would be prudent to wait until age 70 to claim Social Security.

In the end, the "best" time to claim Social Security depends on a few factors - most notably, life expectancy, and financial need. If the SS money isn't urgently needed now, and your wife's life expectancy is at least "average," then it appears from what you've shared that her best choice would be to wait until age 70 to claim Social Security.

If life circumstances change over the years, your wife can take comfort knowing that she can also claim her Social Security at any time before age 70 and she will get benefits right up to the month she claims. Note that by waiting until after her FRA to claim, she will earn Delayed Retirement Credits of .667% more benefit for each month of delay about 8% more for each year of delay.

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



Guest Column



By Ellenor Downer

The Purple Martin Conservation Association reported in a press release the sighting of the first purple martin in Massachusetts on April 4 in Rehoboth. The sighting was by a purple martin enthusiast, one of many individuals, who track and report on the birds' annual migration.

"The first purple martin arrivals of the season are always an exciting event," said Joe Siegrist, President of the Purple Martin Conservation Association. "Tracking the migration is not only fun, it also provides us with valuable information that helps inform our research and strengthen our efforts to make sure we're doing everything possible to sustain the

population of these amazing birds."

The Purple Martin is North America's largest species of swallow. It winters in the rainforests of Brazil

before making up to a 7000-mile migration north into the eastern United States and Canada.

The Purple Martin Conservation Association said, "The annual migration is a testament to the martins' resilience as well as the unwavering dedication of thousands of 'martin landlords' who maintain multi-compartment nest 'condos' that are essential for the birds' survival. Once widespread in rural America, this species, that eats billions of flying insects annually, has been



Purple Martin

disappearing at an alarming rate, experiencing a loss of one-third of its population over the last 50 years.

"The decline seems to be the combination of a few factors: nesting habitat loss, competing invasive species, decreasing prey availability, and climate change," said Siegrist. "Over the majority of the purple martins' range, they are unable to nest naturally any longer. Human-provided nest boxes are the only thing keeping the species alive east of the Rocky Mountains."

BACKYARD | page 5

Deer demolishing your bulbs? Mine too. Read on.

I am so sad! One of my prime gardens, a very cool multi-planting of spring bulbs is showing signs of munching!

I am pretty sure deer are the culprit. What should I do?

Wipe my tears and look back in the archives to refresh my memory and maybe enlighten my readers in the various ways to send the deer on to greener pastures.

Fencing Experts agree that fencing is the best way of keeping deer out of the garden. Nonelectric fencing options are many and include tall vertical fences, inward slanted fences, solid board fences and fences made of plastic netting.

A vertical fence made out of woven wire and wooden posts will work well to keep deer out if it is at least eight feet tall. Slanted fences can be shorter but should extend inward at a 45 degree angle to capitalize on the deer's need to negoti-



by Roberta McQuaid

spells predator. To be successful at this type of deer warfare, use several different options, rotate them throughout the season and change them before they "become part of the scenery."

Scented soap repels deer because they hate its smell. Drill a hole in the bar of deodorant soap and hang it with some twine at deer height (three to six feet off the ground) on the tree or shrub in jeopardy.

Human or dog hair will likewise repel deer and is usually free for the sweeping at the beauty parlor or dog groomer. Scented dryer sheets have also been known to keep Bambi at bay, although they must be replaced after each heavy rain.

For the best measure of control, hang the sheets, bars of soap or sachets of hair three feet apart.

Commercial preparations such as Deer Off and Deer Away rely on sulfur compounds to repel deer and other garden critters.

GARDEN | page 5

CHECK OUT ALL THE
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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

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

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper

plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in the Agawam Advertiser News.



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Subscriptions
www.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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Donation needed for dress programs

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

Both causes request interview-appropriate women's and men's clothing, shoes and accessories. Items will be collected at Cooper's now 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 casual clothing will not be accepted. "Just ask yourself 'Would I wear this to an interview?' If the answer is 'yes,' Dress for Success and Suit Up Springfield 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 them 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



Donations are being accepted at Cooper's Gifts for Suit Up Springfield. SUBMITTED PHOTO

actively define her life, the direction she takes and what success means to her.

Suit Up Springfield (SUS) is a community organization focused on providing the men of Springfield with professional attire. Their goal is to help everyone find a suit that will give them the confidence, knowledge and tools to help them become a successful member of our community. Both organizations have boutiques in downtown Springfield.

