



**NATURE**

**Fish migration**

PAGE 2



**LOCAL**

**Help local cats**

PAGE 3



**SPORTS**

**Softball action**

PAGE 7

# AGAWAM

## ADVERTISER NEWS



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### Mayor will explore energy aggregation program

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – Following much discussion behind the scenes, the Agawam City Council voted April 18 to explore whether the town can try to negotiate a discounted per-kilowatt electric rate with electrical providers.

Councilor Thomas Hendrickson brought the concept forward, saying it has worked for many other communities.

“This will allow for the town to try and procure a supply for energy on behalf of all residents,” Hendrickson said. “Rather than have individual people go out and try to negotiate their own rates in a market they don’t understand.”

More than 100 communities in the Commonwealth have opted for the program, and while Mayor William Sapelli still needs to try and explore whether Agawam can get a better rate, the prospects are promising, according to one resident who spoke during public comment.

“We locked in at 14 center per kilowatt,” said Susan Grossberg, an Agawam resident who said she owns a property in Melrose. “It’s a lot less than what people out here are paying.”

Hendrickson brought energy aggregation forward with co-sponsors Councilors Rosemary Sandlin and Anthony Russo.

Sandlin has been a staunch supporter of anything that will help residents, especially senior citizens on limited or fixed incomes, save money.

The trio sponsored the resolution more than a month ago, but it was tabled due to the council’s desire to learn more about the options and obligations of the town and the people if a lower rate is negotiated.

According Councilor Dino Mercadante said he was pleased to see residents have the ability to opt out if they do not like the terms of what is negotiated by the town.

“I want to make sure Agawam

citizens don’t feel like we are going to hijack their electric bill,” Mercadante said.

The city council unanimously supported exploring the program by a 9-0 vote with two councilors absent. Council President Christopher Johnson said joining the program is a lengthy process and will take up to a year and the town would have to hire a broker as part of the process.

Any agreement the town enters into with Eversource, the main electrical provider in Agawam, or any other energy provider, would have to come back in front of the city council before it goes into effect.

Energy rates, especially electric rates, have skyrocketed since the rise in inflation over the past two years. Eversource has made huge rate increases every six months. Natural gas, which is also now serviced by Eversource, have also risen, but those rates have dropped some during the past six months as supply issues have gotten a bit more under control.

### Library workers recognized



The workers were being honored for National Library Workers Day.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Last week, Mayor William Sapelli presented a proclamation to honor the workers at Agawam Public Library. He was joined by City Councilors Dino Mercadante and Anthony Russo.



Library Director Nancy Siegel holds the proclamation.

### School budget sees modest increase despite rising costs

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – Given the rise in energy costs, health costs, new teacher contracts, and overall inflation, the 2.46% increase in the Agawam Public Schools budget is very fiscally responsible, according to the initial presentation of the budget made the April 11 meeting of the Agawam School Committee.

Superintendent of Schools Sheila Hoffman presented a \$49,960,427 for the 2023-2024 school year, an increase of \$1,230,421 from the current year’s operating budget.

Hoffman’s budget shows that Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds, known as ESSER, will be expiring.

The ESSER funds were used by Agawam to hire additional staff that were aimed at aiding students during and after pan-

demic conditions.

Agawam was one of the school districts that opted to keep students in school as much as possible. Agawam returned students school in a hybrid form in the fall of 2020, and returned students full time as soon as former Gov. Charlie Baker allowed schools to do so in April 2021.

Still, the interruption in in-person learning has had a major impact on student performances all over the state, including Agawam.

She said positions added to aid helping student performances hurt by the pandemic will be absorbed into the school budget for fiscal 2024. Hoffman said the plan is to make the additions to the school district permanent.

“Students and staff are still healing from the disruptions in

BUDGET | page 3

### Council approves cell tower to be installed at new police headquarters

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – The Agawam City Council unanimously approved the install of two new additions to the Wireless Telecommunications Overlay District.

The council voted 9-0 to add 1070 Suffield St. to the overlay district so a monopole cellular tower can be installed for wireless communications needed for the new Agawam Police Headquarters.



A cell tower can be installed at 1070 Suffield St., the site of the soon-to-be new Agawam Police headquarters once the council approves the second reading of the change to the wireless telecommunications overlay district.

FILE PHOTO

While doing a request for proposals for 1070 Suffield St., where a police headquarters will be installed through the retrofitting of a former insurance building, it was discovered 1000 Suffield St., the site of Agawam’s Department Public Works complex, as well as a Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency regional office, Parks and Recreation, and the town’s Inspection Services office, was not a part of the overlay district.

The discovery was made despite the fact MEMA has a wireless communications tower on its site.

The council held a public hearing that netted no opposition to adding both locations to the overlay district, and the town will continue its pursuit of an RFP to install a monopole tower with Celco Partnership, a business name used by Verizon Wireless. The cell tower will be used by emergency services as well as improve wireless communications in that area of town.

The resolution includes a notation that the town has regularly received complaints from residents of faulty cellular coverage in the central and southerly sections of Suffield St., specifically from Verizon Wireless customers.

The installation of the new poll will certainly help, though, it does not appear there will be other carriers co-locating on the tower.

The city council agreed to borrow almost \$12 million to pur-

CELL TOWER | page 3



# Westfield River Watershed Association Fish Ladder open house celebrates World Fish Migration Day

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Hundreds of people are expected to gather along the Westfield River on Sunday, May 21 to watch the American Shad as they migrate upstream to spawn. The Fish Ladder Open House is a free event sponsored each year by the Westfield River Watershed Association (WRWA.) This year's activities coincide with World Fish Migration Day, which is celebrated every two years to recognize the ecological, cultural, economic, and recreational importance of fish migration.

Community members are welcome to stop by and check out the annual migration of our large native fish. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. WRWA members will offer short tours along the canal and dam at the former Southworth Paper Company on Front Street in West Springfield.

"This is the most popular of all our activities each year. People are fascinated by these big fish who battle the currents to get upstream. It's easy to watch them from several places along the canal," said Brian Conz, president of the Westfield River Watershed Association (WRWA.) "Our on-site experts can explain and answer questions about the Connecticut River shad and their migration." The WRWA works in cooperation with A&D Hydro, Inc. and the Mass. Division of Fisheries and Wildlife to offer this one-day-a-year event to the public.

Besides the migrating fish, there's more to see while walking along the river path. "We always see water birds such as mallards, other ducks and great blue heron. Many different warblers are migrating north to their summer nesting sites. There are a couple of beaver dams on this section of the Westfield, and sometimes folks are lucky enough to watch the beaver. There



The Westfield River Watershed Association is holding an event to honor fish migration on May 21.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

are even bald eagles who have been nesting on the lower part of the Westfield River," adds Conz. "Perhaps we'll spot them soaring along the river this year."

This free, family-friendly and teen-friendly activity is open to the public, rain or shine. The walk to the fish ladder is about ten minutes down an accessible dirt path. Participants are encouraged to wear appropriate shoes and to dress for

the weather; binoculars are helpful for bird-watching and seeing the wildlife up close.

"Another benefit of visiting the fish ladder is being able to identify the migrating shad in other waters of the area," adds Ann Barone, another WRWA member. "I love feeling the connection over time when the earlier people who lived in our watershed also waited for the shad to run upstream."

Due to the pandemic, the counting of migratory fish on the Westfield River has been automated, according to Caleb Slater of Mass. Fish and Wildlife. "The equipment is located in a below-water-level viewing area. As a result, there is no space in the viewing room for the public this year. People can still see the shad as they rest and gather strength at the bottom of the dam before they head up the fish ladder itself. It's a powerful experience to watch them, knowing how far these fish have travelled from the ocean and where they still need to swim to spawn."

Current COVID precautions allow for outdoor gatherings without masks. Groups are encouraged to maintain social distance. WRWA will take all mandated precautions in effect at the time of the Fish Ladder Open House.

The American Shad (*Alosa sapidissima*), which are typically 20-24" long, can be found along the entire North Atlantic Coast from Labrador to Florida. Cleaner waters, fewer dams, and fish passageways such as the one in West Springfield are continuing to improve shad populations. Shad are anadromous, spending most of their lives at sea in salt water then returning to spawn in freshwater streams. Those native to this area typically survive to spawn repeatedly for up to ten years. This annual fish run has been an integral food source for the Connecticut River Valley since the native people, and later colonists, began fishing and drying them. Local fishermen today continue catching shad during the year-round open season.

