



**ART**  
Sanderson  
Exhibit  
PAGE 3



**LIBRARY**  
May  
activities  
PAGE 5



**SPORTS**  
Boys  
volleyball  
PAGE 7

# AGAWAM

## ADVERTISER NEWS

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# AJHS Drama Club presenting FROZEN

**Amanda Munson**  
amunson@turley.com

AGAWAM – The Agawam Junior High School play will take place this week. According to information submitted by the director, The Agawam Junior High School

Drama Club is an all-inclusive activity of 60 students and is the largest extra-curricular activity at AJHS. On May 8 and 9, we will be presenting our 2024 through 2025 production of Disney's Frozen, Jr. I have approximately 34 students in the

cast and 26 students on Stage Crew. The group meets every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 2:20 to 4:30 from November to May. Students who wish to be a part of the cast are expected to perform both acting and singing auditions and

are assigned parts based on their abilities. Stage Crew is responsible for creating, designing, and building the set pieces and props we use for each show. Additionally, they are responsible for all of the scene changes that take place throughout the show.

Frozen, Jr. is developed for approximately 12 to 15 actors but because there are so many students involved in the show, I will double cast every role (something I have always done) to provide the students with as much oppor-

tunity to thrive as possible.

The show costs roughly \$10,000 annually to produce and to get this production off the ground, we are required to pay licensing fees for the rights to do the show, which is graciously supported by the Agawam Public Schools. All other funds to cover the costs of the show which include set materials, professional costumes, sound system rental, and a cast party are raised through fundraising and ticket sales. This year, we were fortunate enough to receive two (2) grants totalling \$5,000 from the Agawam Cultural Council, a division of the Massachusetts Cultural Council to help offset the costs of the costumes and sound system. The show is under the direction of 3 people, I am the Artistic and Musical Director and Serena Croteau (a for-



The Junior High School Drama Club presents Frozen as its spring production.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

FROZEN | page 6

## City Council approves CPA funds for Still Brook Park

**Amanda Munson**  
amunson@turley.com

AGAWAM – The Agawam City Council met on April 22 to discuss the resolution appropriating from the Community Preservation Fund, authorizing \$700,000.00 for park amenities at Still Brook Park

(CPA). City Council President Rosemary Sandlin opened the floor for discussion, with concerns being brought up about what it would look like taking \$700,000.00 out of the CPA to the Community Preservation Fund and what that would look like to potential projects. Ensuring

that there is a healthy sum in the account after the deduction, city council members want to make sure that future projects can and will be addressed. The breakdown of the \$700,000.00 and where the money would actually be going eased members' concerns and further cost ques-

tions.

City Councilor Robert E. Rossi spoke saying the expenditures were well spent.

"As a city council member, I believe I share this opinion with my colleagues, it's really come upon us to find ways where the community can find ways to walk about and

recreate. School Street Park worked out wonderfully and I think there's going to be a wonderful addition to Still Brook Park. When it's going to be completed, it's going to be something to be proud of, not only in Agawam but in the area. I think it was a very worthwhile investment."

From the CPA website, the Community Preservation Act (CPA) is a smart growth tool that helps communities preserve open space and historic sites, create affordable housing, and develop outdoor recreational facilities.

CPA | page 6

## Rosie Robotics reflects on World Championship experience

**Amanda Munson**  
amunson@turley.com

AGAWAM – The Agawam School Committee had visitors from the "Rosie Robotics" team on April 29, led and coached by Co-founder Dan Henry, joined with 8 representatives and team members to speak about going to the World Championship in Houston, Texas. With the competition occurring over their spring vacation, Lead Marketer Kassie Sagan extended a thank you to the community, on behalf of "Rosie Robotics" for helping the team go to Houston and their generosity. "It meant the world to us."

Rosie Robotics team members discussed their experience and the actual competition, beginning by explaining 3 versus 3 "robot style" which allowed the team to collaborate with a variety of different teams. Stating that it granted the opportunity to learn and ab-

sorb skills and information from teams from around the world, inspiring the team and aspiring to the organizations present like NASA.

This competition showed the team how robotics is used in different fields across the world and how the team members could be like them one day. "It was only possible due to the community's generosity shown toward us," said Tim, a junior at Agawam High School.

*"Job well done  
and you do make  
Agawam proud!"*

– Shelley Reed  
School Committee member

The Rosie Mascot, Robbie went ahead to speak about his first year on the "Rosie Robotics" team, helping

with machining and his first time experiences. "When I first came here, I didn't have a lot of people I could connect with. Coming to a place where there's a lot of people I could connect with, I found a lot of friends and it made me feel like I belonged. I found a place where I could be with people like me."