"We have held clothing drives for years; our customers consider it a convenience. Especially for people west of the river, it's easier to bring donations here, and we are open 7 days a week," Gourde said. Items may be brought to the shop anytime during the month of April. Cooper's is located at 161 Main St., Agawam, Mass., and is open daily 10am-5pm,

Saturdays 10am-4pm and Sundays 12-4pm. Cooper's will be closed on Easter Sunday, April 20.

"This drive coincides with Dress for Success as our April Round-Up charity; so, it's the perfect time to spread the word about 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 nearest dollar amount. Gourde will then match 50% of the total collected. The program has donated more than \$60,000 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/.

AFD hosts Wildland Fire Awareness Day at Robinson Park

AGAWAM – The Agawam Fire Department, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation's Bureau of Forest Fire Control, invites community members to Wildland Fire Awareness Day on Sunday, May 4, from 10 a.m. to noon at Robinson State Park.

This informative event aims to educate residents on crucial strategies to protect their homes and communities from wildfire risks. Participants will gain valuable insights into reducing wildfire hazards around their properties, learn prac-

tical tips for wildfire preparedness, and discover how to make their homes less vulnerable to wildfires.

Highlights of the event include:

- Interactive presentations on wildfire risk reduction.
 - Introduction to the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Firewise USA® program.
 - Opportunities to engage with local fire experts and ask questions.
 - Special appearance by Smokey Bear for fun and photos.
- Complimentary coffee

and donuts will be available throughout the morning.

Agawam Fire Chief Alan Sirois said, "This event is particularly important for residents whose homes border forested areas or open fields. Understanding and implementing wildfire prevention measures can significantly enhance safety and protect our community from potential wildfires. We strongly encourage all residents to attend."

Join us to learn how proactive measures can significantly enhance community safety and preparedness in wildfire-prone areas.

Class of 1968 planning reunion

AGAWAM – The 1968 Agawam High School class is having a reunion on Wednesday, June 18 at Take 5 Restaurant on Springfield Street in Agawam at 2 p.m. until closing.

It will take place on the patio weather permitting. (Indoors if weather is inclement.)

Clean up day at Pynchon Point set for April 26

AGAWAM – Everyone is welcome to join in on the WRWA's annual cleanup at Pynchon Point on Saturday, April 26 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. There is a paved parking area with 150' ramp that leads down to the banks of the beautiful Westfield River, a lovely place to recreate, and leave trash. In the past, the park has been shut down due to neglect (<https://archives.thereiminder.com/localnews/agawam/massivecleanupprep/>) and these annual cleanups ensure that Pynchon Point remains open as a safe and clean area for both recreation and the wildlife that depend on a

healthy River to live. The cleanup also takes place along the sidewalk on River Road for those with mobility issues who still want to help.

The WRWA will provide light snacks, gloves, trash bags, and instructions to all participants. All children under 18 must have a waiver signed by a parent at the event or in advance. This cleanup is a great opportunity to meet others who share an interest in clean water and environmental justice.

Contact Sheryl Becker at 413-374-1921 or sherlearth69@gmail.com.

PROJECT ■ from page 1

Additionally, the project team has planned for there to be a significant amount of lighting distributed throughout the property.

"It will be a much better lit site than the existing high school is," Mayor Christopher Johnson said.

There will be electric vehicle parking spaces around the property, with them

making up about 57, or 10%, of the total 565 spaces. They will be spread around about three locations on the property.

However, while the groundwork will be laid for them, the full charging stations will not be set up unless proven to be necessary.

"All we have to do to meet code is have them be ready, which means underground conduit run wire, but we

are not going to have the charging stations in place," Johnson said.

Johnson also mentioned that the new high school building will have as many pitched roofs as possible.

"We are trying to have as much pitched roof as possible from a longevity standpoint and an ease of maintenance standpoint," Johnson said.

These planned roofs also

have the added advantage of making it easier to add solar panels to the school building.

"Solar can be clipped to the seam, you don't have to make punctures in the roof to do it," Johnson said.

While solar will help with energy levels, the building will mainly function off of geothermal wells.

The current estimate is that the construction team will drill 165 wells into the

high school property to make this system functional.

"The estimation is that we are going to be drilling about 165 wells, which is better because we were originally projecting to be over 200 but our soil and groundwater conditions are excellent," Johnson said.

To help with energy efficiency, the project team has worked hard to design the building so that it has as few

windows as possible while simultaneously letting in plenty of natural light.