For more information about the Westfield River Watershed Association and its activities, visit [www.westfieldriver.org](http://www.westfieldriver.org).

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Meet the Local Author Judith Cosby

On Wednesday, May 17 at 6 p.m., a local author, Judith Cosby will be joining our regular book club and anyone else who would like to attend for a meet the author event. This event is open to the public and complimentary dessert will be served. Upon reserving your seat, if you'd like to join us for dinner at 5 p.m. let us know at signup. Threads is the chosen book for this event.

Judith is the author of two inspirational memoirs, Threads and Spirit Threads, and a 52-week Gratitude journal, Weaving Threads of Gratitude. All three publications have received 5-star ratings through Amazon. She has recently decided to step out of the box and write her first fiction, a supernatural mystery, with a release TBA.

Judith received her BSBA from American International College, raised two daughters, retired from sprint triathlons, and now resides in Massachusetts with her quiet husband, noisy dogs, and beloved Tuxedo cat she dubs the worst cat ever. Although she considers herself a late-blooming author, Judith continues to expand her literary knowledge through workshops, creative writing classes, and networks through writing organizations such as Writers Unboxed and ARIA. In addition, Judith recently was a guest for two podcasts, Healing Voices and yWrite.

When she is not writing, she enjoys walks with her two Great Pyrenees, Maggie Mae and Tobin, and gardening. For more information on Judith Cosby, visit her website.

If you are interested in attending this wonderful event,  
please get in touch with Joanne Locke at 141 Main Street Restaurant  
413 821-9881 or sign up on our website at 141-MainStreet.com

## Learn how to declutter your home

AGAWAM – The Agawam Senior Center will host a seminar on decluttering your home and turning it into cash. The event will be held at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., on Thursday, May 11 at 1 p.m.

- Your speaker, Raymond Rose, will discuss:
  - The benefits of minimalism
  - Best ways to eliminate clutter.
  - How to use social media to sell your items.
- Get rid of unused items using a “curb alert”.
- Got collectables you want to sell?
- Understanding estate sales.
- Places to donate your goods.

## Next Feline Friends fundraiser this weekend

AGAWAM – Feline Friends Inc. Cat Sanctuary of Feeding Hills will be holding a food/supply drive at Smithland Pet & Garden Center on Sunday, May 7 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers will be accepting food, litter, treats & monetary donations for our kitties. Opened bags/boxes will also be accepted. Gift cards from various pet stores or Costco would be much appreciated.

We are grateful that the Big Y Store in Westfield at 474 East Main Street has chosen Feline Friends for the April Community Bag Program. Our Sanctuary will receive \$1 from the purchase of a \$2.50 reusable Community Bag.

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

Smithland, a valued sponsor, is stocked with Friskies Pate or Shreds canned food

(single flavored cases preferred), Purina Cat Chow Indoor dry food (green bag- not Naturals), unscented cat litter and Temptations cat treats. All donations are gratefully accepted. Our donation bin is located near the cash registers.

Other Wish List items: Disinfecting wipes, paper towels, puppy pee pads, dry cat food for strays and colonies.

We are also thankful to all of our community members for their support throughout the year. Just a reminder that we have collection bins at the Agawam Public Library & the Agawam Senior Center.

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



## St. Martha’s Guild to hold Mother’s Day tag and bake sale

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.

## Fourth quarter real estate and personal 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](http://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.

## Catholic Women’s Club annual banquet scheduled 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 sea-

son 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.

### POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 1,421 calls for service from April 24 to April 30 and recorded the following arrests. No arrests in the public log have been omitted. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty.

#### Tuesday, April 25

Khalis K. Kasimov, 24, of 13 Lexington Cir., Southwick, was arrested at 1:05 a.m. on a straight warrant.

Scott A. Peabody, 36, of 31 High St., Agawam, was arrested at 5:44 p.m. for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, subsequent offense, and not having an inspection sticker.

#### Friday, April 28

Christopher B. Prefontaine, 42, of 74 Kathy Terrace, Agawam, was arrested for 4:53 p.m. for violation of an abuse

prevention order.

James Paul Nicholson, 37, of 49 Poinsetta St., Agawam, was arrested at 4:59 p.m. on a default warrant for a probation violation.

Connor Paul Long, 30, of 119 Autumn St., Agawam, was arrested 10:54 p.m. for operating under the influence of liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, failure to stop for police, marked lanes violation, and speeding at a rate greater than was reasonable and proper.

#### Sunday, April 30

Devin Jacob Young, 19, of 873 Springfield St., Agawam, was arrested at 10:15 p.m. for three counts of breaking and entering a vehicle or boat at nighttime, and conspiracy of breaking and entering a vehicle or boat at nighttime.

### CELL TOWER | from page 1

chase the property at 1070 Suffield St. and spend the funds to retrofit the building there to house the Agawam Police Department. It’s currently located on Springfield St. and is desperate need of replacement.

The new police department is in the process of being designed and bid out with the hope that it will be completed sometime next year.

As a formality, the change to the overlay district must go through a second reading at the May 1 city council meeting.

### BUDGET | from page 1

learning,” Hoffman said. Students did not attend school in person for the final three months of the 2019-2020 school year, forced to go fully remote during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Now, Hoffman says, teaching strategies, which have been constantly evolving to adjust to standardized testing, are also being changed to adjust to post-pandemic life.

According to Hoffman’s budget presentation, the 2.46% increase includes nearly \$80,000 in additional transportation costs from the Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative, which provides bus services for the district as well as serves as the vocational option for high school students.

Students involved with the program have hire tuition for education there totaling \$66,410 the district must contribute to.

Special services increase by \$278,000 and the district has to absorb \$100,000 in information technology costs with the loss of ESSER funds.

A public hearing was held on the budget at the April 25 meeting, but was generally supported by the School Committee and the joint City Council and School Committee School Budget Sub-committee, which is chaired by City Councillor Paul Cavallo. He also supported the budget.

Once the school budget has been approved, it will go in front of the City Council for approval in June along with the town’s entire budget. The city council cannot make any specific cuts to the budget, but does have the ability to reduce it by an amount. If the council were to do that, the school district would have to decide where to cut.



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# Opinion

## Guest Column

### April showers make for great transplanting weather



**I**t was a lot of fun to take advantage of the overcast days this week to get some transplanting done.

Do you wonder why it is advantageous to undertake this task when it is cloudy, or even drizzling out? If your guess has to do with less stress on the plants, you are right on target.

Read on for more about what kept me busy and why!!

I hope I am smarting up some when it comes to homegrown seedlings. This year, instead of growing 300 tomato plants (yes, I was a little kooky last year) I downsized to just under 70.

Still enough for me to share but not so many that we have to have a brigade to get the many trays into the house each night that temperatures dip in my unheated greenhouse.

The tomato seeds were sown in the third week or March and were transplanted into 6 packs the second week of April.

Recently, they started to show signs that they were ready to be potted into bigger containers. Height was one give-away. Secondly, was a root ball that was pretty filled out but not quite root bound (roots swirling in a tight mass).

I lifted each plant from the cell of its 6-pack and positioned the plant on the bottom of a 4" pot and filled in with new potting soil.

Tomatoes are unique in that they will make roots up the stem.

After all the transplanting was done, I gave them a drink or fish emulsion/seaweed fertilizer to lessen any shock and provide them with a good boost.

Because it was overcast, I was able to do this right in the greenhouse and keep them in there without worry that the sun or heat would be too much for plants that recently had their roots disturbed.

On occasion, when I've been forced to get transplanting done during a sunny stretch, I would immediately water the plants then place the trays of plants in the shade to recover for at least a day or two.

Now, a mention on temperature. Cloudy is one thing, and today with my greenhouse doors closed, 50 degrees outdoors meant a few degrees warmer inside.

I would not keep tomato plants outside if temperatures were colder than fifty or they will start to show signs of distress. They are much happier at 55 to 60 degrees.

So, for the next couple of weeks, (gasp) in and out they will go each day.

Without a greenhouse would mean moving them around your windows to catch the sun, or placing them back under the grow lights until temperatures moderate. At least I am not moving 300 this year.