Co-founder Dan Henry of "Rosie Robotics" explained the significance of the Agawam robotics team attending the world's championship. "There were 3,690 teams in the first robotics competition, we were ranked 145th. At championships, it's 600 teams: 8 divisions of 75 teams each. The top teams in the world are well-funded with 6-figure budgets every year. I am not asking for more from what we already have. The caliber of the rag-tag group from Agawam, the robot that we put on the field, was as good

ROBOTICS | page 6

## Tree comes down near old mill



A tree comes down off Elm St. near the old wooden mill.



The Agawam Department of Public Works responds to the call of the downed tree, which happened during a recent storm.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



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## Successful Food Drive



Madelyn Brown helps out after a successful food drive to stock the new Church Cupboard at Feeding Hills Congregational Church. A grand opening is scheduled for May 17.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Yoga offered at Stanley Park

WESTFIELD – Yoga will be starting for the 2025 season on Thursday evenings beginning May 8 through Aug. 21 from 6 to 7 p.m., on the Acre Lawn next to the Pavilion Annex. Please join certified instructor Michelle Gagnon, as she leads the yoga classes. This class is for all levels of yoga practitioners, and all abilities are welcome. The poses are foundational, and modifications are always available. As

a class we will harness the power of our breath in alignment with the movement of our bodies.

Children 10 and up are welcome accompanied by an adult. Please bring your own mat and any props as needed, wear comfortable and stretchy clothes. Prepare to strengthen, stretch your body, and open your minds. Bring lots of water (you might also want a small towel). Pre-registration is

strongly encouraged.

Donations to the Park are welcome, with a suggested donation of \$5 per person per class.

Registration forms are available on our website at [www.stanleypark.org](http://www.stanleypark.org) and will also be available at class. You may sign up on our website, by e-mailing us for the registration form at [development@stanleypark.org](mailto:development@stanleypark.org), or register at the Park at your first class.

## Golf Tournament scheduled to help Parish Cupboard

AGAWAM – Once again, we gather for a fun day of golf followed by a wonderful dinner to support The West Springfield-Agawam Parish Cupboard and its pantry and meal programs that feeds the hungry and people in need. Our 31st event includes 18 holes of golf (Scramble format), lunch, dinner, contests, raffles and prizes. Enter a foursome or sign up alone and we will place you in a foursome. It will

be held on Saturday, May 31 with registration from 11 a.m. to 12 noon. There will be a shotgun start at 12 noon. Social hour for the dinner will be at 5 p.m. The cost to play is \$125 which includes dinner. For dinner only, it is \$30 per person. Please send payment to Parish Cupboard 738 Main Street West Springfield, MA 01089. Any questions call Bob at 413-734-7969 or email [Parishcupboard@aol.com](mailto:Parishcupboard@aol.com).

## Upcoming story times for library

AGAWAM – The Agawam Public Library Children's Department announced the following story time events upcoming for the month. Baby Story Time for ages birth through 18 months along with their caregivers will be offered Thursday, May 15 and May 29 at 10 a.m. Toddler time, for children age 19 months to three-years-old on Monday, May 12 at 10 a.m. Art & Stories for children ages three to five are scheduled for Tuesday, May 13 and May 27 at 10 a.m. For more information, contact the library.

# NextLevel opens new coworking community

AGAWAM – NextLevel Cowork, a cutting-edge coworking space, announces the opening of its new coworking community. Located in the Industrial Park in Agawam, NextLevel Cowork offers a range of flexible workspaces designed to foster creativity, collaboration, and growth for freelancers, entrepreneurs, startups, and remote teams interested in elevating their work experience.

In an era where flexibility, innovation, and work-life balance are paramount, NextLevel Cowork stands out as the premier coworking space for individuals and business-

es seeking more than just a desk. The space offers a variety of membership options, from open desks to private offices, each thoughtfully designed to create an optimal work environment that nurtures productivity and well-being.

Key Features of NextLevel Cowork:

- State-of-the-Art Workspaces: High-speed internet, ergonomic furniture, modern meeting rooms, and fully equipped conference areas and training rooms.

- Community Engagement: Member networking events, workshops, and seminars designed to create op-

portunities for connection and professional growth.

- Flexible Membership Plans: Tailored to meet the needs of both individuals and teams, with no long-term commitment required.

“Our mission at NextLevel Cowork is to create a space that not only supports the day-to-day work needs of our members but also fosters a sense of community and growth,” said Steve Rovithis, founder of NextLevel Cowork. “We believe that by bringing together like-minded professionals in an inspiring environment, we can help them take their businesses and careers to the next level.”

