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# AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS



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## Charter change for elections would not reverse mail-voting decision for 2023

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – Residents hoping the Agawam City Council will change its course regarding mail-in balloting for the 2023 municipal election will not get their wish.

The Agawam City Council will be voting on a change to its charter at their next meeting, scheduled for May 1, which would move the timeline between the preliminary and general elections from four to eight weeks.

But the earliest voters will be able to vote on the charter change will be this November. When the item appeared at the April 18 council meeting as new business, Council President Christopher Johnson wanted to make sure residents were clear on how the procedure

would go.

“The earliest it could happen is at the voting booth this November,” Johnson said. “The way the process works is we petition the legislature and if they approve it, it comes back for referendum for the voters.”

Johnson said a published story may have misled residents to believe it was possible the charter change would be done by August.

Johnson explained the town is hoping the legislature passes the charter change by August so it can be placed on the November ballot.

“If the voters approve it on the November ballot, then it will be in effect,” Johnson said. “I just want to make sure the timeline is clear.”

The change will allow the



At the April 18 meeting, Agawam City Council President Christopher Johnson outlines the procedure for a charter change that would change the timeline primary municipal elections. PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

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## Survey available for residents to give feedback about housing

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – Residents interested in assisting the town with its current housing situation can go online and complete a survey that will be used to update the town's Housing Production Plan.

Affordable housing has been at a major deficit in Agawam for many years.

The town was identified for having a very low affordable housing stock by the state and the Agawam Housing Committee was established by the mayor, with members appointed by the mayor and city council. A city councilor, currently Councilor Rosemary Sandlin also sits on the committee.

The group has regularly met for several years, discussing ways the town can develop more affordable housing for low-income individuals and families, as well as senior citizens who are on limited or fixed incomes.

The Housing Production Plan is updated every five years, and Agawam's expired after last year. It is seeking to renew the plan for another five years, and the survey is needed to complete it.

The Town's Planning Department has joined forces with Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC), a regional planning agency, to help update its Housing Production Plan (HPP). An HPP shall assist the town in better understanding local housing needs and demands; identifying

development constraints and opportunities; and creating a vision and strategy for future affordable (and market-rate) housing. This new iteration will be effective for the next five years, once approved.

According to a press release from the town, the Housing Survey prepared by PVPC is being conducted to gather initial input from residents of Agawam for the Housing Production Plan. The HPP will identify and evaluate potential locations for new housing types and additional residential development.

Housing Production Plans are approved by the Massachusetts Department of Housing &

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Affordable housing is at a major deficit in Agawam. Wayfinders has proposed building affordable housing units at this site on Mill St. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

## Road maintenance underway on several streets

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – The pavement plan for 2023 is has been released and the town has begun crack sealing efforts on several ways. Crack sealing is scheduled to continue throughout the spring and early summer and several miles of road are on the slate.

Crack and fog sealing is utilized to extend the life of certain roads that have vulnerabilities.

According to information provided by Department of Public Works Superintendent Mario Mazza, crack sealing involves the narrow, shallow cracks in the pavement are cleaned of dirt and debris and filled with an asphalt compound. This prevents water from entering the cracks and undermining the pavement. Fog sealing involves the use of a thin oil-like liquid spray made of asphalt, water and soap that rejuvenates brittle pavement and prevents the formation of potholes.

A 4,000-foot portion of Mill St., Windermere Dr., Emerson

Rd., and Haskell St. are part of this year's fog sealing list. A large portion of Colemore St., and Corey St. are also receiving sealing.

Robin Ridge Drive will see a large portion sealed, as will Forest Hill Road and Florida Drive.

On the pavement rehabilitation scheduled, portions of Springfield St., North St., and Maple St. will be repaved to go along with the competition of the O'Brien's Corner project.

Charter Oak Dr., Tina Ln., Nicole Terrace, Michael St., and Kimberly Cir. are also on the slate for re-paving.

Late-season projects include Bradford Dr., Tannery Rd., Stony Hill Rd., and Tanglewood Ln. Mazza is projecting those projects to begin in the late summer or fall.

Road paving is typically done before the end of fall, though paving plants have been remaining open later into year than usual because of a lack of meaningful snow on the ground, allowing work to continue longer toward the winter.

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# Local businesses hosting 5K run

AGAWAM – OMG, Inc., and Joey's Deli of Agawam are hosting the Whoopie Pie Waddle, a 5K run or 2-mile walk around the Agawam Industrial Park, on Saturday, May 20 to raise funds for the Wounded Warrior Project and the Michael J Dias Foundation.

The running and walking events start at 8:30 a.m., at OMG, Inc., at 153 Bowles Road. The entry fee is \$30 per runner or walker and includes a race bib and t-shirt. Prizes from OMG and Joey's Deli will be awarded for the top three men and women racers. All participants will be treated to a Whoopie Pie from Joey's Deli.

"This is a great event for two wonderful charities in need of funding and we are proud to sponsor it with Joey's Deli," said Geri McCarthy, OMG's director of employee engagement. "Employee wellness and giving back is important to our corporate philosophy and culture. We have a highly engaged wellness committee focused

on nutrition, financial wellness, mental well-being, and physical health, and believe our employees are happier and more productive due to this attention to personal improvement."

"We at Joey's Deli are excited to co-host and sponsor our first 5K. Both Joey and I love to share our passion for running and giving back to the community that we call home. We look forward to raising a lot of money for these two worthy charities," said Jonathan Cunningham, owner of Joey's Deli.

Guests and spectators can enjoy snacks, beverages, kids' activities, and raffles during the race, which will be held rain or shine, and is expected to end by about 12 noon.

Participants for the 5K run or 2-mile walk must register on-line before the start of the race at The Whoopie Pie Waddle registration page. In addition to the \$30 entry

fee, there is a \$2.80 sign-up fee. For more information, or other companies interested in co-sponsoring this event, please visit the Whoopie Pie Waddle website.

Founded in 1981 as Olympic Fasteners, OMG today is a leading manufacturer and global supplier of fasteners, products and technology for residential construction and commercial roofing applications. The company currently employs nearly 600 employees globally and is one of the largest employers in Western Massachusetts. In addition to its Agawam-based operations, OMG has manufacturing plants in Addison, Ill, and in Rockford, Minn., and a global sales force of over 100 in North America, Europe, and Asia. The company produces more than a billion fasteners per year to support its two operating divisions – OMG Roofing Products and FastenMaster. For additional information, please visit [www.OMGInc.com](http://www.OMGInc.com) or call (800) 633-3800.

# Mother's Day tag sale on May 13

AGAWAM – St. Martha's Guild of the Sacred Heart Parish in Feeding Hills will be having its annual Mother's Day Tag, Plant and Bake Sale on Saturday, May 13 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be a large selection of hanging, in-ground, and container plants for sale; tag sale finds and delicious baked goods. The event will be held at the Sacred Heart Parish Center located at 1061 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills.

A limited amount of tables will be available to rent for tag sale items at the cost of \$25. Please contact Dee Ziegert at 413-244-4015 or [Dziegert1@aol.com](mailto:Dziegert1@aol.com) for more information.

# Thomas Smith House holding open house this weekend

AGAWAM – The Agawam Historical Association invites the public to a Spring Open House at its historic Thomas Smith House located at 251 North West Street in Feeding Hills from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 29. The house, built c. 1757 and listed in the National Register of Historic Places, will be open for tours, as will be the property's recently preserved 1920s garage. The association will also offer an opportunity for children to decorate their own May Basket or make their own (and learn to play with) clay marbles, activities that were popular in past generations. The property's gardens will also be in spring bloom.

The Thomas Smith House is preserved in nearly original condition, with no central heat or plumbing, and is a time capsule of 18th century life. Thomas Smith was a carpenter and housewright who purchased the property in 1757; members of his family retained ownership of the property for the next eighty-six years. The vernacular Georgian-style residence has been described as "a rare surviving example of mid- to late-18th century Connecticut River Valley design and materials and one of the few remaining resources from the 18th century agricultural past of Feeding Hills. The history of land ownership for the Smith family property – its assembly by grant and purchase, its speculative trade, and familial division – is a model for

the history of typical land transfers of the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries, which has resulted in the property today having been vastly reduced to only a single acre of land. The history of its residents represents the long history of farming of this section of Agawam, well into the 20th century, and the shift into working outside the community that its later owners made is representative of the pattern of suburban development that occurred throughout the town." The Thomas & Esther Smith House was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on June 2, 2005.

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. 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 additional information regarding the Agawam Historical Association, please visit [agawamhistoricalassoc.webs.com](http://agawamhistoricalassoc.webs.com).

# Communities offering memory screenings at senior centers

AGAWAM – Alzheimer's disease and dementia effects nearly 350,000 people in Massachusetts and numbers continue to grow. This spring, The Atrium at Cardinal Drive, a Benchmark Mind & Memory Care community, and Orchard Valley at Wilbraham, a Benchmark assisted living and Mind & Memory Care community, are hosting a series of memory screenings at area senior centers.

Memory screenings are appropriate for anyone concerned about memory loss or experiencing symptoms of dementia or who believes they are at risk due to a family history. They provide a safe and simple face-to-face way to check a person's memory, language, intellectual functions and other thinking skills using a series of questions and/or tasks.