Overcast skies were also helpful when it came time to re-do one of my perennial bor-

ders. I did a soil test on this particular garden last year and followed the recommendations to increase nitrogen (blood meal) and potassium (wood ashes).

It is neat that the wood ashes do double duty to get the pH a little higher as well.

Once the amendments were mixed in, I began lifting plants from the old garden, dividing them up and replanting them in the new garden. Some of the plants were overgrown, hence the need for division.

Using a sharp shovel, I simply sliced them down the middle of the clump and if needed, divided the halves into quarters. Now lots of roots were severed in the process, so cloudy skies and the rain that followed really helped to settle the plants into their new locale without shock.

The garden is a collection of plants that butterflies love. I have a butterfly bush in the corner that is 3 years old. That one really frigid night we had where temperatures dipped into the negative double digits killed off top growth, but I am hopeful that growth will return from the crown.

Hopefully, I will see that over the next two to three weeks. What did you accomplish over these cloudy days?

*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.*



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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.

### Will minor children get Social Security benefits if father claims at age 62



**D**ear Rusty: I will be 62 in 2024 and am considering starting benefits at that time. I will have two children under the age of 18. One of them will be 10 and the other 15. Will they be able to draw benefits in addition to my benefits?

**Signed: Father of Two**

**Dear Father of Two:**

Yes, if you claim your Social Security retirement benefits at 62, your minor children will be able to get benefits from you until they are 18 years old or up to 19 if still in high school. You will likely be designated as Representative Pay-

ee for those benefits and will be obligated to use them only for your children's behalf, which could include simply saving the money for their future. But there's more to consider.

Normally, a minor child is eligible for 50% of the parent's full retirement age (FRA) entitlement even if you claim at 62, but Social Security's Family Maximum will likely restrict each child's benefit to make it less than 50%. Then, once the 15 year old ages-out of eligibility at 18 or 19, the younger child's benefit will increase to the full 50% of your FRA amount. That is unless you are married and your wife will also be collecting a spousal benefit on your record. In that case the Family Maximum will limit payments for all of the dependents receiving payments based on your SS record for both your children and your wife. Generally, the Family Maximum is between 150% and 188% of your FRA entitlement, from which your own FRA entitlement is subtracted, leaving 50% to 88% of the Family Maximum for your dependents.

It's important to remember that by claiming

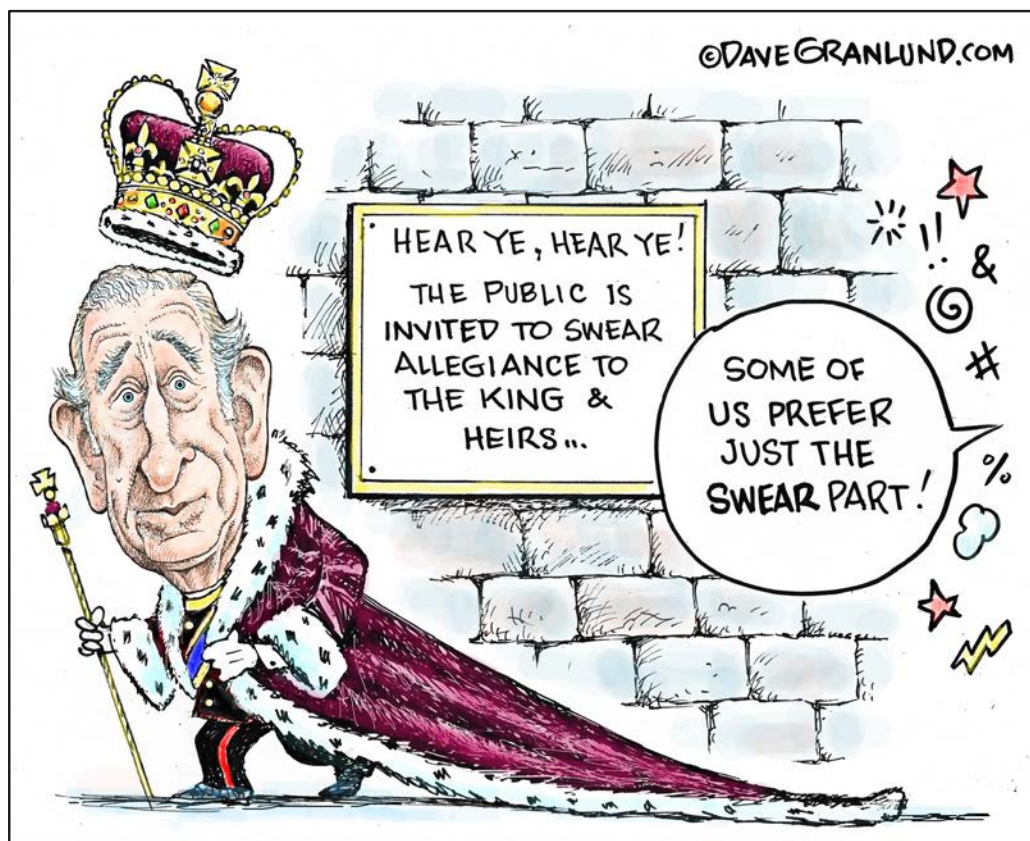
your own SS retirement benefit at age 62 your monthly payment will be cut by 30% you'll get 70% of your FRA entitlement and that is a permanent reduction. So, you may wish to evaluate whether the money your children will get until they are 18 will offset the lifetime reduction to your own benefit payment. Your life expectancy is important when making that decision, and if you wish to estimate your potential longevity I suggest using this tool: <https://socialsecurityreport.org/tools/life-expectancy-calculator/>.

It's also important to remember that claiming benefits before your full retirement age will mean that, if you work, you'll be subject to Social Security's "earnings test" which limits how much you can earn before some of your benefits are taken away. The earnings limit changes annually (it's \$21,240 for 2023) and, if the limit is exceeded, SS will withhold \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. They will withhold future benefits to recover anything you owe for exceeding the earnings limit and, if your benefits are withheld for this reason, your dependents' benefits will also be withheld for those same months. So, your plans for working should be weighed carefully in deciding whether to claim your Social Security benefits early.

To summarize: If you won't work full time after age 62 and you're comfortable with 70% of your FRA benefit entitlement for the rest of your life, then claiming at 62 will also entitle your children and possibly your wife to dependent benefits restricted by the Family Maximum. But, if you continue to work full time, Social Security's earnings test will likely mean neither you nor your dependents can receive full Social Security benefits at this time. And for clarity, the earnings limit no longer applies after you reach your full retirement age.

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 [amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org).

*Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*



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# Opinion



By Ellenor Downer

It is almost May and May is the month ruby-throated hummingbirds usually return to this area.

Some people already put out nectar feeders in anticipation of their return. I will put out a nectar feeder this weekend. I usually see the males first, then the females.

The ruby-throated hummingbird is the only hummingbird found in Eastern North America.

These birds are only 3 1/2 inches long and are green. The male has a black head, iridescent red throat, which may appear black and a white breast and belly. The female is green with a whitish throat and underbelly. Eyes and bills are black.

Hummingbirds eat flower nectar, insects, spiders and sap from sapsucker drilled holes. They come to hummingbird feeders.



Male ruby-throated hummingbird



Bluebirds

In spring, the male defends a territory of about 1/4 acre. In dive displays, he flies in a U shape, rising about 10 to 20 feet on both sides. It resembles the swinging of a pendulum. After mating, the female lays two white eggs in cup shaped nest of plant down, bud scales, covered with lichens, bound with spider's silk and placed on a small, horizontal limb.

Ruby-throated hummingbirds, both male and female, near migration, will temporarily defend a food source such as nectar feeders. They migrate 600 miles across the Gulf of Mexico, having stored enough food to make the crossing.

Hummingbirds make varied chips and twittering noises. Their wings make a whirring or humming noise, which is how they got their name. When I refill a nectar feeder and return to hang it out, I often hear their humming wings or I will see them perched on a nearby branch.

### Nectar

I mix 1/4 cup white sugar to 1 cup water. The mixture should be brought to a boil to ensure all the sugar dissolves and to eliminate bacteria. Cool the mixture before setting it out. It also can be kept in the refrigerator for about a week. It is important to keep nectar feeders clean and change the mixture frequently. I prefer the nectar feeders that have a moat on top to fill with



Pileated woodpeckers

water to deter ants.