## Senior Center announces events

AGAWAM – The Agawam Senior Center will be holding the following activities and events in the coming weeks:

**Homestead Act Seminar**  
Wednesday, May 14 at 1 p.m.  
in the Dining Room

Cheryl Coakley-Rivera, Esq. Register of Deeds invites homeowners to an Informational Seminar.

Information on Homestead Act, Consumer Notification System, and Title Fraud.

All attendees are eligible to receive a free certified copy of their deed. Call Kris-

tina to register 726-2836.

**What is a Long Term Care Ombudsman?**

**Long Term Care Ombudsman Seminar**  
Thursday, May 15 at 1:30 p.m.  
in the Seminar Room

A Long-Term Care Ombudsman is certified to investigate any issues that arise in nursing homes, rest homes, or assisted living facilities, so the residents who live there can do so with dignity and respect.

As an advocate, a Long-Term Care Ombudsman works to resolve problems

between residents and nursing homes, rest homes, or assisted living facilities, as they relate to the health, welfare, and rights of those they serve. Long-Term Care Ombudsman often act as mediators, visiting facilities on a regular basis and allowing residents to voice their complaints and work toward resolution with staff before issues can escalate. Anyone can bring a complaint before the ombudsman, and the complaint can be on behalf of a specific resident or on behalf of residents as a group.

## Lions Club holding spring breakfast

AGAWAM – The Agawam Lions Club will hold its spring breakfast event on Saturday, May 18 from 8 to 11 a.m. The event will be held at the Agawam Lions Den located on the

grounds of the Big E. For free parking, use Gate 1. You can buy tickets at the event or from any Agawam Lions Club member. Tickets \$7 for adults, and \$5 for children 10 and under.

## Class of '68 planning reunion

AGAWAM – The 1968 Agawam High School class is having a reunion on Wednesday, June 18 at Take 5 Restaurant on Springfield Street in Agawam at 2 p.m. until closing. It will take place on the patio weather permitting. (Indoors if weather is inclement)

## Garden Club plans annual plant sale

AGAWAM – Agawam Garden Club is planning its annual plant sale for Saturday, May 31. This year's event will be held at the Historical Thomas Smith House, 251 North West Street, Feeding Hills and will run from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The sale will include many perennials and shrubs all from members gardens and all a

bargain. Because the plants are all grown locally in members gardens they are well acclimated to the area. Proceeds from the sale go towards funding the club's scholarship and providing educational programs for the year. Please check the club's website for further information. [agawamgardenclub.com](http://agawamgardenclub.com).

## BOH doctor needed

AGAWAM – The Agawam Health Dept and Mayor's Office are informing Agawam residents of a volunteer opportunity to serve as Medical Doctor (MD) on the Agawam Board of Health. For inquiries, please contact [health@agawam.ma.us](mailto:health@agawam.ma.us) or [mayor@agawam.ma.us](mailto:mayor@agawam.ma.us).

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## Artist Ruth Sanderson exhibit and talks at the Agawam Library

AGAWAM – The Agawam Public Library is thrilled to host pieces by local author and artist Ruth Sanderson throughout the month of May. Ruth Sanderson's career as a professional illustrator spans over 45 years and over 90 books for children. She is well known for her fairy tale titles, including *The Enchanted Wood*, *Goldilocks*, *Cinderella*, *Papa Gatto*, *The Crystal Mountain*, and *The Snow Princess*. This exhibit includes illustrations from her fairy tales, plus her other books for children, including *Mother Goose*, *The*

*Secret Garden*, *A Storm of Horses*, and *Horse Diaries*. Sanderson's pieces will be on display on the main floor gallery walls and cases.

On May 15 at 6:30 p.m., Sanderson will present a talk about her process of writing and illustrating picture books for children, and will give advice and answer any questions people might have about getting their work published. She'll also be doing a Farm Animals story time and animal mask activity on Saturday, May 31 at 10 a.m., featuring her board book *Morning Farm Animals*, written by

her daughter, author *Whitney Robinson*. Sanderson's signed children's books and prints will be available for purchase after the events.

Visitors are welcomed to explore these art exhibits throughout May during the regular hours of the library. Any questions about the exhibits can be routed to the Information Desk at 413-789-1550 x4. Please contact Adult Services Library Associate, Erica LeFebvre at (413) 789-1550 x8858 or [elefebvre@agawamlibrary.org](mailto:elefebvre@agawamlibrary.org) if you are interested in displaying artwork at the library.