It can indicate if they should consult with a medical provider in order to identify what is causing memory loss. If dementia is the cause, early diagnosis can help both individuals and their family members learn about the disease, set realistic expectations and plan for their future together.

"Like any disease, early detection is key," said Cheryl Moran, executive director of The Atrium. "Over the past 25 plus years, we've seen that people and families affected by dementia often delay planning, which makes for a much more challenging situation later. By offering this to the community, we want to help ease the burden."

Screenings will be offered on the following dates and times.

Wilbraham Senior Center (45B Post Office Park) – Monday, April 10, 10AM – Noon  
West Springfield Senior Center (128 Park Street) – Monday, April 24, 9:30AM – 12:30PM

Agawam Senior Center (954 Main Street) – Wednesday, May 17, 10AM – Noon  
Palmer Senior Center (1029 Central Street, Palmer) – Wednesday, May 31, Noon – 2PM

Attendees can register for the date/time that works for them, by contacting the senior center hosting the event at 413.596.8379 (Wilbraham), 413.263.3264 (West Springfield), 413.821.0605 (Agawam) and 413.283.2670 (Palmer).

# NAMI 23rd Annual Walkathon scheduled for May 21

AGAWAM – The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Western Massachusetts will be holding its 23rd Annual Walkathon Celebration, 'A Journey of Hope and Recovery' on Sunday, May 21 at The Stanley Park's Beveridge Pavilion Annex starting at 11 a.m. Registration begins at 10 a.m.

The event is suitable for all ages and abilities and will directly benefit NAMI Western Massachusetts' continuing efforts to help improve the lives of those individuals living with mental health conditions and their families.

Join us and have a fun time while supporting a great cause. The festivities will include guest speakers, fun activities, raffles, and much more. Please help NAMI-WM continue its mission by participating in this Walkathon as an individual, or team and/or sponsoring the event.

NAMI Western Massachusetts is dedicated to Building Better Lives for individuals and families affected by mental health conditions. According to statis-

tics, 1 in 5 Americans will face mental health problems every year. With your help, NAMI-WM can continue to raise awareness and provide essential education, advocacy, and support programs for people within your community.

For further information please contact our office at 413-786-9139 or visit us at [www.namiwm.org/events](http://www.namiwm.org/events) for pledge and sponsorship forms. Volunteers needed.



# Senior Center hosting real estate forum to be held on May 10

AGAWAM – Please join us on Wednesday, May 10 at 1:30 p.m. for a panel presentation by Sue Drumm, an Agawam resident and 15-year realtor with Coldwell Banker and her panel of experts in the industry.

This interactive session will discuss the current real estate market, the steps you need to take to prepare for a home sale as well as finding the right time to make a move.

Whether you are considering selling now or in the future, our team can pro-

vide you with the guidance to make the process a smooth transition.

Joining the panel will be Agawam real estate Attorney Nyles Courchesne, Attorney Todd McGee who specializes in elder law, and Jimmy Zolendziewski, the owner of Cold Springs Antiques, Collectables & Estates.

Refreshments will be provided and registration is required.

This seminar will take place in the dining room of the Senior Center. Call Kristina at 413-726-2836 to register.

# Lions Club comedy show Apr. 28

AGAWAM – Agawam Lions Club will be holding a comedy show on April 28 at 8 p.m. Laughing for the Lions is going to be a great event held at the Agawam Polish club, doors open at 7 p.m. show starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased at [www.funny4funds.com/events/laughing-for-the-lions/1079](http://www.funny4funds.com/events/laughing-for-the-lions/1079) or contact Mel at (413)530-8529 to purchase tickets. We are still looking for sponsors and raffle donations for this event.

Your support helps the Lions with different events and projects throughout our community. Hope to see you there.

# Learn the signs of Alzheimer's

AGAWAM – Join Mark Nutting from the Alzheimer's Association on May 4 at 10:30 a.m. as he presents the 10 Warning signs of Alzheimer's Disease and how they differ from typical age-related memory, thinking, or behavior. You will also get tips for approaching someone about memory concerns and gain an understanding of the diagnostic process.

Seminar to be held in the Seminar Room at the Senior Center located at 954 Main Street. Call Kristina at 413-726-2836 to register.



# Eversource: Energy supply rates to lower this summer

SPRINGFIELD – After energy supply prices reached historic highs in New England last year due to natural gas supply constraints following the war in Ukraine and other global pressures, Eversource is letting its customers know they can expect to see a decrease on their bills when the next adjustment to the Basic Service rate takes place in Massachusetts on July 1. With energy supply markets in a downward trend, the energy company will file new electricity supply prices it receives from power suppliers with the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU) in mid-May after completing its procurement process as outlined in state regulations.

“We’re pleased to be able to let our customers know that relief is coming following historically high supply prices over the past year,” said Eversource Vice President of Energy Supply James Daly. “As we finalize the next purchase of the power supply for customers who are signed up for our Basic Service rate, we also recognize that any potential decrease from historic highs will still mean high costs for our customers and urge anyone who may be struggling with their bill to reach out so that we can work together to find the best assistance program or pay-

ment plan to help in their individual case.”

The positive news about supply costs for customers comes as international economic factors continue to play a significant role in the cost of natural gas, which provides the fuel for the majority of heat and electricity across Eversource’s three-state service area. While customers can expect a decrease to the supply rate when it changes in each state this summer, the energy company is also informing customers that they should expect continued market volatility and higher supply costs this coming winter. A customer’s total bill ultimately depends on how much energy is used, and the energy company is also reminding customers that typically usage significantly increases during the summer months when they run appliances like air conditioners to stay cool.

“As we head into the summer months, we advise our residential and commercial customers to take stock of their usage and how it can increase significantly when we run fans and air conditioners to stay cool, while also using other appliances,” said Eversource Executive Vice President of Customer Experience and Energy Strategy Penni Conner. “There are numerous energy efficiency solutions available on our website

that can help customers reduce their usage, keeping their bills more affordable. Even those that feel like small actions can add up and help keep bills down when trying to stay cool this summer.”

“Now is also the time for customers to think about their energy spending not just for this summer, but the fall and winter to come,” Conner continued. “We’re working one-on-one with our customers every day while also holding in-person events and webinars to assist customers with their bills and provide them resources and insights for savings. We want these important conversations to continue in the months ahead of the next heating season, which we expect to be similar to the most recent one when it comes to high energy supply costs, and encourage our customers to continue engaging with us across these multi-channel opportunities.”

In each state of its service territory, the energy supply price for Eversource electric customers changes twice a year, representing the cost that Eversource pays generators for the power that customers use. Eversource only charges customers what it pays generators for producing the power – it does not earn a profit on the cost of electricity.

The timeline and other details of the process differ in accordance with each state’s specific laws and regulations, contributing to supply prices that vary in line with the broader market in the different areas of Eversource’s service territory. In Massachusetts, the Basic Service rate changes every January 1 and July 1. Eversource will file the July 1 rates for Eastern and Western Massachusetts separately with DPU in mid-May and the new rates will be announced at that time.

Eversource encourages customers to enroll in one of its payment plans or assistance programs if they need help with their energy bill, and the energy company also offers energy efficiency solutions to help customers use less energy and better manage costs. Regular webinars are hosted to provide customers with more information about protection from service disconnection, programs to reduce unpaid balances with affordable monthly payments, extended payment plans and no-cost energy efficiency programs that can help lower energy usage. Customers can learn more information about the various programs available to help and view a recording of a past webinar at [Eversource.com/billhelp](https://Eversource.com/billhelp).

## POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 1,443 calls for service from April 17 to April 23 and recorded the following arrests. No arrests in the public log have been omitted. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty.

### Friday, April 21

Antony Alex Menovshchikov, 18, of 37 Taft St., Agawam, was arrested at 2:00 a.m. for a number plate violation, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, and possession of a Class B drug.



## HCC opens registration for summer and fall classes

HOLYOKE – Registration is now open for summer and fall classes at Holyoke Community College.

Summer classes at HCC begin Monday, May 22, and run in two, consecutive seven-week sessions: Summer Session I (May 22-July 7); Summer Session II (July 10-Aug. 25).

The fall 2023 semester starts on Tuesday, Sept. 5. Full 15-week semester classes begin Sept. 5. HCC will also be running three accelerated flex start sessions: Flex Start I classes also begin Sept. 5 but run for just seven weeks; Flex Start II classes begin Monday, Sept. 25, and run for 12 weeks; Flex Start III classes begin Monday, Oct. 30, and run for seven weeks.

Registration for summer and fall officially opened today (Monday, April 3).

“The biggest news for summer and fall is the lifting of the COVID-19 vaccine

mandate, a decision made together by the 15 Massachusetts community colleges,” said HCC Admissions Director Mark Hudgik. “We’re excited and believe that this will open up opportunities for more students to come to college and be a part of the on-campus community.”

Effective May 12, current and prospective students will no longer need to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination to register for on-campus classes or participate in on-campus activities.

Prospective students can peruse all the course options for summer and fall at [hcc.edu/sign-up-for-classes](https://hcc.edu/sign-up-for-classes).

Students interested in visiting campus, should contact the HCC Admissions office at [admissions@hcc.edu](mailto:admissions@hcc.edu).

For more information on HCC classes or to enroll, please visit [hcc.edu/admission](https://hcc.edu/admission) or call 413-552-2321.