I have several larger birds, who drink water from the moat. I even have downy woodpeckers that drink nectar.

### Nesting bluebirds

A Belchertown resident said he saw a nesting pair of bluebirds in his yard so he built a bluebird house and now the pair call the bird house home. He succeeded in his quest to attract bluebirds to his yard.

### Pileated woodpeckers

The Belchertown resident also has pileated woodpeckers at his feeders. I often hear pileated woodpeckers calling or hammering away on a tree, but I rarely see one. The other day, I heard the call and looked up to see one fly from my yard to the woods across the street.

### Ospreys

I received an email this week. The writer visited the site in Wilbraham where osprey had nested previously. He said, "I saw two osprey at a nest on a light pole. I don't think they are incubation eggs because one bird brought a stick to the nest while I was there and both birds left the nest which I don't think would happen if incubation had started."

He said for anyone wanting to go see this nest the best place to view the nest is



Osprey

from the Wilbraham Senior Center parking lot and park on the side of the lot facing the playing fields. There are stick nests on three light poles. He said, "The nest I saw the birds at was the right most light pole as viewed from the Wilbraham Senior Center." I think I will take a road trip to Wilbraham.

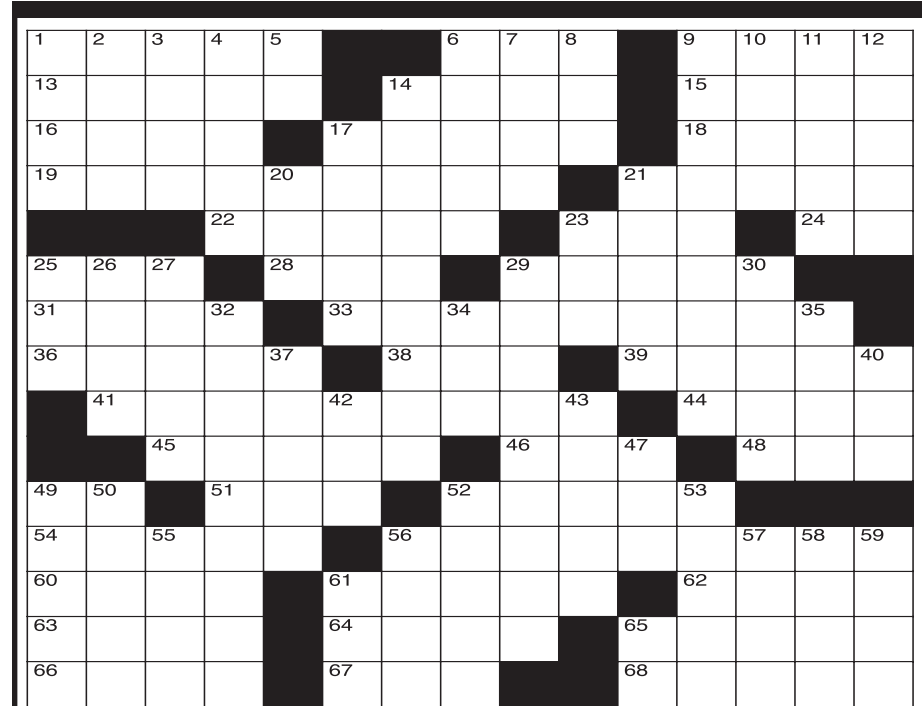
### Other birds

An Oakham couple saw the first grackle of the year last week. I had a male goldfinch in bright yellow plumage perched on my feeder pole recently.

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.



Pileated woodpeckers



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Dull and flat
6. Baking measurement (abbr.)
9. Education-based groups
13. Not behind
14. Runners run them
15. Japanese ankle sock
16. Grave
17. Japanese industrial city
18. People of southern Ghana
19. Particular designs
21. Device fitted to something
22. Infections
23. Pirates' preferred alcohol
24. Expression of sympathy
25. Rock guitarist's tool
28. Neither
29. Ancient city of Egypt
31. You \_\_\_ what you sow
33. Ruined
36. Narrations

### CLUES DOWN

1. Actor Damon
38. Body art (slang)
39. Fencing sword
41. Apartment buildings (abbr.)
44. Type of missile
45. Fathers
46. Extremely high frequency
48. Type of school
49. Incorrect letters
51. Two-year-old sheep
52. Nasty manner
54. One who accepts a bet
56. Indian prince
60. Asian country
61. Rhythmic patterns in Indian music
62. "Uncle Buck" actress
63. Detailed criteria
64. Son of Shem
65. Talked wildly
66. Discount
67. Not good
68. Growing out

### CLUES ACROSS

2. A call used to greet someone
3. Part-time employee
4. Emaciation
5. "Westworld" actor
6. Gains possession of
7. Relaxing spaces
8. 23rd star in a constellation
9. Northern grouse
10. Monetary unit of Bangladesh
11. Manila hemp
12. Unites muscle to bone
14. Makes deep cuts in
17. 18-year period
18. Between eclipses
20. Member of a people inhabiting southern Benin
21. Synthetic rubbers
23. Unwelcome rodent
25. Expression of creative skill
26. Some is red
27. Seems less in impressive
29. Harry Kane's team
30. Gland secretion
32. Action of feeling sorrow
34. Disallow
35. Deceptive movement
37. More dried-up
40. Crimson
42. Actress Ryan
43. Adherents of a main branch of Islam
47. Accomplished American president
49. Side of a landform facing an advancing glacier
50. Sheep breed
52. Appetizer
53. Broadway actress
55. Influential film critic
56. NY Giants ownership family
57. Type of script
58. Assist
59. London park
61. Bar bill
65. In reply indicator

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 11

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# Student fine arts exhibition on view

SPRINGFIELD – The Amy H. Carberry Fine Arts Gallery at Springfield Technical Community College presents the Spring Student Fine Arts Exhibition on view through May 10.

Also open concurrently, and celebrating a 10-year anniversary, is the Camera Obscura Room.

Each semester the Fine Arts program faculty at STCC select work to showcase their students' finest work. From colorful paintings to intricate woodblock prints, charcoal drawings and 3D sculptures to traditional gelatin silver photographs, and many other outstanding design projects, all artwork represents the culmination of a semester's work.

"This show is not just a representation of 'art majors,'" said Sondra Peron, associate professor and art gallery coordinator. "To the contrary, regardless of major or career goals, most fine arts courses do not require any pre-requisite, and no art experience is required to register for a fine arts course."

Students said they were proud to display their art on the walls of the gallery at STCC.

"I worked really diligently on trying to express my artistic style in each piece in the student art exhibition at the Carberry Gallery. The whimsical elements of nature and bold colors speak to my personality and creative style," said Enaya Ogletree, STCC fine arts major and gallery work-study student.

For more information about the Fine Arts program, visit [www.stcc.edu/explore/programs/fine.aa](http://www.stcc.edu/explore/programs/fine.aa).

First conceived and built in 2013 with analog photography students in the former gallery office, the Camera Obscura Room offers a unique viewing experience. The laws of optics dictate that light travels in straight lines and when light reflects off



The Carberry Fine Arts Gallery will feature art by students through May 10.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

objects outside a darkened room, some of those rays of light travel through a small hole or aperture in a window, reform on the opposite wall, upside down. The Camera Obscura Room at STCC is open to the public when exhibitions are on view.

The gallery and camera obscura, located on the campus of STCC in B28, are open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; Wednesday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Parking available in K Lot. Use Pearl Street gate for easy access. The gallery and all events are free and to the public.

This exhibition and associated events are supported in part by the School of

Liberal and Professional Studies (LAPS) and the Fine Arts (A.A.) program. [stcc.io/carberry](http://stcc.io/carberry).

# Work begins on gas lines

AGAWAM – On Monday, May 1, Eversource will be starting excavation for the installation of a new 16-inch natural gas main within Springfield St. starting from the Eversource transfer station located at 202 Springfield St and ending near the Gulf gas station at 18 Springfield St. The project will extend throughout the spring and summer. Work is expected to be completed on the project before the start of the Eastern States Exposition in mid-September.

During the construction period, vehicular traffic along Springfield St. will be limited and detour routes will be in place. Residents should be mindful of possible traffic delays and are encouraged to plan accordingly. Access to all businesses along the project corridor shall be maintained during the construction period.