Currently, the plan is for the building to be about 18% windows, with each window being triple glazed to prevent any heat or cool air loss in the winter and summer.

Voters in town approved the debt exclusion funding for the project last June, and designers worked hard to get the project underway quickly.

BACKYARD ■ from page 4

The purple martin, the largest swallow in North America, is between 7.5 and 7.9 inches long. The adult males are iridescent, dark blue-purple overall with brown-black wings and tail. Both the females and immatures are duller with variable amounts of gray on the head and chest with a whitish lower belly.

These birds are colonial with dozens of martins nesting in the same spot in open areas especially near water. They return to the same nesting spot. In the east, they nest almost exclusively in nest boxes and martin houses. In the west, they nest in natural cavities.

Martins fly rapidly and feed on large, aerial insects such as dragonflies. They often feed higher in the air than other swallows. The female lays three to six white eggs. She lays one to two broods per year.

Sandhill cranes

A neighbor, who lives about a mile as the crow flies from my hayfield, emailed he had a pair in the back of

his cornfield on April 5. He said, "I only saw them cuz they were quite talkative. They just flew from my field again, both times in your direction. Now that I know what they sound like, I have heard them quite a bit this spring. They seem to talk whenever they fly." We both hope they will nest in the area. My daughter saw the pair of sandhill cranes in my hayfield on April 10.

Worthington birds

A Worthington birder reported flocks of goldfinches and redwing blackbirds mixed with a few grackles.

He said in his email, "Fun seeing the golds golding up and hearing the blackbirds, cheerfully chattering in the trees is welcome as spring up here."

Brimfield birds

In late March, a Brimfield resident sent an email. He said, "Chilly morning, it was quite cool when I put out the feeders this morning. We have the wood stove going now. In the yard yesterday was a first of the year sighting, twp song sparrows." Four female turkeys showed up

late in the day. He frequently visits local ponds in search of birds especially water fowl. He said, "In Warren there were nine ring-necked ducks on one of the ponds. I got some pictures last week of ring-necked ducks in excellent light and you could actually see the brown ring at the base of the neck on several birds, something I seldom see. A few great blue herons at the pond on South Street and saw a second osprey at the pond for the first time this year."

Bald eagle

On Tuesday, April 15 I saw a mature, bald eagle perched in a dead tree in the beaver pond at the edge of my hayfield. When I returned an hour later, it was still there. In the afternoon, when I went to pickup my granddaughter at the bus stop, it was still in the same tree.

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.

Deerscape your yard

Instead of planting your gardens full of tulips or muscari, like I did, choose daffodils, snowdrops, fritillaria and alliums instead. Good luck!

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

GARDEN ■ from page 4

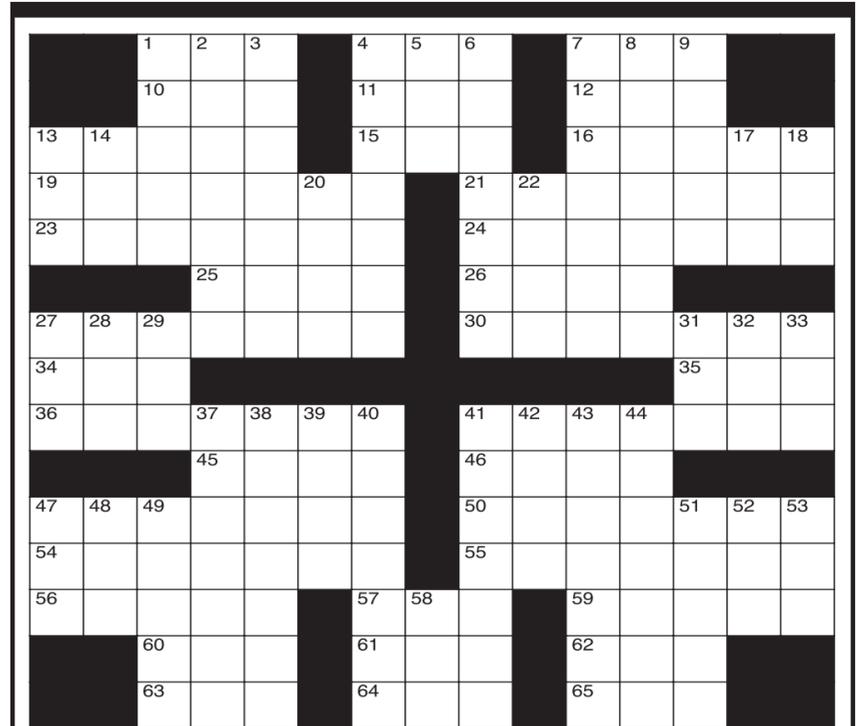
To make a homemade version of these products blend an egg, a cup of water and a couple of garlic cloves in the blender.