## Friends holding flower fundraiser

AGAWAM – There is still time to support The Friends of the Agawam Public Library in the Flower Power Fundraiser. They offer a gorgeous assortment of flowers, bulbs, seeds, and seed mats. For every dollar spent, the Friends will receive half. The proceeds will be used to help support the Agawam Public Library by providing them with funds for things not in their general budget.

Visit the personalized website at [FriendsOfAgawamLibrary.org/fundraising](https://FriendsOfAgawamLibrary.org/fundraising)

You do not need to login. Just make your selections and at checkout you fill out the necessary information. There is a \$6.99 flat rate shipping charge and any appropriate taxes will be added. Online orders begin to ship on April 1. Flower Power starts shipping to the warmer states first.

You can enhance your garden and at the same time help support the library. Act soon as this fabulous opportunity ends May 15. For more information contact: [friendsapl@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsapl@yahoo.com).

## Fourth quarter property tax bills due

AGAWAM – The fourth quarter actual real estate and personal property tax bills for fiscal year 2023 are due in the Town of Agawam Collector’s office by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, May 1.

Bills may be paid online at [www.agawam.ma.us](https://www.agawam.ma.us), by mail in the envelope provided or you may utilize the drop box that is provided outside the town hall for your

convenience. Fourth quarter payment notices were mailed March 31. By law, bills were mailed to owners of record as of January 1, 2022. Any new homeowner or anyone who has not received their real estate or personal property tax bill should contact the Collector’s office immediately to obtain the bill amount. The telephone number is 786-0400 extension 8218.

## Open for the season!

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# Opinion

## Letters to the Editor

### Garden Lady questions for a rainy Sunday



Magnolia

I received a pruning question from a reader as a follow-up to my recent article on the subject of what to prune when in terms of spring flowering bushes.

The question was directly related to pruning a white magnolia bush. Without knowing the species exactly, I would venture to guess that because it is white the question relates to Magnolia stellata, or the Star Magnolia and not its cousin, the large pinkish-purple flowered Saucer Magnolia.

The Star Magnolia is a shrub or small tree that is highly adaptable to various soils and heat/cold conditions spanning from Maine to Georgia, to Minnesota and even the West Coast.

Fragrant flowers are 3-5-inches wide and typically made up of 12-18 tepals (a term for petals and sepals together) but depending on which cultivar or variety chosen, there may be upwards of 30-50 of these per flower.

What makes this bush extra showy (if double flowers weren't enough!) is that it blooms prior to leaf break, and the flowers show up beautifully against smooth gray bark.

Because it can stay in bloom long - if conditions are right, almost three weeks, sometimes there is an overlap of unfurling leaves alongside flowers.

It's a beauty alright.

Sometimes a heat wave, then a cold wave can turn the flowers to mush overnight, but it is a

chance we gardeners take. This year the show is a glorious one, indeed.

Our reader wrote in that his Magnolia has suffered some damage in the late snowstorm we had. Branches were bent and broken and some corrective pruning needed to happen, but when? Typically, regular pruning would take place after flowering so as not to compromise upcoming blooms, but this type of pruning can be accomplished as needed to prevent further injury.

Prune back to limbs that show no sign of injury. Regular training of the tree should be done within the first five years - magnolias are notoriously slow healers; so bigger cuts could take a long time to heal.

Thank you for your question. I hope this helps. The following question came from Marvin, who is wondering how to acclimatize overwintered geraniums back into the garden.

"I potted some geraniums from the garden last fall and took them into the house. They have been blooming since late February and bring sunshine and joy to the room!!! I would like to put them back into the garden this spring. What steps do I need to take to make this transition successful? Cut them back? etc."

Yay! I am so happy that you had success with

your geraniums.

Like you, I have been doing this same process for a few years now and agree with you that they do indeed add "sunshine and joy" to our indoor spaces at a time when we need it.

You are smart to think about the transition back into the garden. If you were to simply move them outside on the first nice day, no doubt you'd be met with disappointment.

First off, I would gradually start reducing the amount of fertilizer you are giving them, if any. We don't want a lot of tender new growth that could be susceptible to damage from the elements. Next, give the plants a good grooming. Lift up foliage to reveal any brown leaves or spent flowers and pinch these away.

Now comes shaping.

If the plants have grown lopsided prune them back to a good overall shape by cutting stems to right above a node (the place where the stems of the leaves attach). If you are happy, stop here and begin to harden them off.

I would try this beginning around Mother's Day Weekend barring there is no frost in the forecast. Find a sheltered spot (from wind and sun) and set them outside for a few hours then bring them in for the night.

Gradually expose the plants to more and more sun until they are outside all day and night. The process should take a week to 10 days.

By following these steps, you will hopefully avoid sun scald and other issues. Best of luck to you!

*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.*

### Why can't I get Social Security Disability on my own or my husband's record?



Dear Rusty:

I am considered disabled by State of Washington doctors, but Social Security has turned me down three times when I applied for disability saying I don't have enough work points. I am the wife of a retired, disabled veteran who served over 20 years in the U.S. Navy. I raised three children, one of which is disabled. How do I get Social Security to accept my disability?

Signed: Frustrated and Disabled

Dear Frustrated and Disabled:

Social Security's criteria for disability eligibil-

ity are separate and distinctly different from any other authority such as the State of Washington. To be eligible for Social Security Disability Insurance benefits, you must have earned a minimum number of credits on your own from working and contributing to Social Security and that work must have occurred recently (you must have worked at least five of the last ten years). If you did not personally earn the required credits through recent work, you cannot get SSDI benefits. I presume that is what Social Security has determined to be the case for you. And to clarify, you must be totally disabled (rendering you unable to work for at least one year) and that must be confirmed by your medical service providers, who will be contacted by Social Security's representatives.

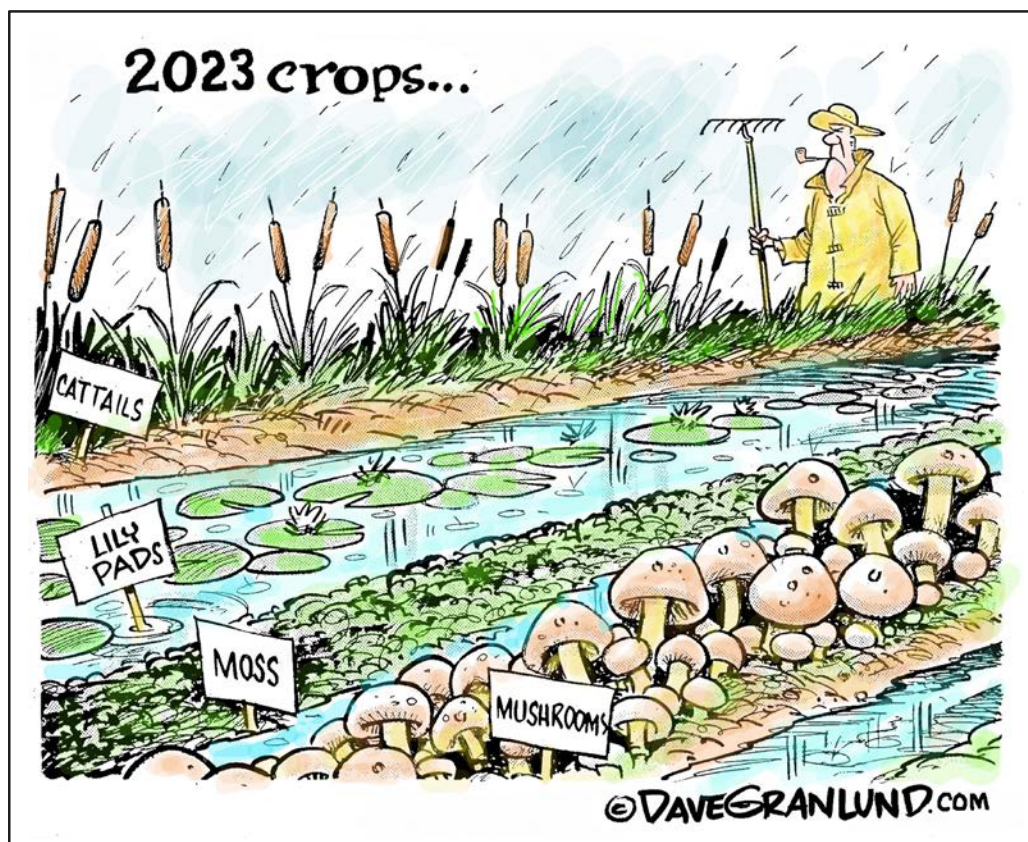
For information, SSDI is an individually earned entitlement, thus your husband's lifetime earnings history applies only to him, and his earnings record does not extend to you

for SSDI purposes (in other words, he might be eligible for early SSDI benefits on his own, but his eligibility for those benefits does not make you eligible too). Nevertheless, if your husband is collecting SSDI benefits and you are caring for your child who became disabled before age 22, or if your husband is collecting SS and any of your children are under age 16, you may be eligible for "child-in-care" spousal benefits. Child-in-care spouse benefits are available at any age, but your husband would need to be collecting either SSDI or his regular SS retirement benefit for you to be eligible for those benefits. And if your husband is collecting SS of any kind, his disabled child (or any minor children under 18) may also be eligible for dependent child benefits from him, subject to the Family Maximum.