Please be aware that the construction schedule dates are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances such as inclement weather or necessary emergency work. If you have any questions, please contact the Agawam Department of Public Works at 413-821-0600.

# Robotics teams registering students for '23-'24 school year

AGAWAM – Agawam Robotics Education Association will be holding registration for the 2023-2024 season. Registration will be held on May 17 and May 30 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Agawam Public Library.

Sign-ups are open for grades K-12:  
 Grades K-3: \$50 registration fee  
 Grades 4-7: \$100 registration fee  
 Grades 8-12: Speak to a student/mentor for information

All registrations are subject to having enough parent volunteers to coach teams.

If you are interested in becoming a coach, please come talk to us.

Robotics is a hands-on teambuilding STEM program, with opportunities to create, grow and learn by being challenged through working with like-minded students and inspiring mentors. Come check us out. We will have demonstrations of our robots on display during registration times.

If you have any questions, please contact Wendy Rua ([mwrwa02@gmail.com](mailto:mwrwa02@gmail.com)) or Dana Henry ([dphentry58@comcast.net](mailto:dphentry58@comcast.net)).

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# SPORTS

## Falcons exact revenge against Brownies

AGAWAM – After a defeat in Wilbraham a few weeks ago, it was a much closer game between Agawam and Minnechaug softball. A late run gave Minnechaug a 3-2 in Agawam to even the series 1-1 this year between the two teams. They will possibly meet again come tournament time.

In the win, Grace Fallon had a hit and drove in two runs for Minnechaug. Madison Pajak had two hits and an RBI for Agawam. Kylie Circosta pitched a complete game, allowing three runs on six hits with seven walks and 13 strikeouts. Mackenzie Blair went the distance for Minnechaug. She allowed two runs on seven hits, walked three, and struck out 11.

Agawam is 7-5 this season while Minnechaug is 6-5



Pitcher Kylie Circosta starts the game for Agawam. PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Second baseman Toni Vassallo makes a difficult catch on a pop-up.



Lauren Champigny awaits a pitch.



Madison Pajak connects for a double down the left field line.

## Brownie offense dominates Comp

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – Two days after losing a home match to Valley league rival Amherst, the Agawam boys' varsity lacrosse team got back on the right track again in another home league contest versus Chiscopee Comp.

The Brownies, who held a 10-0 halftime lead, coasted to a 15-1 victory over the Colts at Harmon A. Smith Field, last Thursday afternoon.

"We played one of our best games of the season today, which we really needed, especially after not playing very well in our home loss to Amherst the other day," said Agawam head coach Joe Heney. "We really need to build some momentum because we'll be facing our league opponents for the second time."

The Brownies (4-6, 4-3), who also won the first meeting with Comp, 14-2, swept the season series for the first time in many years.

"We're going to play one game at a time, but our ultimate goal is to compete for a league title," Heney added. "We also want to be one of the four teams to play in the

LACROSSE | page 8

## Boys volleyball headed for tournament

AGAWAM – Through 11 matches, the Agawam High School boys volleyball has proven to be the top team in the region, scoring win in every match in Western Mass. action, and

qualifying to state tournament already with 10 wins.

The Brownies will also likely qualify for the Western Mass. tournament as well.

During the past week, Aga-

wam scored three more wins, sweeping Athol and Chicopee 3-0 and defeating Minnechaug 3-1.

Agawam faces Westfield in a tough rematch on May 9 at 6 p.m.



Daniel Fronchkevich serves for the Brownies.



Daniel Yovenko gets the spike.



Maksim Raidonov gets a back line set.



David Dzhenezherukha gets the side bump.

PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Eric Nazarets reaches out to keep the ball going.

# Sports

## Thunderbirds make large donation to Rays of Hope

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds announced a donation of \$30,000 to the Rays of Hope as a result of proceeds from the live jersey auction during the T-Birds' 6th Annual Pink in the Rink game on March 11.

Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa and Vice President of Sales & Strategy Todd McDonald presented a check to the Rays of Hope earlier this week inside the MassMutual Center. This year's Pink in the Rink game set new records for total funds generated, and the MassMutual Center came out in full force with a sixth straight "Pink" night sellout crowd of 6,793.

Established in T-Birds' inaugural season in 2016-17, "Pink in the Rink" serves as a kickoff to the Rays of Hope fundraising efforts each March to shine a light on breast cancer awareness outside of the traditional October awareness month. Each year, the fundraising efforts culminate in the annual

Rays of Hope Walk & Run in October. Since the establishment of this staple night, the Thunderbirds have generated more than \$100,000 for the Rays of Hope Foundation, all of which stays local in Western Massachusetts in hopes of finding the cure.

Proceeds from this donation were raised primarily via the post-game live jersey auction, as every Thunderbirds player had his jersey sold to directly benefit the Rays of Hope. In addition, Chris Hayes, General Manager of Oak View Group Hospitality, the food and beverage partner for the MassMutual Center, contributed toward the donation total through the sales of Pink Whitney beverages throughout the evening.

"Pink in the Rink once again proved to be one of the most special nights of our historic season," said Costa. "We share in the Rays of Hope Foundation's pride for our community and our fanbase for their steadfast support year in and year out. We want

to congratulate the Rays of Hope on their 30th anniversary and are proud to continue such a meaningful partnership that celebrates so many brave women and men in Western Massachusetts who have not only survived breast cancer but also thrived in generating awareness through their Rays of Hope family."

"We're sending our signature big pink hug to the Springfield Thunderbirds and their fans for illuminating HOPE in our community," said Kathy Tobin, Director of Annual Giving and Events for the Baystate Health Foundation. "As we kick off Rays of Hope's 30th Anniversary, we reflect on those who have helped us get to this moment. We may not have a cure for breast cancer yet, but we have made lifesaving breakthroughs in treatment and the research continues. Importantly we have a big extended family of support here in western Massachusetts. Thank you to the T-Birds for lift-

ing our survivors up!"

Since its inception in 1994, Rays of Hope has raised over \$16.6 million to support the women and men living in western Massachusetts touched by breast cancer. Funds also support vital research at the Rays of Hope Center for Breast Cancer Research.

The T-Birds Foundation was established in 2018 with a mission of serving the Springfield community and the Pioneer Valley beyond every win and loss through a focus on providing and supporting initiatives in the areas of health and wellness, youth enrichment, and civil service. During the 2022-23 season, the T-Birds Foundation raised more than \$131,000 for charitable causes in Western Massachusetts.

This year's Rays of Hope Walk & Run Toward the Cure of Breast Cancer will be held on Sunday, October 22. For more information, visit [Baystatehealth.org/Raysofhope](http://Baystatehealth.org/Raysofhope) or call 413-794-8001.

## Registration now open for 2023 Bay State Summer 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.stategamesofamerica.com](http://www.stategamesofamerica.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.

## 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.

## Run for Rice's 5K Road Race scheduled 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.minnechauglandtrust.org](http://www.minnechauglandtrust.org).

### LACROSSE ■ from page 7

Western Mass. Class A. tournament, which would mean a lot to these kids. Playing in the Division 2 state tournament will give us another opportunity to play lacrosse."

Agawam, who hasn't captured a league title since 2014, entered the final month of the regular season in the middle of the Valley League standings. Wahconah Regional was sitting atop the league standings at the beginning of this week with a perfect 7-0 mark.

"We lost to Wahconah by one goal (7-6) the first time that we played them," Heney said. "If we can play well and if we play together, we're capable of competing with any team in our league. It just depends on our mindsets and how we show up for each game. The ball is in our court right now."

While the Brownies are battling for a league title and the two postseason berths, the Colts entered May looking to get into the

win column for the first time.

"Even though we haven't won a game yet, we've improved a lot since our first game with Agawam," said Comp first-year head coach Brandon Pavoni. "We've been working on the little things. I'm hoping that we can win a couple of games before the end of the regular season."

Agawam sophomore Riley Jorgensen led the way offensively in last Thursday's match with five goals and two assists.

"Riley loves to shoot the ball and it paid off in today's game," Heney said. "I thought he was really accurate, especially in transition. He did a great job of finishing. Scoring five goals is an outstanding achievement for any lacrosse player. We also had contributions from several other players. It was a total team effort."