After a week or more of fermenting the noxious liquid can be sprinkled over susceptible plants. Don't worry; within a short time the smell will be undetectable to you, but pungent as ever to our four legged browsers.

Scarecrows work only

minimally well to scare off deer, and to be the most effective, they must take the animal off guard. Assemble your scarecrow with as many moving parts as possible and position it in a different spot of the yard every couple of nights.

Hinged appendages, clothing that flaps in the breeze, eyes that bobble may just send Bambi into flight. One year I filled my scarecrow's pockets with deodorant soap for a double whammy!



CLUES ACROSS

- English TV station
- It fuels cars
- Where ships dock (abbr.)
- Indigenous people of Thailand
- Midway between northeast and east
- Small Milky Way constellation
- Fritz __, Austrian chemist
- A Brit's grandmother
- Colombian city
- Visualize
- Charged
- People's assets
- Informative books
- Jeer
- You can do it with your horn
- Agents of your downfall
- Central Uganda city

CLUES DOWN

- Supervises flying
- Type of tree
- Alfalfa
- Dishwasher soap brand
- Hall where military eats
- Ancient Greek City
- Speaks incessantly
- Discuss again
- Extreme greed
- Adopt or support
- Fantasy writer
- Russell
- Seize
- Early Mesoamerican civilization
- Noted pet detective
- Ventura
- Automobile
- Georgia rockers
- Color opposite green
- Amount of time
- Attempt

- Partner to cheese
- Constrictor snake
- Not good
- Supplement with difficulty
- Hug with fondness
- Enforced again
- Small amount of time (abbr.)
- Substance
- Anterior parts of the brain
- Brews
- Where ships load cargo
- Holiday season singer (abbr.)
- "__ humbug!"
- Monetary unit of Macao
- Popular children's book elephant
- Glutinous
- Function
- Old world, new
- Swiss river

Dealers sought for Spring Flea Market at historic site

AGAWAM – Following the success of last year's Community Tag Sale on the grounds of the historic Thomas Smith House, 251 North West Street, Feeding Hills, Massachusetts, the Agawam Historical Association is organizing a Spring Flea Market there on Saturday, May 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is seeking dealers of antique, vintage, and artisan items to participate. Local historical societies and civic organizations have also been invited to attend to promote their organizations, presenting an excellent opportunity

to join others at a community event in support of local historical preservation. 12' x 12' spaces are available for \$25. Dealers must provide their own tables and shade. Space availability is first come, first served. Space rental proceeds will benefit the Agawam Historical Association's efforts to preserve the town's history at the Agawam Historical & Fire House Museum and the Thomas Smith House. To reserve a space, please send check before 15 April, payable to Agawam Historical Association,

P.O. Box 552, Agawam, Mass. 01001. Please contact Joe Potter at (413) 821-5102 for more information. In the event of rain, the event will be held the following day, Sunday, 4 May 2025, from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. The National Register-listed Smith House and its preserved 1920s garage will also be open for tours. The house remains in near-original condition, with no central plumbing or central heat and can be visited virtually at <https://m1s.kuu.la/share/collection/7jq2q?fs=1&vr=1&initload=0&thumbs=1>.

The Thomas Smith House is one of the few remaining resources from the 18th century agricultural past of Feeding Hills. The history of its residents represents the long history of farming this section of Agawam and the shift into working outside the community by its later owners is representative of the pattern of suburban development that occurred in the town and throughout the country in the early twentieth century. The house is an unusually intact example of 18th century building prac-

tices and an unusually unaltered example of mid-to-late 18th century Connecticut River Valley design and materials, and of vernacular Georgian style. The Agawam Historical Association is a private, non-profit organization working to preserve historic materials, documents, and landmarks pertaining to the Town of Agawam and to provide educational opportunities concerning Agawam's history. The association operates the c. 1757 Thomas Smith House at 251 North

West Street in Feeding Hills, and the Agawam Historical & Fire House Museum at 35 Elm Street in Agawam. The Smith House is preserved in largely original, unrestored condition and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The museum occupies the former Elm Street Fire Station, and houses artifacts pertaining to the town and the Agawam Fire Department. New members are always welcome! For more information, visit agawamhistory.org. Follow us on Instagram and Facebook.