So, to answer your specific question about how to get Social Security to "accept your disability," unless you meet the recent work test and have earned the needed credits on your own as described above, and are totally disabled, you cannot. You may wish to confirm this by discussing your situation with an attorney who specializes in SSDI matters. You can find such an attorney online by searching for "SSDI attorney near me" - just be sure to fully vet any firm you are considering. SSDI attorneys should not charge for an initial consultation and they will only take your case if they believe you can win (they take their fees from any back SSDI benefits they can secure for you). SSDI attorney fees are also limited by federal law, and seeking such counsel should not result in any out-of-pocket expense for you.

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

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



PHONE

413.283.8393  
Fax: 413.283.7107  
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL

Advertising Sales  
Theresa Wegiel  
twegiel@turley.com

Editor

Gregory Scibelli  
aan@turley.com

Subscriptions

cgriswold@turley.com

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AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS TEAM



EDITOR/SPORTS  
Greg Scibelli  
aan@turley.com  
sports@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES  
Theresa Wegiel  
twegiel@turley.com

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PATRICK H. TURLEY  
CEO

KEITH TURLEY  
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DEANNA SLOAT  
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# Opinion

## Random Acts of Kindness: Carla Lemnah-Warner

By Barb Turcotte

Special to the Agawam Advertiser News

When they say a teacher can be instrumental they must be talking about Carla Lemnah-Warner who has been a special education learning specialist for over 41 years. Thirty-three years have been in the Agawam schools and she presently teaches at the high school. She attributes the parents for her student's successes and yet each parent I spoke with emphatically credits her.

Though Lemnah-Warner is extremely humble, she did share that she'd made apps happen that the district couldn't pay for, yet the parents never knew. Because of this generosity and quiet random act of kindness, she helped make the students learning easier. Another gesture was paying for her student's field trip to Boston just so they could have that experience.

Lemnah-Warner has been instrumental in creating the team spirit at the high school games by spearheading the idea of students wearing a designated color for the night. What a wonderful way to have everyone feel part of the team.

When she was younger, Lemnah-Warner was selected to play for the No. 1 New England field hockey team in the national tournament. From those days she has coached lacrosse for 23 years, field hockey, cross country, JV boy's golf and the Westfield HS ski team, each for 6 years. Lemnah-Warner's daughters are outstanding athletes. Their youngest Em-

ily had to play on an all-boy lacrosse team because there were no girl's teams and has gone on to pursue a career in nursing. And Katie their oldest, has a degree in sports management and has blessed them with three grandsons.

One of Lemnah-Warner's good friends Patricia Drewniak, is a parent of a previous student who doesn't believe her son would be who he is today without Lemnah-Warner's encouragement. Patricia explained that Lemnah-Warner goes way beyond the classroom in her efforts to help kids succeed. She recognized that though Patricia's son was dyslexic he had great listening skills, so helped him create a strategy to compensate for this. Lemnah-Warner is a true advocate for kids with physical or learning challenges. She said you have to listen to their heart. Patricia's son is now a successful doctor of pharmacy. Patricia described Lemnah-Warner as an all-around wonderful person with positive energy and a great sense of humor. They enjoy playing golf and Patricia says Lemnah-Warner is always ready to help anyone in any way with Random Acts of Kindness.

Lemnah-Warner is not only educated as a teacher but was a Special Education Director in VT for two regional schools districts which is definitely an asset in her vocation. She's been influential in helping students with various learning difficulties reach their highest potentials by encouraging them and believing in their abilities. She never pushes them beyond their capabilities but instead pushes them to

achieve their highest proficiencies.

Dottie Marchetto explained how Lemnah-Warner helped both of her children. She stressed to her daughter Denise to be empowered and with her reassurance Denise is now successful in the restaurant/hospitality business. Marchetto's son Denis who is confined to a wheelchair loves sports. Lemnah-Warner supported him and helped him become a manager for the field hockey and lacrosse teams for kids with no disabilities. Denise has completed college and is a guru with computers, phones and other technical devices.

Marchetto explained how Lemnah-Warner follows the lives of many of her students long after they graduate, therefore going far beyond the expectations of a teacher. Lemnah-Warner shared with me how pleased she was to attend a dinner of one of her prior students being recognized by the Western Mass. Girl Scouts. This girl was born with leg deformities that required bilateral amputations, yet she inspired her to achieve her highest potential. Hopefully we'll hear more about this previous student with her own story.

Nancy, another parent stated, "It wasn't about Lemnah-Warner purchasing gifts for the students as her random acts

of kindness but instead inspiring them to have the courage and strength to explore new things." These reinforcements gave the students self-esteem while increasing their confidence. She gave students birthday parties at her own cost though this parent stated it perfectly, "Her random acts of kindness came from the heart, not the pocketbook."

Some may think she is just doing her job, but most will recognize that Lemnah-Warner has gone far above the role of teacher. How lucky would any child have been to have her as their teacher and mentor?

Random acts of kindness can be as simple as urging another to do their best. We all have that capability, let this be part of your every day.

*If you would like to tell me a story about a Random Act of Kindness please contact me at bdt514@aol.com or 413-788-7514. You don't need one, but if you'd like to have a predesigned flyer to include with your next gesture, let me know. It's a way to keep the memory alive long after the gesture is done. Who knows, you might see your story in this column, 'Just 'Cause' you witnessed, did or received something nice being done. See you next month with another Random Act of Kindness.*

### VOTING ■ from page 1

Town Clerk's office ample time to have general election ballots made and sent out to those seeking mail ballots in a timely fashion. The state law on universal mail-in voting allows a clerk to accept mail-in ballots up to three days after a state or federal election. However, that same provision does not apply to municipal elections.

Town Clerk Vincent Gioscia said due to there being just four weeks between the primary and general election, he could

not guarantee mail-in ballots could go out with enough time for a voter to get them in by election day. The council voted 7-4 to support not having universal mail-in balloting for 2023 while pursuing the charter change.

Absentee ballots are still going to be available for this year. There are eight reasons a person can obtain one, with as simple a reason as the individual will not be in the town on the day of the election. More information can be obtained by contacting the Town Clerk's office.

### ROAD ■ from page 1

The town utilizes Chapter 90 Highway Funds to pay for paving and preventative maintenance, and Mayor William Sapelli also pledges some general fund money to be used toward road improvements to bolster the overall paving budget.

The town still has a significant amount of infrastructure issues to address, but must work with the funds available.

According to a report submitted by the town's engineering department, there are numerous ways that are on the paving plan from 2024-2028. The highest among them is the repaving of the rest of Springfield St. from Agawam Junior High School all the way to O'Brien's corner. The cost is nearly \$900,000. There are nearly 50 streets of varying lengths on the list in need of mill and overlay or total reclamation.

### SURVEY ■ from page 1

Community Development (DHCD) and consist of data assessment on housing; population; development trends; and regional growth factors. HPPs help communities meet the State mandate requiring that 10% of total year-round housing units be affordable, by setting a numeric goal for annual housing production. Agawam's percentage was around 3 or 4% several years ago. Certified HPPs may also prevent unwanted 40B development in favor of residential development that complies with local zoning.

Completing the Housing Survey will assist PVPC in preparing for the town's first public forum, where findings on housing needs, housing opportunities, and preliminary housing goals will be shared. Using this data and community feedback, the HPP should help determine an

implementation strategy and identify sites that may be suitable for housing development.

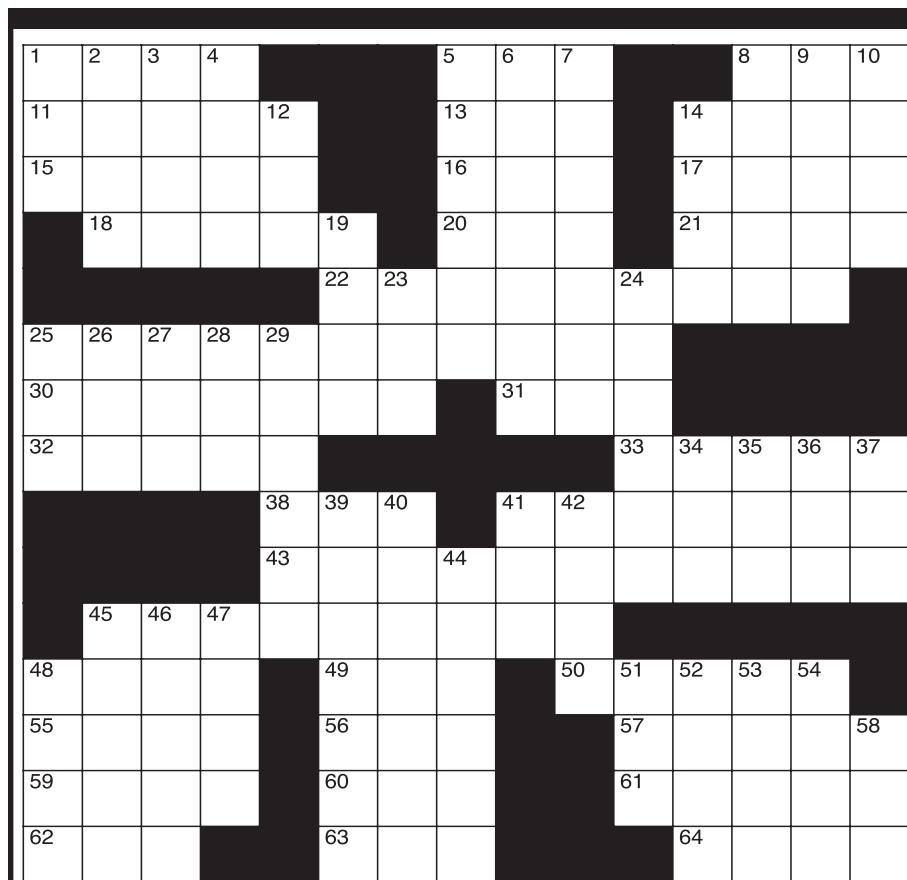
According to the press release, the survey is short, and will take about 15 minutes to complete. Please respond only if you live in Agawam. All responses are to remain confidential. Public participation and community engagement are integral to this planning process; your participation is greatly appreciated.