The trio of freshman Liam Grealis, freshman Brayden Federico, and junior Hayden Dupre scored two goals apiece in the second meeting of the regular season against

the Colts.

Four other players scored one goal.

The first quarter was played in a rain shower.

The wet weather didn't slow down the Brownies attack very much, as they built a 4-0 lead a little more than four minutes into the match. Grealis scored a pair of goals during that span.

Jorgensen, who netted the Brownies final goal of the opening quarter, recorded a hat-trick with a pair of goals two minutes into the second quarter. Two more goals by Dupre gave the Brownies a 10-0 lead at the break.

The sun came out after halftime and Jorgensen began the third quarter by scoring his fourth goal.

A pair of goals by Federico extended the Brownies lead to 13-0.

With 3:15 remaining in the third quarter, the Colts finally broke the ice following an unassisted goal by junior Andrew Ferguson,

which was his first goal of the regular season.

Agawam freshman goalie Jordin Agosto (9 saves) was hoping to post his first shutout in a varsity game.

He received plenty of support from the defense led by senior's Jordan Stack, Matt Bernard, and Joe Liquori.

Junior Anthony Buoniconti replaced Agosto in goal at the start of the fourth quarter.

Down at the other end of the field, Comp junior goalie Aidan Coulombe (9 saves) tried his best to keep the Brownies shot attempts from going into the net.

"Aidan has more than 125 saves this season," Pavoni said. "He's one of our captains, along with (sophomore) Shane Upham, (senior) Zack Canavan, and (senior) Kraig Geissler."

Holding a 13-1 lead, the Brownies final two goals in the fourth quarter were scored by senior Hunter Emmons and Jorgensen.



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**ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED BUYING** Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer-cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more Donald Roy **(860)874-8396**

## SERVICES



### 1\*\*\*\*\*A CALL WE HAUL WE TAKE IT ALL WE LOAD IT ALL

Lowest Rates, accumulations, junk, estates, attics, garages, appliances, basements, demo services, 10% discount with this ad off services. Dumpster Rentals available for rent. All Major CC's **CALL NOW (413)531-1936** callwehaul@gmail.com



### 2\*\*\*\*\*A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE\*\*\*\*\*

Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. **(413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868**.

**BILODEAU AND SON ROOFING.** Established 1976. New re-roofs and repairs. Gutter cleanings and repairs. Licensed/ insured. Call **(413)967-6679**

**CHAIR SEAT WEAVING & refinishing** - cane, fiber rush & splint - Classroom instructor, 20+ years experience. Call Walt at **(413)289-6670** for estimate.

**DRYWALL AND CEILINGS,** plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. **(413)563-0487**

## ELECTRICIAN

**DEPENDABLE ELECTRICIAN, FRIENDLY** service, installs deicing cables. Free estimates. Fully insured. Scott Winters electrician Lic. #13514-B Call **(413)244-7096**.

## SERVICES

### HOME IMPROVEMENT

**HOME IMPROVEMENTS. RE-MODELING** Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. **(413)246-2783** Ron.

**HOME REPAIR & REMODELING** for all your interior & exterior needs. Carpentry, woodworking, porches, patios, windows, doors, painting, drywall, siding, landscaping, clean-outs. Competitive pricing. References. Please call Brendan **(413)687-5552**

## LANDSCAPING

### A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE

Excavator Services  
Overgrown property?  
Extreme Brush Cutting!  
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal  
Lawn/Arborvitae Installed  
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand  
Storm Clean-up  
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal  
Insured  
**Josh Rozell 413-636-5957**

**\*\*ALL SEASON\*\*** Specializing in shrub trimming, pruning, design, deliveries, loader, backhoe, insured. Professional. Please call Bob **(413)537-5789 (413)538-7954**.

**DAVE MAZ LANDSCAPING** Lawn mowing, Spring thru Fall clean-ups, mulching, pruning. Holyoke, South Hadley, Chicopee, Hadley and Amherst. Call **413-536-3697**.

**MATT GUERTIN LANDSCAPING** Serving Wilbraham & Ludlow

Spring clean-up and lawn repair  
Weekly mowing and yard maintenance. Landscape installation and restoration. Shrub trimming, pruning, and mulching  
**Call or text 413-266-9975**  
Insured - Commercial and Residential

## SERVICES

### LAWN & GARDEN

**A.A.A. ROTOTILLING** Time to till gardens, flower beds wherever. Be safe grow your own. Operator fully vaccinated. Call Bob **413-626-1927**.

## MASONRY

### STOP WET BASEMENTS

**ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING**  
All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call **(413)569-1611, (413)374-5377**

## PLUMBING

**GREG LAFONTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING** Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg **(413)592-1505**

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**HOT WATER PRESSURE WASHING** We use brushes and state of the art equipment. We remove grime and mold from homes, patios, fences, walkways, all decks, concrete & driveways. Senior Discounts. For free estimates call Bill **(413)519-9800**.

## SERVICES

### RUBBISH REMOVAL

**BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL** Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 **(413)537-5090**

## TREE WORK

**DL & G TREE SERVICE.** Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate **(413)478-4212**

## TUNE-UPS

**SNOWBLOWER & LAWNMOWER TUNE UP & REPAIR**  
**A&M TUNE-UPS**  
Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers and Small Engine Repair.  
Work done at your home.  
Call Mike **(413) 348-7967**

## STUMP GRINDING

**DL & G STUMP GRINDING** Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave **413-478-4212**

## HELP WANTED

**EXPERIENCED LANDSCAPER IN THE LUDLOW AREA** Wanted call Joe **(413)348-8273**

## HELP WANTED

### WATER DEPARTMENT - FIRE DISTRICT NO.1 438 GRANBY ROAD

**SOUTH HADLEY, MA 01075** JOB POSTING FOR BILLING CLERK. The Board of Water Commissioners - Fire District No.1, South Hadley is seeking a qualified individual for a billing clerk with hours from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Responsibilities include maintaining accurate records/files of accounts; process/check meter readings; bank deposits; enter/post payments; customer service skills inclusive of answering phones and processing requests. Problem solving, organizational skills and computer experience a must. Must be proficient in computer skills including Microsoft applications such as Word and Excel. Three-to-five-year record of people/customer service skills, attention to detail and self-motivation. Applicants must have at a minimum, a High School Diploma or G.E.D as well as a valid driver's license. A pre-hire drug test will be required. Starting pay is competitive with excellent benefit package. Application must be filled out at the Water Department office located at 438 Granby Road, South Hadley, MA Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Application Deadline will be May 12, 2023 Equal Opportunity Employer

## AUTOS

### CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS

**FREE TOWING FAST SERVICE CASH PAID AS IS**  
**CALL OR TEXT 413-219-6839**

## REAL ESTATE

### COMMERCIAL RENTALS

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## FOR RENT



**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

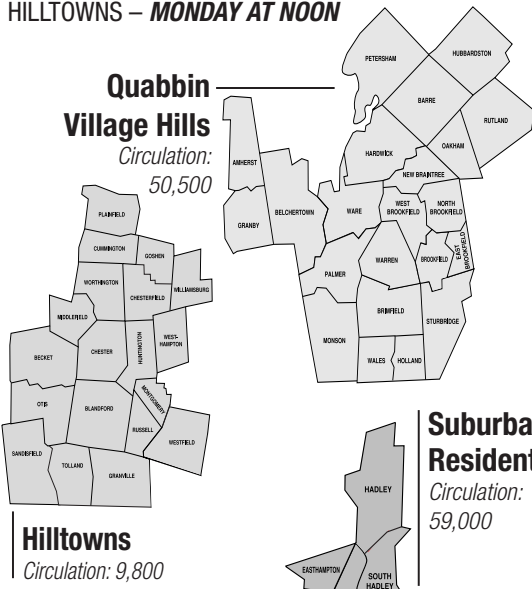
# FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069  
or call: 413-283-8393

DEADLINES:

QUABBIN & SUBRBAN - FRIDAY AT NOON  
HILLTOWNS - MONDAY AT NOON

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00



Buy the Quabbin Village Hills or the Suburban Residential ZONE for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word. Add \$10 for a second Zone or add \$15 to run in ALL THREE ZONES.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card:  MasterCard  VISA  Discover  Cash  Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount of charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