Compost bins now available for sale for residents

AGAWAM – The Town of Agawam is pleased to once again offer home compost bins at a reduced rate to all town residents.

Home composting is a simple way to restore nutrients in our soil. The addition of compost enriches soil, stimulates plant growth, and reduces the need for chemical fertilizers. In addition, composting food scraps with yard waste, has the added benefit of keeping those wastes out of our trash carts.

It's easy to make compost, and the Town of Agawam makes it even easier by offering rodent-resistant home composting bins for \$30.00, over 40% off the retail price. According to Environmental Project Coordinator Tracy DeMaio, a portion of the cost is funded by a grant awarded by the Mass Department of Environmental Protection.

"We are pleased Agawam is able to offer compost bins at an affordable rate to residents," stated Mayor Johnson. "Agawam is committed to providing its residents with quality services while promoting a sustainable future."

The New Age Composter is made in Massachusetts, constructed of thick, rugged 100% recycled plastic. The composter is adjustable and has a capacity of 24 cubic feet, the equivalent of about 12 bags of leaves. It has a cone shaped floor and cover which provide air and moisture to the composting material, requiring a minimum maintenance while producing compost in about 3 months.

The compost bin helps hold in heat and moisture, keep animals out, and look more attractive than open compost heaps. Organic material will start to turn to compost in the bin in

3 to 6 months. Compost, known as "black gold" to gardeners, replenishes nutrients in the soil, helps retain moisture, makes the soil easy to work, and helps plants resist disease. Compost makes plants healthy so they can overcome adverse conditions without pesticides or chemical fertilizers.

Pre-paid orders will be accepted until Friday, April 11. Residents must pick up compost bins between 3 and 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 1, or by appointment, at the Department of Public Works.

Order forms may be picked up at the Department of Public Works or downloaded on the town website at www.agawam.ma.us Residents may also visit the DPW section of the town website for more information on how to set up the New Age Composter.

Gina Kos to be featured speaker at next ACAA meeting

AGAWAM – Sunshine Village, a local non-profit organization with a mission of improving the lives of people with developmental and intellectual disabilities, will be featured at the May meeting of the Agawam Community Artists and Artisans (ACAA.)

Gina Kos, Executive Director, will be sharing the many successes of the Agawam Community Based Day Services (CBDS) - a program which was opened in 2022 at 588 Silver Street. Sunshine Village, which has held a national accreditation since 1981, helps their clients realize their full potential with support from both CBDS and day habilitation services. In addition to Agawam, SSV offers services at sites in Chicopee and Three Rivers and all programs provide safe, nurturing environments in which everyone can live and learn, work and earn and give and grow.

Clients at the CBDS program are supported with professional development including technology, teamwork, problem-solving, communication and social skills while improving personal development, involving wellness, self-motivation and self-advocacy. Kos said, "Sunshine Village



Gina Kos will share her work at the next ACAA meeting.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

is so proud of our artists who shine each day through their incredible paintings, drawings and photographs. We often display their works of art at local exhibits and now will be able to share not only their unique talents through portraiture but also showcase their handcrafted goods - many of which are sold at local boutiques and consignment shops."

The mission of the ACAA is to promote and encourage community participation in and develop an awareness and appreciation of the arts. "We were so happy that the ACAA reached out to us and invited us to

share all that Sunshine Village does to deliver on our promise of a great day with their members," Kos said.

The May meeting of the ACAA will take place on Wednesday, May 14, in the Community Room at the Agawam Public Library, located at 750 Cooper Street in Agawam. Doors open at 6 p.m. for a social gathering and refreshments. The presentation by Sunshine Village's Executive Director, Gina Kos will begin at 7:00pm. This meeting is free and open to the public.

Further information contact: Ceil Rossi (413) 207-1247 or email her at info@agawamarts.com

Town in need of doctor for BOH

AGAWAM – The Agawam Health Dept and Mayor's Office are informing Agawam residents of a volunteer opportunity to serve as Medical Doctor (MD) on the Agawam Board of Health.

For inquiries, please contact health@agawam.ma.us or mayor@agawam.ma.us.

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SPORTS



Avery Gordon delivers a pitch home



Alexina Lentas makes the throw from short to first base.



Madison Georgina goes after an out at first.



Samantha Eisenbeiser goes for the catch in left.



Kiley Ryan reaches high for an out at first.