The survey is now available online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AgawamHousingSurvey> or in hard copy at the following locations: Town Hall (36 Main Street), Agawam Public Library (750 Cooper Street), Senior Center (954 Main Street). Completed hard copy surveys shall be returned by May 8 to any of these locations or submitted via US Mail to: Agawam Planning Department, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA, 01001.



Use this QR code to access Agawam's Housing Survey to provide feedback on current available housing in town.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



#### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. It's all over the beach
- 5. A cirque
- 8. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- 11. Influential report author
- 13. Satisfaction
- 14. Recurring only at long intervals
- 15. Islamic calendar month
- 16. Neither
- 17. Gelatinous substance
- 18. American electronic music producer
- 20. Old computer system
- 21. Professional organization
- 22. Malaria mosquitoes
- 25. Not composed of matter
- 30. It's in the ocean
- 31. Peyton's little brother
- 32. French commune
- 33. Eyelashes
- 38. Equal (prefix)
- 41. Quality of little or no rain
- 43. One who beheads
- 45. Sung to
- 48. Influential punk artist
- 49. Amount of time
- 50. Polio vaccine developer
- 55. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician
- 56. Job
- 57. Flat-bottomed sailboat
- 59. Japanese wooden clog
- 60. Folk singer DiFranco
- 61. FL city
- 62. Naturally occurring solid
- 63. Language of indigenous Asian

- people
- 64. Dark brown

#### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 2. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
- 3. Venomous snake genus
- 4. Uninteresting
- 5. Straightforwardness
- 6. Expression of wild excitement
- 7. Arrange in order
- 8. East Indian cereal grass
- 9. Hillside
- 10. Bird beak covering
- 12. Baseball stat
- 14. Edge of a surfboard
- 19. Wrapping accessory
- 23. Express approval
- 24. Deduce
- 25. Similar
- 26. Born of
- 27. Automobile
- 28. Obligated to repay
- 29. Live in
- 34. Influential journalist Tarbell
- 35. Set aflame
- 36. OJ trial judge
- 37. Scottish town
- 39. African nation
- 40. Egg-shaped wind instrument
- 41. Mimic
- 42. Frees
- 44. In slow tempo
- 45. Sword
- 46. Related on the mother's side
- 47. Mars crater
- 48. Plant of the lily family
- 51. Suitable in the circumstances
- 52. Hillside
- 53. Metrical foot
- 54. Amazon river tributary
- 58. Adult male human



# Jazz Trombone Ensemble to perform at Applause Series

AGAWAM – The Agawam Cultural Council's Applause Series continues its 19th season when The Jazz Bones perform at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam on May 5. 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).

New England's only jazz trombone ensemble, The Jazz Bones are a dynamic group of eight performers who deliver a program of music spanning seven decades. Organized in 1985 by David Neill as a performing group of the Western Massachusetts Trombone Association, this unique ensemble has arrangements written for five part harmony, whether playing hard swing, fast jazz or a sweet ballad, backed by a first class rhythm. The Jazz Bones' repertoire consists of swing, jazz standards, blues, rock, Latin, and funk within a library consisting of more than 300 songs that appeals to every age group. Eleanor Rigby, All



The Agawam Cultural Council's Applause Series continues its nineteenth season with a concert by New England's only jazz trombone ensemble on May 5 at 7 p.m., when The Jazz Bones take the stage at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam. SUBMITTED PHOTO

of Me, Jeff's Trombone Mambo, Bad Bad Leroy Brown, Bye Bye Blackbird, Fly Me to the Moon, Vine Street Rumble, Old Devil Moon, Malaguena, and Bye Bye Blues are just a few of the songs you may hear. Production sponsors of The Jazz Bones

are Kyle and Roberta Miller. 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](http://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.

## Catholic Women's Club banquet set for May 16

AGAWAM – The annual banquet of The Catholic Women's Club of Agawam will take place at Oak Ridge Country Club, 850 South Westfield St., Feeding Hills, on Tuesday, May 16.

The evening will begin at 6 p.m. with cheese and crackers, followed by a buffet at 6:45 p.m. The menu includes fresh fruit supreme, roast pork, chicken francaise, baked scrod, mashed potatoes, vegetables in season with ice cream parfait for dessert.

Price is \$30 and checks are to be made out to the Catholic Women's Club (C.W.C.) and are to be sent to Betty Chapman, 70 Tracy Drive, Agawam, MA 01001 to arrive by May 8. No Refunds will be made. Include who you wish to be seated with and requests will be honored, if possible.

If any questions, please contact Katie at 413-786-1287.

## CROP hunger walk helps to build global resilience

AGAWAM – As an organization rooted in faith, Church World Service believes that all people deserve to lead lives of dignity, wherever they find themselves. Weather-related disasters displace over 20 million people globally each year. Of great concern are "slow-onset" impacts, changes people feel every day, but that don't always get the press that massive storms and wildfires do. Examples include temperature increase; changes in rainfall patterns; and saltwater intrusion of farmland or drinking water. Science and human experience show that slow-onset climate change will affect, and in some cases devastate vulnerable communities in the future.

That is why this year's Agawam/West Springfield CROP Hunger Walk is so important! Walkers and sponsors will help Church World Service address climate

change impacts by helping farmers access seeds and learn new techniques for growing food in changing soil; by teaching building techniques so schools and homes can be built differently to withstand future natural disasters; and through assisting communities in learning new income generating skills like beekeeping to adapt and build resilience.

The Agawam/West Springfield CROP Hunger Walk will be held on Sunday, April

30, beginning with a 1 p.m. Registration Rally at First Congregational Church, 108 Park Street, in West Springfield. Church teams, civic groups, and individuals are invited to walk to help families around the world. One quarter of funds raised will remain in the community, supporting the Parish Cupboard. For more information or to register online, please go to [www.crophungerwalk.org](http://www.crophungerwalk.org) and search for "Agawam/West Springfield CROP Hunger Walk."



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<b>GREAT ON THE GRILL</b>	USDA INSP. FROZEN ST. LOUIS PORK RIBS ..... <b>\$1.99</b> lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN OCEAN GOURMET STUFFED CLAMS 20 OZ. .... <b>\$6.99</b> ea
USDA INSP. STORE MADE BBQ MARINATED BEEF BLADE STEAKS..... <b>\$7.99</b> lb	USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF <b>\$3.25</b> 7 LB BAG	USDA INSP. WINNISIMMET SLOW COOKED BACON 2 LB..... <b>\$2.99</b> ea
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# SPORTS

## Tough third inning hurts Brownies

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – There are normally a lot of runs scored whenever the wind is blowing out at Wrigley Field in Chicago or Fenway Park in Boston. The same can be said about the varsity baseball field at Minnechaug Regional in Wilbraham.

With the wind blowing out towards center field, the Agawam Brownies and the Minnechaug Falcons hooked up in an old fashion slugfest in their only meeting of the regular season.

When the final out was recorded almost three hours after the first pitch was thrown last Friday afternoon, the Falcons

players were celebrating an 18-9 non-league victory.

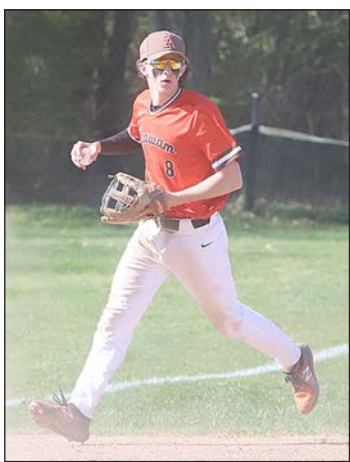
“I’ve been involved in a lot of back and forth games during my coaching career, but today’s game was wild,” said Minnechaug head coach Mike Netkovick. “We swung the bats very well up and down the lineup. We also played very well defensively, as we turned three double plays.”

The junior duo of Matt Nordstrom, who started at third base, and Jack Straut, who started in left field, led the home team with three base hits apiece. Four other players had two hits.

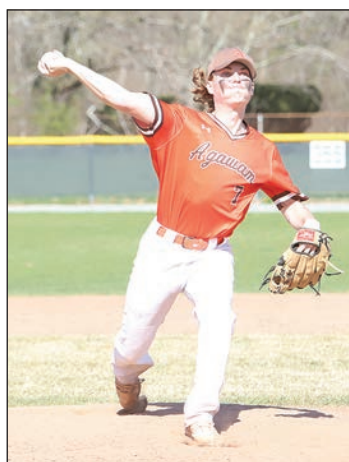
Nordstrom and Straut also had three RBIs.