First ZONE base price \_\_\_\_\_ Includes additional words  
Add a second ZONE **\$10.00**  
Add a third ZONE **\$5.00**  
Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_  
x Number of Weeks \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Run my ad in the following ZONE(S):  
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OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

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# Public Notices

## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS SALE OF REAL ESTATE UNDER G.L. c. 183A, § 6

By virtue of an Order of the Hampden County Superior Court (Docket No. 2279CV00638) in favor of Corey Colonial Condominium Association (the "Association") against the Estate of John F. Lemke, Through Its Personal Representative Matthew Lemke, and Not Individually, establishing a lien pursuant to G. L. c. 183A, § 6 on the real estate known as Unit 53 in the Corey Colonial Condominium, for the purpose of satisfying said lien, the real estate will be sold at Public Auction commencing at 1:00 o'clock p.m. on May 31, 2023 at Corey Colonial Condominium, Unit 53, Agawam, Hampden County, Massachusetts. The real estate to be sold is more particularly described as follows:

The Unit known as No. 53 Type Townhouse in Hingham House ("Building") of COREY COLONIAL, Corey Street, Agawam, Hampden County, Massachusetts, a condominium (the "Condominium") established by the Colebrook Corporation pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 183A ("Chapter 183A") by Master Deed dated August 1, 1979 and recorded on August 2, 1979 with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds, Book 4807, Page 227, which Unit is shown on the floor plans of the Building filed simultaneously with said Master Deed in said Registry and on the copy of the portion of said plans attached thereto and made a part thereof, to which is affixed the verified statement of a registered architect in the form required by Section 9 of said Chapter 183A.

Said Unit is conveyed together with:

An undivided proportionate interest (expressed as a percentage) in the common areas and facilities of the Property described in said Master Deed ("Common Elements") attributable to the Unit of 6.250%.

An exclusive right to use the patio area which extends approximately 10-12 feet perpendicularly from the building line to which the Unit has direct access from the rear of the Unit.

An easement for the continuance of all encroachments by the Unit on any adjoining units or Common Elements existing as a result of construction of the Building, or which may come into existence hereafter as a result of settling or shifting of the Building, or as a result of repair or restoration of the Building or of the Unit, after damage or destruction by fire or other casualty, or after taking in condemnation or eminent domain proceedings, or by reason of an alteration or repair to the Common Elements made by or with the consent of the Board of Managers.

An easement in common with the owners of other Units to use any pipes, wires, ducts, flues, cables, conduits, public utility lines and other Common Elements located in any of the other units or elsewhere on the Property, and serving the Unit.

Rights and easements in common with other Unit Owners, all as described in the Declaration of Easements by the Grantor dated January

13, 1975 and recorded with said Registry, Book 4091, Page 148, which is incorporated herein by reference (hereinafter referred to as "Declaration of Easements").

Said Unit is conveyed subject to:

The provisions of the Declaration of Easements.

Easements in favor of adjoining units and in favor of the Common Elements for the continuance of all encroachments of such adjoining units for Common Elements on the Unit, now existing as a result of construction of the Building, or which may come into existence hereafter as a result of settling or shifting of the "Building" or as a result of repair or restoration of the Building or of any adjoining unit or of the Common Elements after damage or destruction by fire or other casualty, or after a taking in condemnation or eminent domain proceedings, or by reason of an alteration or repair to the Common Elements made by or with the consent of the Board of Managers.

An easement in favor of the other units to use the pipes, wires, ducts, flues, conduits, cables, public utility lines and other Common Elements located in the Unit or elsewhere on the Property and serving such other units.

Exclusive rights in favor of the owners of other units to use the patio areas described in their respective unit deeds.

The provisions of, and matters referred to in the Master Deed, By-Laws and floor plans of the Condominium recorded simultaneously with and as part of the Master Deed, as the same may be amended from time to time by instrument recorded with said Registry, which provisions and matters, together with any amendments thereto shall constitute covenants running with the land and shall bind any person having at any time any interest or estate in the Unit, his family, servants, and visitors, as though such provisions were recited and stipulated at length herein.

The Unit is intended only for residential purposes, no use may be made of the Unit except as a residence of the Owner thereof or his permitted lessees or members of their immediate families, no residential use may be made thereof by more than one family or by more than three (3) persons that are not related by blood or marriage, and no portion of all thereof may be used as a professional office, whether or not accessory to a residential use.

Being the same premises conveyed to Bethany L. Daley by deed of Jeanette S. Bishop dated April 12, 2004 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds, Book 14094, Page 157.

For title, see Deed to John F. Lemke dated May 27, 2005, and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 15092, Page 167.

In the event of a typographical error or omission contained in this publication, the description of the real estate contained in said Unit Deed shall control.

### TERMS OF SALE

(1) A nonrefundable deposit payable by certified check or by bank check in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) shall be payable at the time and place

of the Auction.

(2) The balance of the purchase price is to be paid by certified check or by bank check within thirty (30) days of the auction.

(3) An Auctioneer's Release Deed will be issued to purchaser, upon payment of the balance of the purchase price, within thirty (30) days of the Auction. The Deed shall convey the premises subject to, and with the benefit of, all restrictions, easements, improvements, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens, or claims in the nature of liens, and existing encumbrances of record senior to the lien hereby being satisfied, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens, or claims in the nature of liens or encumbrances is made in the Auctioneer's Release Deed.

(4) Additionally, and not by way of limitation, the sale of the real estate shall be subject to and with the benefit of any and all tenants, tenancies and occupants, if any.

(5) Condominium Association reserves the right to postpone the sale to a later date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the sale and to further postpone any adjourned sale date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the adjourned sale date. Successful bidder will be responsible for paying the Massachusetts State Documentary Tax Stamps and all recording fees.

(6) No representation is or shall be made as to any amount of real estate taxes which may be due and outstanding. The successful bidder shall take subject to any such taxes or municipal assessments.

(7) The successful bidder shall pay the future condominium common charges, including any special assessment installments that become due, commencing with the date of the auction and any outstanding special assessments. At Auction the Condominium Association reserves the right to charge the successful bidder a buyer premium of no more than five (5%) of the successful bid amount.

(8) No representation is or shall be made as to any other mortgages, liens or encumbrances of record.

(9) No representation is or shall be made as to the condition of the Unit or the Condominium. The Unit shall be purchased "AS IS."

(10) In the event of a default by the high bidder at the auction sale, the Condominium Association reserves the right to sell the Unit to the second highest bidder, at that bidder's highest bid, under the same terms and conditions as were offered at the auction and without re-offering the Unit at auction.

(11) Other terms, if any, shall be announced at the Auction.

(12) This Auction is subject to and in accordance with the Findings and Order, a copy of which may be obtained from the Association's counsel, Robert C. Sacco, of Lyon & Fitzpatrick, LLP, 14 Bobala Road, 4th Floor, Holyoke, Massachusetts 01040, (413) 536-4000.

COREY COLONIAL  
CONDOMINIUM

ASSOCIATION,

By its attorney,  
LYON & FITZPATRICK,  
LLP

Robert C. Sacco, Esq., BBO  
#552250

14 Bobala Road, 4th Floor  
Holyoke, MA 01040

(413) 536-4000

FAX: (413) 536-3773

05/04, 05/11, 5/18/2023

## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS SALE OF REAL ESTATE UNDER G.L. c. 183A, § 6

By virtue of an Order of the Hampden County District Court Springfield Division (Docket No. 2223CV000560) in favor of The Plantation Condominium Association through the Board of Managers of The Plantation Condominium, (the "Association") against Steven D. Pope and Evelyn Mikuszewski, establishing a lien pursuant to G. L. c. 183A, § 6 on the real estate known as Unit 14 in the Plantation Condominium, for the purpose of satisfying said lien, the real estate will be sold at Public Auction commencing at 11:00 o'clock a.m. on May 31, 2023 at 14 Plantation Drive, Unit 14, Agawam, Hampden County, Massachusetts. The real estate to be sold is more particularly described as follows:

A condominium, the (Unit) known as No. 14, Type Townhouse in Hadley House ("Building") of the Plantation, 265 School Street, Agawam, Hampden County, Massachusetts, a condominium (the "Condominium") established by the Grantor pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 183A ("Chapter 183A") by Master Deed dated January 13, 1975 and recorded on January 13, 1975 with Hampden County Registry of Deeds, Book 4091, Page 84, which Unit is shown on the floor plans of the Building filed simultaneously with said Master Deed in said Registry and on the copy of the portion of said plans attached thereto and made a part thereof, to which is affixed the verified statement of a registered architect in the form required by Section 9 of said Chapter 183A.