Brownies offense explodes in win over Minnechaug

AGAWAM – Last Monday afternoon, Agawam High School softball defeated Minnechaug 15-3.

The Brownies pounded out 17 hits in the game. Payton Malanson and Alexina Lentas had three hits each.

Malson had a triple and two RBI. Five different Brownies registered two RBI each. Ava Peabody went 1-for-2 with two RBI.

Agawam is 3-3 so far this season while Minnechaug is 2-4.



Mia Canavan fields a grounder to short.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

AHS boys lacrosse picks up fourth win

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School boys lacrosse team's offense has had a lot of success early in the season. That happened against last Thursday in a 17-3 win

over Belchertown. Justin Lareau had four goals to lead the team, with Liam Grealis scoring three times in the win. Agawam is now 4-2 this season.



Liam Grealis fights through the West Springfield defense.



Colby Mikuszewski grabs the loose ball.



Goalie Douglas MacKinnon looks for the low shot.



Noah Manale hustles up the field.



Riley Jorgensen makes a quick pass.

Girls lacrosse settles for split with Bombers

AGAWAM – Last week, the Agawam High School girls lacrosse team grabbed its fifth win of the season, but suffered its first loss of the year as well.

Ironically, both games during the past week were against Westfield High School. On the road at Westfield last Tuesday, the Brownies defeated the Bombers 10-8 with a sev-

en-goal first half pacing the Brownies to the win. Isabella Spaulding led the team with four goals. But last Friday at home, Westfield got revenge, edging the Brownies 14-13. In the loss, Spaulding and Olivia Govoni scored three goals each. The Brownies are 5-1.

They next face West Springfield on Apr. 24 at 7 p.m.



Trevor Del Barba emerges with the ball on defense.



Brayden Martin makes a coach and gets ready to shoot.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

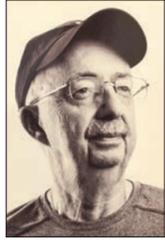


Michael Sibilia tries to corral the bouncing ball.

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Obituary

Philip Paul Martin



Philip Paul Martin, 79, passed away on April 2, 2025 after a long illness. He was born to the late Rev. David E. and Irene I. Martin on February 7, 1946, in Glens Falls, NY, the youngest of three children. As the son of a minister, he spent much of his childhood moving from town to town. His family moved to Mt. Pleasant, PA, in 1958 where he spent his remaining school years. He attended and graduated from Ramsay High School in 1964. He was class president all four years, played on the varsity basketball team and participated in various clubs. It was during this time that he met the love of his life and future wife, Janyette B. Ondrako. After graduation, he spent two years at Slippery Rock University, studying education. On September 24, 1966, Phil and Jane were married by his father in Mt. Pleasant. After 2 weeks of

marriage, Phil entered the United States Air Force and was stationed in Okinawa for a year and a half as a security policeman. He spent his remaining enlistment in Chicopee, MA at Westover Air Force Base, receiving an honorable discharge in 1970. Shortly after, he took a position at United Parcel Service in West Springfield, MA, where he worked tirelessly as a driver until his retirement in 2006. He was known by his customers for his infectious smile, friendly demeanor and for being an overall great guy. Phil and Jane were happily married for 58 years, raising two daughters, Melissa Leigh and Meggan Elizabeth, in Agawam, MA. Phil was an avid golfer who would proudly say he had made 2 holes-in-one and fulfilled his dream of attending the Master's golf tournament twice. He was also a lifelong fan of the Pittsburgh

Steelers and could be found in front of the TV with his terrible towel on game days. Phil and Jane enjoyed frequent trips to Cape Cod and loved spending time with friends and family.

Phil was predeceased by his brother David Lee and his sister Sandra Jo.

Phil leaves behind his loving wife Janyette, currently of Farmington, CT, his daughter Melissa and husband Peter of Feeding Hills, MA, his daughter Meggan and fiance Justin of Canton, CT. He was the proud "Papa" to three grandchildren, Anna, Sean and Hugh to whom he adored. Phil also leaves behind many close friends and family and will be sorely missed.

A private memorial service will be held at the Vincent Funeral Home of Canton, CT. In lieu of flowers please make a contribution to your favorite charity or the Alzheimer's Association. Please visit Phil's Book of Memories at www.vincentfuneralhome.com for online tributes.