Minnechaug, who banged

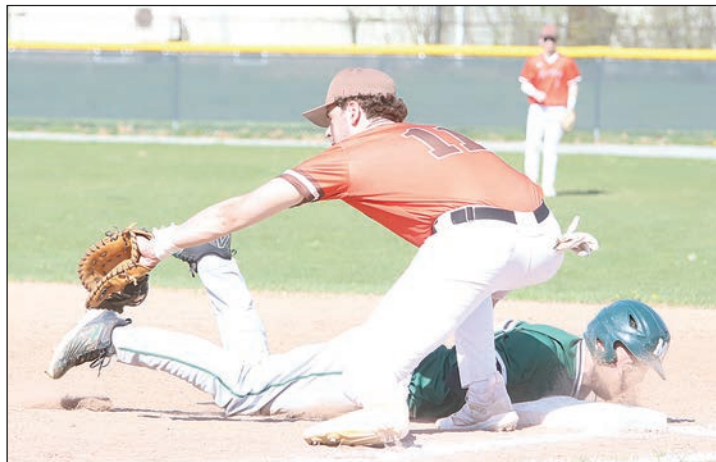
BASEBALL | page 9



Thomas Plakias runs a ball toward third base after taking a cut off.



Mason Barcomb fires to the plate in the third inning.



Ryan Maloney fields a pickoff throw back to first.

PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Matthew Cleavall fires home from center field.



Gabriella Bouchard leads off first base.



Catcher Bailey Gervais squeezes strike three.

PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



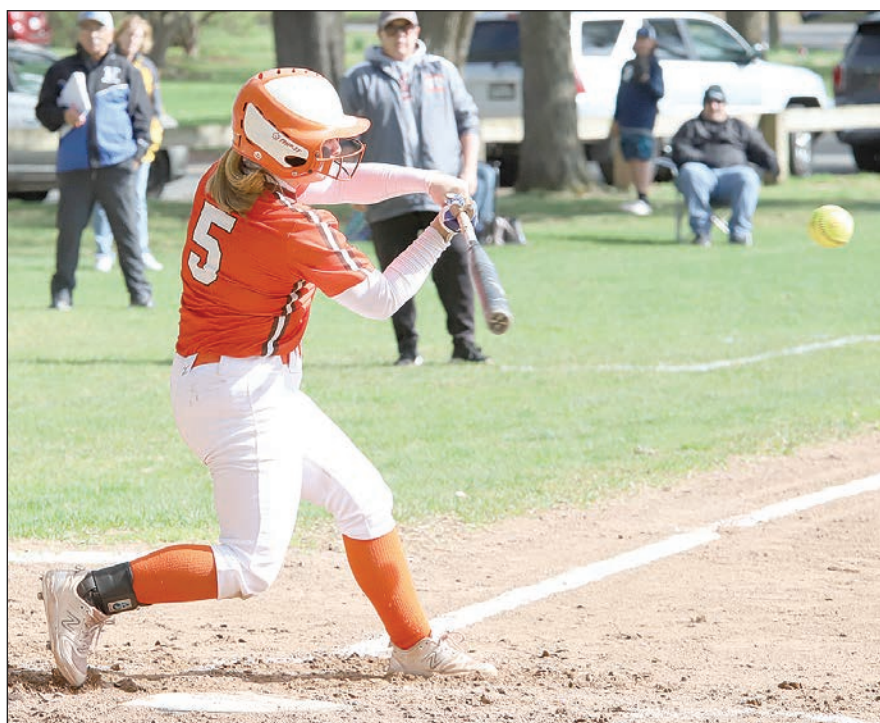
Lynn Jang comes in to score safely on a passed ball.



Kylie Circosta delivers a pitch.



Amber Bates fires over to first.



Alexina Lentes swings and connects solidly on a long fly to left that would go for a home run.

## Georgina wins 300th

AGAWAM – Last week, Agawam grabbed three consecutive wins, defeating West Springfield and Holyoke by 12-0 scores and then East Longmeadow 13-9. Longtime coach Kathy Georgina won her 300th game as a coach during that week, and Agawam went from 2-4 to 5-4 on the regular season, turning its season back in the right direction. In Agawam’s big 12-0 win at West Springfield,

Alexina Lentes helped get things going with a solo home run in the top of the first inning. Up 5-0, Agawam would score seven times in the top of the fifth inning to bring it to a conclusion via the mercy rule. Agawam will rematch with Minnechaug on Thursday, April 27.



# Sports

## Williams wins Icebreaker event

THOMPSON, CT – With the weather conditions cooperating one week later than expected, the 49th Icebreaker Weekend April 8 and 9 at Thompson Speedway successfully opened the 2023 New England racing season with plenty of heart-pounding thrills to set up the summer to come at the Big-T. The Thompson Outlaw Open Modified Icebreaker 125 came down to a stunning green-white-checker in one of the most spectacular open wheeled races in recent memory while winners in the Pro All Stars Series (PASS) Super Late Models and the Thompson local divisions proved themselves as the class of the field.

The 49th Icebreaker 125 included some of the Northeast's best Modified pilots ready to tackle the highbanks for the \$10,000 winner's share of the \$46,000 guaranteed purse. Keith Rocco and Matt Swanson brought the twenty-two-car field to green with Swanson getting the jump in the Gary Casella-owned #25. Swanson

would hang tough before a hard charging Ronnie Williams overtook the lead on lap 25 followed by Woody Pitkat and Chris Pasteryak as Swanson slid to fourth. Carl Medeiros Jr. brought out the first major caution on lap 55 with several mid-pack teams taking advantage and heading pit-side for adjustments.

Realigned side-by-side to return the field to green, Ronnie Williams got the jump on a slip-sliding Pitkat with Rocco coming around to steal second. While Williams, Pitkat and Rocco battled hard in the top-three, 2022 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion Jon McKenney joined the top-five. McKenney would make it to third with Anthony Nocella also joining the top-five before Anthony Bello's spin on lap 72 would bring the first crucial caution. While all the top runners jumped pit side for fresh Hoosier Race Tires, Williams and McKenney elected to stay on the field to lead the impending restart.

RJ Marcotte stole away the lead from McKenney and Williams as the tire strategy helped Swanson and Nocella battle for second. Nocella would take the lead on lap 78 with Pitkat following and stretching out their lead before the caution flag flew on lap 107 as the engine expired on Teddy Hodgdon's machine. Nocella kept the lead while a four-way battle for second saw Pitkat, McKenney, Williams and Mike Christopher, Jr. toss and turn for position. Pitkat brought out the final caution on lap 123 after backing into the turn one wall to set up a green-white-checker between Nocella, Williams, McKenney, Christopher Jr. and Chris Pasteryak. Nocella gave it all he could, but Ronnie Williams rounded the long-standing leader to claim the \$10,000 49th Icebreaker 125 over Jon McKenney and Anthony Nocella. Mike Christopher Jr. brought the Baldwin Racing 7NY home in fourth and Todd Owen powered up to round out the top-five.

## Girls LAX offense has tough luck

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School girls lacrosse team has had a tough time scoring in certain matchups, and that was certainly true of last week's matchups, as the Brownies suffered a pair of losses.

Agawam would lose 15-4 against East Longmeadow and then had a rare matchup with Southington, CT and fell 16-4.

In the loss to East Longmeadow, Isabella Spaulding, Abigail Perry, Elizabeth Santore, and Isabella Ugolini scored single goals.

Agawam is now 3-5 halfway through their schedule and hopes to rebound on May 1 against league rival Minnechaug.

## 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.stategames-sofamerica.com](http://www.stategames-sofamerica.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](http://www.baystategames.org).

For questions, email [info@baystategames.org](mailto:info@baystategames.org) or call 781-932-6555.

## Rice's 11th annual 5K Road Race set for June 3

WILBRAHAM – The 11th annual "Run for Rice's 5K Road Race" will be held on Saturday, June 3 at 9 a.m. This popular, family-friendly 5K road race begins at Christ the King – Epiphany Church, 758 Main Street, Wilbraham, and winds through a flat, fast course in surrounding neighborhoods, ending at Rice Fruit Farm across the street from the start.

Pre-registration fee for runners and walkers is \$20, while day-of-race registration is \$25. Ages 18 and under registration is \$15 including day-of registration. The first 150 registered runners by May 20 will receive our famous race t-shirt

featuring the "Running Apple" logo, and all registered runners will receive a free Rice Fruit Farm ice cream with their bib number on day of race only. Cash prizes will be awarded in several categories, and all proceeds benefit the Rice Nature Preserve maintenance fund of the Minnechaug Land Trust.

Race day registration will be open from 7:30 a.m. until 8:45 a.m. On-line registration now available at [RunSignUp.com](http://RunSignUp.com), and paper registration forms can be downloaded at the Minnechaug Land Trust website [www.minnechaug-landtrust.org](http://www.minnechaug-landtrust.org).

## Roster spots remain open in Quabbin Baseball League

More players are needed for the Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League as it seeks to infuse new talent into its league for the 2023 season.

The league recently held its open practice, but still has plenty of open roster spots remaining to fill for the 2023 season.