Said Unit is conveyed together with:

1. An undivided proportionate interest (expressed as a percentage) in the common areas and facilities of the Property described in said Master Deed ("Common Elements") attributable to the Unit of 1.5625%. In the event Phase II of Phases II and III are added to the Condominium pursuant to Article 7 of the Master Deed, the undivided interest of the Unit in the Common Elements shall be and become that specified for the respective Phase in Article 3 of the Master Deed.

2. An exclusive right to use the patio area which extends approximately 12 feet perpendicularly from the building line to which Unit has direct access from the rear of the Unit.

3. An easement for the continuance of all encroachments by the Unit on any adjoining units or Common Elements existing as a result of construction of the building, or which may come in existence hereafter as a result of settling or shifting of the Building, or as a result of repair or restoration of the Building or of the Unit,

after damage or destruction by fire or other casualty, or after taking in condemnation or eminent domain proceedings, or by reason of an alteration or repair to the Common Elements made by or with the consent of the Board of Managers.

4. An easement in common with the owners of other Units to use any pipes, wires, ducts, flues, cables, conduits, public utility lines and other Common Elements located in any of the other units or elsewhere on the Property and serving the Unit.

5. Rights and easements in common with other Unit Owners, all as described in the Declaration of Easements by the Grantor dated January 13, 1975 and recorded with said Registry, Book 4091, Page 148, which is incorporated herein by reference (hereinafter referred to as "Declaration of Easements").

Said Unit is conveyed subject to easements; rights and provisions as set forth in instrument recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 5000, Page 86.

Being same premises conveyed to Bonnie S. Hart by deed of William A. Franks, Jr. and Rita C. Franks dated September 26, 1985 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 5910, Page 191.

For title, see Deed to Steven D. Pope and Evelyn Mikuszewski dated May 28, 2021 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 23913, Page 356.

In the event of a typographical error or omission contained in this publication, the description of the real estate contained in said Unit Deed shall control.

### TERMS OF SALE

(1) A nonrefundable deposit payable by certified check or by bank check in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) shall be payable at the time and place of the Auction.

(2) The balance of the purchase price is to be paid by certified check or by bank check within thirty (30) days of the auction.

(3) An Auctioneer's Release Deed will be issued to purchaser, upon payment of the balance of the purchase price, within thirty (30) days of the Auction. The Deed shall convey the premises subject to, and with the benefit of, all restrictions, easements, improvements, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens, or claims in the nature of liens, and existing encumbrances of record senior to the lien hereby being satisfied, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens, or claims in the nature of liens or encumbrances is made in the Auctioneer's Release Deed.

(4) Additionally, and not by way of limitation, the sale of the real estate shall be subject to and with the benefit of any and all tenants, tenancies and occupants, if any.

(5) Condominium Association reserves the right to postpone the sale to a later date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the sale and to further postpone any adjourned sale date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the adjourned

sale date. Successful bidder will be responsible for paying the Massachusetts State Documentary Tax Stamps and all recording fees.

(6) No representation is or shall be made as to any amount of real estate taxes which may be due and outstanding. The successful bidder shall take subject to any such taxes or municipal assessments.

(7) The successful bidder shall pay the future condominium common charges, including any special assessment installments that become due, commencing with the date of the auction and any outstanding special assessments. At auction the Condominium Association reserves the right to charge the successful bidder a buyer premium of no more than five (5%) of the successful bid amount.

(8) No representation is or shall be made as to any other mortgages, liens or encumbrances of record.

(9) No representation is or shall be made as to the condition of the Unit or the Condominium. The Unit shall be purchased "AS IS."

(10) In the event of a default by the high bidder at the auction sale, the Condominium Association reserves the right to sell the Unit to the second highest bidder, at that bidder's highest bid, under the same terms and conditions as were offered at the auction and without re-offering the Unit at auction.

(11) Other terms, if any, shall be announced at the Auction.

(12) This Auction is subject to and in accordance with the Findings and Order, a copy of which may be obtained from the Association's counsel, Robert C. Sacco, of Lyon & Fitzpatrick, LLP, 14 Bobala Road, 4th Floor, Holyoke, Massachusetts 01040, (413) 536-4000.

THE PLANTATION  
CONDOMINIUM  
ASSOCIATION THROUGH  
THE BOARD OF  
MANAGERS OF THE  
PLANTATION  
CONDOMINIUM

By its attorney,  
LYON & FITZPATRICK,  
LLP

Robert C. Sacco, Esq., BBO  
#552250

14 Bobala Road, 4th Floor  
Holyoke, MA 01040

(413) 536-4000

FAX: (413) 536-3773

rsacco@lyonfitzpatrick.com  
05/04, 05/11, 5/18/2023

### Legal Notice of Private Sale

Notice is hereby given by USA Towing, 71 Garden St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030, sale of a motor vehicle pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, that on May 22, 2023 at 8:00 a.m., at USA Towing, said motor vehicle will be sold at a private sale to satisfy the garage keeper's lien for towing, storage and costs of sale.

2017 Appalachia Trailer  
VIN: 54IFC3433HM000739  
NO PLATES ON TRAILER  
Last known reg. owner:  
Cruz Fontanez  
19 Yale St., Springfield, MA  
01109

2009 Subaru Forester  
VIN: JF2SH63619H775637  
Plate#: IRTK39 - MA  
Last known reg. owner:  
Maureen Sheehan,  
483 Springfield St., Apt. 15  
Agawam MA 01001  
05/04, 05/11, 05/18/2023

# Public Notices

## AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL AD

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on **Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 6:00PM** at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St, Agawam, Ma. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Goggin on property at 955 River Road.

By Order of

Henry A. Kozloski,  
Chairman  
AGAWAM  
CONSERVATION  
COMMISSION

05/04/2023

## 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

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PANSIES | HERBS  
LETTUCE | CABBAGE | SEEDS  
POTS AND SOILS  
OUR OWN ASPARAGUS  
STAND IS NOW OPEN WITH  
FRUITS & VEGETABLES



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## Agawam Advertiser News OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$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)

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A	H	E	A	D		L	A	P	S		T	A	B	I		
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State Sen. John Velis holds a Mental Health forum last Monday at Westfield State University.



Velis speaks with students following the discussion.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

## Velis holds mental health discussion with students at WSU

WESTFIELD – Last Monday, State Sen. John Velis, D-Westfield, visited Westfield State University to meet with students and faculty on the topic of mental health on college campuses. Velis is the Senate Chairman of the Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use, and Recovery in the State Legislature.

“From balancing classes, work, and family responsibilities, to worrying about their futures post-graduation, college students have a lot on their plates, and

that takes a toll on student’s mental health in a very real way. As a lawmaker, and especially now as Chairman, I believe it is critical that I hear these experiences firsthand as the Legislature looks towards policies to help expand access to mental health resources and support these students,” said SVelis. “I am incredibly grateful to all the Westfield State community members, and especially the students, who took their time to meet with me and share their thoughts.”

The discussion took place in the Ely Campus Center and lasted for nearly two hours on Monday afternoon. It was attended by more than 50 WSU community members, including WSU President Linda Thompson.

“I also had the opportunity to speak with faculty and students who are studying the area of behavioral health themselves, and it was fascinating to hear about what they are researching and seeing,” said Velis. “The influence of so-

cial media on mental health, workforce shortages in the behavioral health care sector, and lack of access to care: these are all issues that folks at Westfield State are studying and working on. I look forward to continuing to partner with the University and engaging with our community on these issues as the legislative session continues.”

Velis noted that he hopes to hold similar conversations in other forums throughout the region.

## NAMI 23rd Annual Walkathon set 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 statistics, 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.

## Garden Club to meet May 9

The Agawam Garden Club will meet on Tuesday, May 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the Judy Clini Conference Room at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam. Refreshments will be served. After a short business meeting, the speaker will be Sharon Alexander, who will be presenting a container garden demonstration entitled “Thriller, Filler, Spiller”. After the program, the prepared garden containers will be raffled.

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