DEATH NOTICE

Martin, Philip Paul

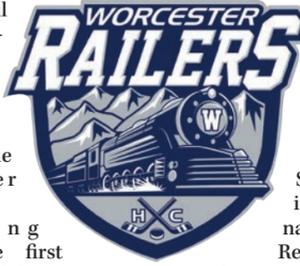
Died: April 2, 2025
Private memorial service
Vincent Funeral Home

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Sports

Railers fall in season finale

READING, PA - The Worcester Railers HC (34-30-3-5 76pts) lost to the Reading Royals (33-28-9-2, 77pts), on Saturday, April 12, by a final score of 7-3 in front of a crowd of 5,522 at the Santander Arena.



Reading scored the first two goals of the game in the first period. It started with Matt Brown (2-3-5) and Logan Britt (1-0-1) who gave Reading the 2-0 lead going into the second period. Sam Sedley (2-0-2) pushed the Reading lead to 3-0 with his power play goal 2:25 into the second period. Just under three minutes later the Railers would get their first score of the night off the stick of Matias Rajaniemi (1-0-1). Reading capped the second period off with a goal from Mason Primeau (1-1-2) making it a 4-1 game with 20 minutes to go. The Railers got the third period scoring started as Riley Piercy (1-0-1) scored to bring Worcester within two goals. Reading answered right back

as Matt Brown scored his second goal of the night to make it a 5-2 Reading lead. Reading would finish the scoring off with two empty net goals coming from Jake Smith (1-1-2) and Sam Sedley making it a 7-3 final score.

Reading did all the scoring in the first period as they jumped out to a 2-0 first period lead. The first Royals goal came on the power play from Matt Brown (18th) on a scum in front of the net. Logan Britt (3rd) then scored 17:01 into the first period on the rush, finishing off a three-man chase for Reading. The Railers closed out the final 54 seconds of the first period on the power play but were unable to cash in leaving them with a little over a minute of power play time to start the second period. Shots favored Reading 13-9 in the first.

After killing the remainder of the Worcester power play, Reading extended their lead to 3-0 early in the second period with their

second power play goal of the night. It was Sam Sedley (7th) who scored the Reading goal. The Railers would go on to score their first goal of the night from Matias Rajaniemi (5th) who got Worcester on the board 5:24 into the second. He took a shot from the slot that went top shelf. Reading finished off the second period scoring with a goal from Mason Primeau (13th) making it a 4-1 game heading into the final frame. Shots favored Worcester 14-9 in the second.

The Railers brought this one within two 6:17 into the third period. It was Riley Piercy (10th) who scored Worcester's second of the night. The Royals did not hesitate to get back up by three as Matt Brown (19th) scored his second of the night giving Reading the 5-2 lead. The Railers brought the game back within two as Anthony Callin (24th) scored on the power play. Reading would go on the score twice on the Worcester empty net coming from Jake Smith (16th) and Sam Sedley (8th) leading to a final score of 7-3. Shots favored Worcester 13-10 in the third and 36-32 in regulation.

Public Notices

Legal Notice

Town of Agawam
The Agawam Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, May 1, 2025 at 6:00pm** and the Agawam City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, May 5, 2025 at 7:00pm**, both in the Veterans Hall at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of these hearings will be to hear the petition of Bethany Assembly of God for a zone change request on **580 Main Street** to include the parcel in the "Wireless Telecommunications Overlay District." City Council's public hearing will be livestreamed on the Town of Agawam's website at www.agawam.ma.us and will also be televised on Cable Access Channel 15 or Channel 1074. Copies of the proposed zone change can be obtained from the Office of Planning and Community Development between the hours of 8:30am and 4:30pm at the Agawam Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA or by emailing the Office of the City Clerk for an electronic copy at vgioscia@agawam.ma.us

By Order Of:
Violet Baldwin, Chair
Agawam Planning Board
Rosemary Sandlin, President
Agawam City Council
04/17, 04/24/2025

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. HD21P0377EA
Estate of: Joseph L. Bilodeau
Also known as:

Joseph Bilodeau
Date of Death: 01/09/2021
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by **Patricia A Bilodeau of Agawam, MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including a determination of testacy and heirs at law 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 05/20/2025.

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. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 14, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/24/2025

LEGAL NOTICE
PUBLIC HEARING
AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL
The Agawam City Council will conduct a public hearing on **Monday, May 5, 2025, at 7:00pm**, at a Regular Meeting of the Agawam City Council to be held at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA, on TR-2025-30 which is the

Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2026 to Fiscal Year 2030 as submitted by Mayor Christopher Johnson on April 10, 2025.