Registration for the 2023 season remains open and any interested players can go to [www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org](http://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org) to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league. The league website will also be updated over the next month with information about the upcoming season.

The season is scheduled to begin on Sunday, April 23. The league plays most Sunday from late April through late August with playoffs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically fields six teams each year. Games are usually played at 10 a.m. with fields in Easthampton and South Hadley normally used.

The Quabbin Valley league is an all abilities league and all are welcome to join. Eligibility is players who are age 28 and over. You must be 30 to be eligible to pitch in the league. Your age for eligibility is whatever age you will turn in 2023.

# Get Facts, *Not Fiction.*



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# Sports

## Thunderbirds lose first game of playoff series

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds were unable to quell a ferocious Hartford Wolf Pack attack, as the visitors skated off with a 6-1 win on Wednesday night in Game 1 of the Atlantic Division First Round of the Calder Cup Playoffs inside the MassMutual Center.

Despite holding the home ice, the T-Birds did not get off to a flying start, and the Wolf Pack made Springfield pay for it just 3:37 into the contest. Tanner Fritz picked up a puck near the left-wing wall and slipped a pass through the slot to a waiting Lauri Pajuniemi on the right-wing side. Pajuniemi took care of the rest, lifting a wrist shot over Joel Hofer to give the visitors the opening goal of the series and a 1-0 lead.

Hartford continued to have the better of the offensive play all period, and Hofer was tasked with multiple stellar saves. Some of his best included a blocker-side denial on Pajuniemi in the slot, as well as a left-to-right pad save on a breaking Bobby Trivigno at the edge of the paint. Pajuniemi nearly extended the lead with a long flip shot that glanced off the crossbar with precious seconds remaining on the clock.

The second period was marred by Springfield mishaps, beginning with a



lapse in coverage following an unsuccessful power play. After serving a two-minute minor, Wolf Pack All-Star defenseman Zac Jones stepped out of the box and went backhand-to-forehand to beat Hofer on a breakaway at 6:02 to make it 2-0.

Another Springfield power play generated more offense, but after Dylan Garand the Wolf Pack PK got the job done, Pajuniemi sneaked out of the box and got a breakaway of his own, beating Hofer on the stick side to make it 3-0.

After nearly scoring at the end of the first, Hartford did get on the board at the tail end of the second, as defenseman Blake Hillman crashed the far post to tap home a feed behind Hofer to make it 4-0 with less than six seconds on the clock.

Things continued to come up roses for the Wolf Pack when Ryan Carpenter connected on a one-timer at point-blank range at the 3:42 marker of the third. Springfield finally broke up Garand's shutout bid when Adam Gaudette rifled a one-time power play slap shot to the upper corner at 11:44, but that's all the T-Birds would get on this night, as Ty Emberson added his third point and first goal of the night with an empty-netter in the final two minutes.

### BASEBALL ■ from page 7

out a total of 16 base hits, improved their overall record to 5-2. It was the third time this season that they've scored ten or more runs in a game. They posted an 11-1 home victory versus Northampton, and a 15-3 road win against Chicopee Comp.

"We're happy with the progress that we've been making so far this season," Netkovick said. "We still have a lot of work to do."

Agawam (4-5), who lost their third game of the week, scored nine runs on 16 hits.

"We battled back offensively, but we just need to play a little bit better defensively," said Agawam head coach Brian Rheault. "That has been one of our major problems all season long."

The trio of sophomore second baseman Aiden Pisano, sophomore third baseman Vinny Catelotti, and junior shortstop

Tom Plakias led the Brownies offensively with three hits apiece. Senior right fielder Nick Fitzgerald contributed with two hits.

Minnechaug junior righthander Ben Langone earned his first varsity win by retiring the only batter that he faced on a flyball for the final in the top of the fifth inning.

"Ben came in relief and only threw one pitch for the final out of the fifth inning," Netkovick said. "I believe it's his first varsity win. He was as efficient as you can be on the mound."

The Brownies, who were trailing, 9-3, entering that frame, managed to tie the score by plating six runs.

With runners on second and third, a groundball out to second by junior DH Mike Plakias scored the Brownies first run of the fifth inning. Then senior first baseman Ryan Maloney hit a ground ball single into left field driving home another run. A couple of batters later, Pisano

blasted a two run double to left closing the gap to 9-7.

At that point, Netkovick decided to make a pitching change. He replaced junior righty Jake Lowe, who was the Falcons starter, with senior righty Frank Graziano.

Agawam scored two more runs in that inning following bases loaded walks to senior centerfielder Gavin Shlosser and Catelotti, which tied the score.

That's when Langone took over on the mound and put out the fire with only one pitch.

The Falcons, who had scored seven runs in the third inning off senior righty Mason Barcomb, quickly retook the lead in the home half of the inning. They put seven more runs on the left field scoreboard with a little bit of help from the Brownies defense in the bottom of the fifth inning.

The go-ahead run crossed the plate

when a ground ball hit by sophomore shortstop Bryce Barlow was misplayed by the Agawam second baseman for an error. Minnechaug scored two more runs following a throwing error by the shortstop.

The Falcons rally would continue with a run scoring double by Nordstrom. A groundball out by junior right fielder Tim Harrigan brought home another run increasing the Falcons lead to 14-9. The final two runs of the inning were scored on back-to-back singles by senior first baseman Owen Gasteyer and Straut, who also drove home two runs with a double in the third inning.

The Falcons nearly celebrated a mercy rule victory, as they plated two runs in the sixth following a single into right field by junior catcher Vinny Chiarizio.

Junior righty Ryan Atkin, who made his first varsity appearance, pitched the final two innings for Minnechaug. He didn't allow any runs on three base hits.

# Public Notices

### LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL

The Agawam City Council will conduct a public hearing on **Monday, May 15, 2023, at 7:00pm** on TR-2023-32 the Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2024 to Fiscal Year 2028 as submitted to the City Council by the Mayor on April 3, 2023.

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-2023-32 which is the Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2024 to Fiscal Year 2028 is available for public inspection on the Town of Agawam website ([www.agawam.ma.us](http://www.agawam.ma.us)) or by emailing the office of the City Clerk for an electronic copy at [vgioscia@agawam.ma.us](mailto:vgioscia@agawam.ma.us).

BY ORDER OF:  
Christopher C. Johnson,  
President  
Agawam City Council  
04/27, 05/04/2023

### Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-8600

Docket No. HD23P0805EA

Estate of:  
**Thomas Ernest Cascio, Jr.**  
Also Known As:  
**Thomas E. Cascio, Jr.**  
Date of Death:  
**March 1, 2023**

**INFORMAL PROBATE  
PUBLICATION NOTICE**  
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Jennifer Metz of Feeding Hills, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

**Jennifer Metz of Feeding Hills, MA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested

parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
04/27/2023

### Commonwealth of Massachusetts Probate and Family Court Department Hampden SS Docket No. HD22P2385PM

To all persons interested in the estate of **Nicholas J. Scafuri of Agawam** in said County, person under conservatorship.

A petition has been presented to said Court for license to sell at private sale certain real estate of said Nicholas J. Scafuri for his maintenance.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at 50 State Street, Springfield, MA before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the 3rd day of May 2023, the return day of this citation.

Witness, **BARBARA M. HYLAND, Esquire**, First Judge of said Court this 28th day of March 2023.

**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
04/13, 04/20, 04/27/2023

## Agawam Advertiser News OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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

## PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

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

visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)





## Agawam Cultural Council plans New York 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.

“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](http://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](http://www.agawamcc.org).

## MiraVista highlights Stress Awareness Month

HOLYOKE – Stress in small doses can motivate us to address challenges in our lives. Prolonged stress can overwhelm us, making us anxious and unable to function.

April is Stress Awareness Month and MiraVista Behavioral Health Center is observing the month by encouraging the community to be aware when pressures of daily life begin to interfere with daily routines, including those of sleeping and eating, and to reach out for support to one’s health care provider.

Short-term therapy can often lead to better understanding of thoughts and feelings related to stress and provide ways to better manage it. Constant stress can seriously impact mental, behavioral, and physical health.

The following tips can help us to build resilience into daily life and better prepare for stress management:

- Make self-care a priority, including getting enough rest and eating healthy meals.
- Take a break from social media to give yourself a mental and physical break from constant updates, notifications and even world events.
- Engage in regular physical exercise that you enjoy.
- Have a network of trusted family,

friends, and health care professionals you are comfortable talking with for support.

- Know when you need help and avoid relying on drugs and alcohol for therapy as they can ultimately add to additional health issues.

- Practice mindfulness through meditation, deep breathing exercises, or simply paying attention to your thoughts and emotions without reacting to them.

- Sleep plays a crucial role in managing stress. Make sure to get enough restful sleep each night to allow your body and mind to recover and rejuvenate.

- Eat a healthy, balanced diet with plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins which can help support your physical and mental health, which in turn can help you better manage stress. Visit [miravistabhccare.com](http://miravistabhccare.com) for MiraVista’s Eating for Good Mental Health resource.

“Remember, everyone’s stress management techniques may differ, so it’s important to find what works best for you,” said Kimberley Lee, Chief of Creative Strategy and Development at MiraVista. “Make it a habit to incorporate stress-reducing strategies into your daily routine to promote a healthier, more balanced lifestyle.”

To seek inpatient treatment care at MiraVista Behavioral Health or to learn more, please visit [miravistabhccare.com](http://miravistabhccare.com).

## Suffield Garden Club hosting annual May Market on May 20

SUFFIELD, CT – Spring is here, and the bright greens and yellows in the garden are a great reminder to mark your calendar to visit the Suffield Garden Club’s annual May Market on May 20 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Phelps-Hatheway House Barn located at 55 S. Main St., Suffield, CT.

Admission is free, but don’t forget to bring cash or your checkbook for most purchases as there will be many delightful treats to tempt you. Over forty vendors will participate, with many of your favorites returning yet again. Shop for jewelry, textiles, spices and decorative items for house and garden. A welcome new addition will be the “Smoke N’ Fire Food Truck” featuring a variety of BBQ favorites such as those featured at their Suffield restaurant, the Fire on the Mountain Smokehouse, located at 82 North Main Street.

Students from the Suffield Regional



Plants galore await garden enthusiasts at the annual May Market, coming to Suffield on May 20.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Agriscience Program are coming back to May Market with potted herbs, veggie plants and sprouts to plant in your own garden. Students also grow the popular geranium plants every year, and there will be a lovely selection available at the geranium booth. Want to learn more about gardening? Stop by the Suffield Garden Club booth for helpful tips as well as a selection of practical garden tools for sale. Returning favorites include the popular Collectibles booth as well as the Member Plants tent which includes reasonably priced perennials guaranteed to grow in our area.

The Suffield Garden Club, organized in 1934, is a non-profit organization dedicated to the beautification of Suffield. Proceeds from this event support civic beautification, scholarships, town conservation, horticulture education, and garden therapy programs.

## Agawam Public Library announces upcoming May activities

AGAWAM – Spring has sprung at the Agawam Public Library. May kicks off with a Game Night just for grown-ups. Celebrate the joys of a good old game night with board games and snacks. We’ll have games on hand like Settlers of Catan, Ticket to Ride, Munchkin, and more - but feel free to bring your own. There will be multiple tables for multiple games, so bring a friend or meet some like-minded gamers at the event. Do you have board game recommendations you’d like to share? Feel free to let us know via whichever channel works best for you. This is a drop-in event for adults on Wednesday, May 3 at 6:30 p.m. in the Clini Community Room.

Do you or someone you love struggle with anxiety? For many of us, anxiety is an emotion we deal with on a regular basis. May is Mental Health Awareness Month. To recognize the importance of mental health, we welcome Life Coach, Chris Rich on Monday, May 8 at 6:30 p.m. Chris will present “Practical Strategies for Dealing with Anxiety”. Come learn about some common triggers for anxiety and also some effective ways to deal with it. This program will take place in the Clini Community Room and is sponsored by the Agawam Center Library Association. Please register online [www.agawamlibrary.org](http://www.agawamlibrary.org) or call the information Desk at (413) 789-1550 X4.

The Agawam Improv Club will hold its meetings on Thursday, May 11 and Tuesday, May 23 at 6:30 p.m. in the Clini Community

Room. This is a great chance to come out of your shell and meet others for games and learning about improvisational comedy. These drop-in events will be facilitated by Christian Boor. Please contact him at [boorch01@gmail.com](mailto:boorch01@gmail.com) with any questions.

Summertime is finally in our sights and it’s time to make some plans. Come with a list of everything you want to do this summer and we will supply everything you need to make a Summertime Bucket List. Adult Craft Night will be held on Thursday, May 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the Clini Community Room. Please register online or call the Information Desk.

Join us on Monday, May 22 at 6 p.m. as we welcome back award-winning pastel artist Greg Maichak. Greg will present The Rose: a pastel painting workshop for adults 18+. In this new, fun, two-hour workshop, participants will produce their very own personalized and original pastel based on Georgia O’Keeffe’s Rose. Maichak guides everyone in drawing, blending, and layering. All materials are supplied (pastels, paper, blending material, etc.) and participants can keep their 12 X 18 painting. This workshop is designed for beginners to advanced participants. It is sponsored by the Agawam Cultural Council and the Agawam Center Library Association. Space is limited for this event. Please register online [www.agawamlibrary.org](http://www.agawamlibrary.org) or by calling 789-1550 x4.

Our May Library Tech session will fea-

ture a lesson in Kanopy- a streaming film service for Agawam cardholders that offers thousands of films, documentaries, and shorts from producers in the U.S. and around the world. Library Associate, Erica LeFebvre will demonstrate and answer questions about Kanopy on Wednesday, May 24 at 6:30 p.m. in the Clini Community Room. Patrons are encouraged to bring their devices and library cards if assistance is needed in getting started. Please register online [www.agawamlibrary.org](http://www.agawamlibrary.org) or call the Information Desk (413) 789-1550 X4. Patrons are also invited to our drop-in Ask the Techs sessions on Tuesdays, May 2 and May 16 at 10:15 a.m. Come with your specific questions for our experts.

Afternoon Tea & Trivia is back. Join us on Wednesday, May 31 at 3 p.m. in the Clini Community Room for an afternoon full of fun and games. Test your knowledge against others and enjoy a refreshment. This program is for 18+. Please register online [www.agawamlibrary.org](http://www.agawamlibrary.org).

The Agawam Library will be closed on Monday, May 29 in observance of Memorial Day. Our Summer hours begin June 12. Library hours are Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 10 will be our last Saturday for the season. For more information about library programs and services, please visit us online [www.agawamlibrary.org](http://www.agawamlibrary.org) or call us (413) 789-1550.





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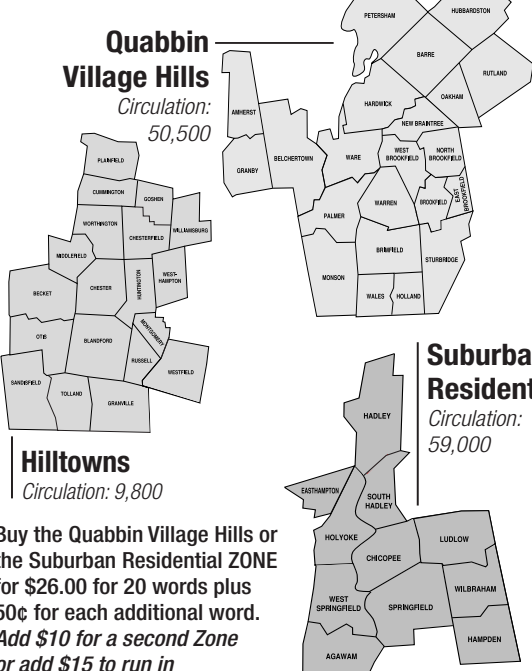
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# HCC annual Student Art Exhibition returns to campus

HOLYOKE – After a three-year COVID hiatus, the annual Holyoke Community College Student Art Exhibition has returned to campus.

The 2023 HCC Student Art Exhibition opened Tuesday, April 11, and runs through Thursday, May 4, in the Taber Art Gallery inside the HCC Library, in the Media Arts Center on the third floor of the Campus Center, and along the third floor hallway of the Fine & Performing Arts Building.

The HCC student art shows in 2020, 2021, and 2022 took place virtually, with online galleries set up in place of in-person installations.

This year also marks the return of the Student Art Exhibition Gala Reception on Thursday, April 13, from 7 to 9 p.m., with the announcement of Visual Art awards at 8 p.m.

“2019 was the last time we did this, so we’re really excited to be back on campus and to have a community event,” said Felice Caivano, chair of the Visual Art Department. “Students are saying they’re going to



A visitor to the Taber Art Gallery at Holyoke Community College views the 2023 Student Art Exhibition, which runs through May 4. SUBMITTED PHOTO

bring their families. We’ll give out awards. It’s a real celebration for us.”

Thirty-five HCC students majoring in visual art, graphics, and graphic design were nominated by their teachers for a variety of awards.

On display for the exhibition are works in a wide range of mediums by students of the HCC Visual Art Department faculty: Lahri Bond, Felice Caivano, John Calhoun, Kelly Clare, Tara Conant, William Devine, Benj Gleeksman, Chris Lizon, and Margie Rothermich.

“It feels great to have student art back in here,” said Taber Art Gallery director Amy Johnquest. “I’m really happy and excited, and it’s looking extraordinarily beautiful.”

The Taber Art Gallery, located off the lobby of the HCC Library on the second floor of the HCC Donahue Building, is free and open to the public Monday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. during regular school sessions.

For more information, please contact Amy Johnquest, at (413) 552-2614.

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## Lifeguard certification training classes offered in May

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Parks & Recreation Department is offering a lifeguard Red Cross certification training course at the Holyoke Boys and Girls Club (70 Nick Cosmos Way).

The session will take place May 20 and 21 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Applicants must be 16 years of age. Strong swimmers are encouraged to apply. Participants must pass a pre-skills test at the start of class. The cost \$150 for Holyoke residents and \$250 for non-residents.

A Lifeguard Re-Certification Class will

also be offered on May 21. The class will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Holyoke Boys and Girls Club (70 Nick Cosmos Way). Update your skills while also extending your certification for another two years. The cost is \$100 for Holyoke residents and \$200 for non-residents.

Please register at the Holyoke Parks and Recreation Department, 413-322-5620.

Participants must register and be paid in full before attending the class. Limited space available.

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