The Capital Improvement Program is a prioritized plan of proposed capital improvements over the next five fiscal years. A capital improvement is a project or undertaking which provides for the planning, design, construction, reconstruction, renovation or replacement of a public building or facility; an addition to a public building or facility; the purchase of land, buildings or facilities for a public purpose; or a long range development study.

TR-2025-30 is available for public inspection on the Town of Agawam website (www.agawam.ma.us) or by emailing the office of the City Clerk for an electronic copy at vgioscia@agawam.ma.us.

BY ORDER OF:
Rosemary Sandlin, President
Agawam City Council
04/17, 04/24/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD25P0738GD
In the matter of: Lindsey A. Trembley Of: Feeding Hills, 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 De-

partment of Developmental Services of Springfield, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Lindsey A. Trembley** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Sandra A. Viens of Agawam, 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 a.m. on the return date of **05/07/2025**.

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: April 09, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/24/2025

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice is hereby given by Langanet Towing pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.255, Section 39A, that on **May 11, 2025** 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.
2009 Honda Civic
VIN: 2GHFA16519H521836
Elizabeth Ritchie
36 Rivera Drive
Agawam, MA 01001
04/24, 05/01, 05/08/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD17P1742GD
In the interests of Lindsey A Trembley Of: Feeding Hills, MA
RESPONDENT
Incapacitated Person/ Protected Person
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR TERMINATION OF A GUARDIAN OF AN INCAPACITATED PERSON

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Department of Developmental Services of Springfield, MA** in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Terminate the Guardianship

of the Respondent.

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the Guardian and/or Conservator should be allowed to resign; or should be removed for good cause; or that the Guardianship and/or Conservatorship is no longer necessary and therefore should be terminated. The original petition is on file with the 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 **05/15/2025**. 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 expenses.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court
Date: April 17, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/24/2025

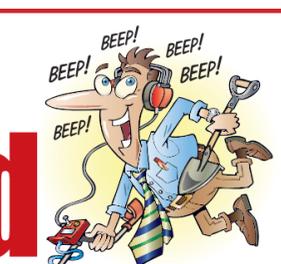
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or call: 413-283-8393

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

GREAT VALUE!
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!



Jaxson Avery shows off his haul.
TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Kian and Juna Quinn show off their bunny ears as they complete the hunt.



Luke and Keri Goodhind with Dawn Leit smile following the hunt.



The scramble for the eggs continues.

Easter EGG HUNT



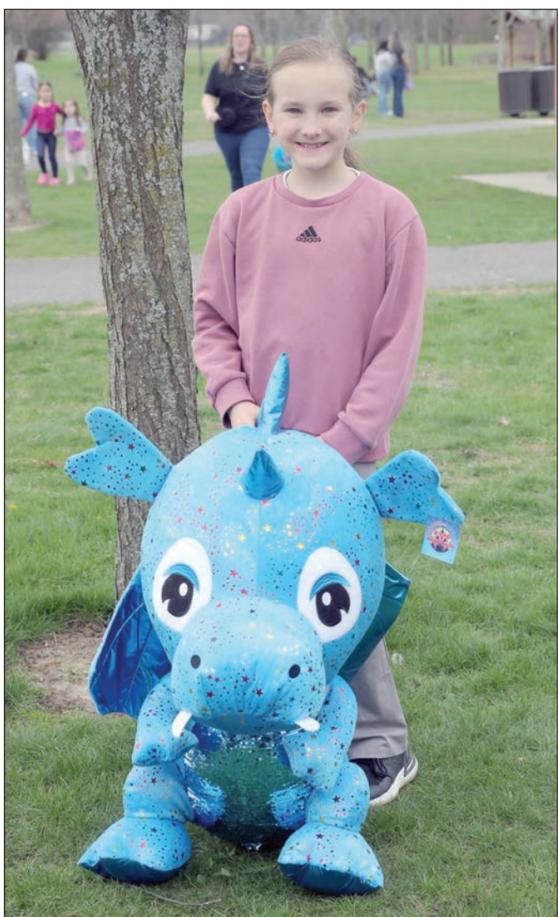
Parents jump in and help out.



The hunt begins.



There were multiple hunts for different age groups.



Amilia Shandrin with a dragon she won in a raffle.



Chloe Cosenzi looks for eggs up a tree.



Olivia Verbetsy, Vika Izotava, and Ariana Verbetsy. Ariana was the lucky finder of a gold coin and won the Easter basket.