## NAMI announces next annual Walk-a-thon event

WESTFIELD – NAMI Western Massachusetts (The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Western Mass) will be holding its 25th Annual Walkathon Anniversary Celebration, 'A Journey of Hope and Recovery' on Sunday, May 18 at Stanley Park's Beveridge Pavilion Annex in Westfield, beginning at 11 a.m. with registration starting 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 all those affected by mental health conditions



and their families.

Join us while having a fun time and supporting a great cause! Among the festivities will be guest speakers, including Ms. US 2025; activities, face painting, raffles and much more! Please help NAMI-WM continue their mission by participating in this Walkathon or by donating to the

event easily on our website.

NAMI is the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization. NAMI provides advocacy, education, support and public awareness so that all individuals and families affected by mental health conditions can Build Better Lives.

For further information please contact our office at 413-786-9139 or visit us at [www.namiwm.org/walkathon](http://www.namiwm.org/walkathon) for the entry/pledge form. Volunteers are needed. Thank you for supporting your community.

## AFD conducting home fire safety campaign

AGAWAM – The Agawam Fire Department, in cooperation with The American Red Cross, is conducting a home fire preparedness and safety campaign. Those who sign up and participate in the program will be visited by Agawam Firefighters who will install new smoke detectors and Carbon Monoxide detectors in the home free of charge. To be eligible, participants must meet the following criteria:

- Must own your home.
- Existing smoke detectors must be battery operated. Hardwired detectors not eligible.
- Current smoke alarms

more than 10 years old or not present.

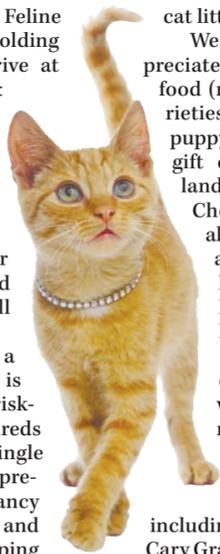
To participate, interested parties should sign up by going to <https://agawam.ma.us/smokedetectorsignup> or calling 413-726-2885.

The goal of the program is to increase fire safety awareness and improve fire detection capabilities. "Early detection is critical in a fire emergency, giving people the time they need to escape safely. Smoke detectors are proven lifesavers. Through this program, we hope to strengthen the safety of our community and help prevent future tragedies," said Agawam Fire Chief Alan Sirois.

## Feline Friends announce upcoming fundraiser

AGAWAM – Feline Friends will be holding our donation drive at Smithland Pet & Garden Center on Saturday, June 7. Volunteers will be collecting food, litter & monetary donations for our kitties. Opened bags/boxes will be accepted.

Smithland, a valued sponsor, is stocked with Friskies Pate or Shreds canned food (single flavor cases are preferred), many Fancy Feast varieties and unscented, clumping



cat litter.

We would also appreciate jars of baby food (meat/poultry varieties), paper towels, puppy peepads and gift cards to Smithland or Costco.

Checks or cash are always gratefully accepted at Feline Friends, PO Box 174, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

We appreciate all of the wonderful donations received at the March 1 and April 5 donation drive including Dan and Cary Grant, Joan W, Anna

and JJ, Carl and Cheryl K, Katie H, Crystal M, Ann H, Norma C, and Ken K and Irene F, Joanne L, Joan E, Carolyn C, Jessica, and Ray. Thank you also to Cynthia L for the beautiful blanket, Heidi M, Judy C and Amanda G for their monetary donations and to everyone who left all of the cat food at Smithland as well as the Agawam Library.

Just a reminder that we have donation bins at Smithland near the registers and at the Agawam Public Library. Please include contact information with donations if you would like an acknowledgement. We are grateful for every donation.

We are thrilled to announce that we have been chosen by E.B.'s Restaurant for their Give Back Wednesday Program on June 18. Looking forward to seeing our friends there.

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

More information about our sanctuary may be found on our website at [felinefriendsinc.org](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.

## Volunteers needed for Teen Summer Reading Program

AGAWAM – Volunteer on Fridays during the Summer Reading Program. Teens entering 7th grade and up: volunteer at the Agawam Public Library during our Summer Reading Program! Volunteer for one hour every Friday from June 27 to Aug. 8 (with the exception of July 4th). Help us run activities for children, prepare kids' crafts, give out prizes, and more! Fill out the interest form at [bit.ly/aplsummervolunteers](http://bit.ly/aplsummervolunteers)

All events are free and open to the public. Some programs require registration. To register, go to our website: [agawamlibrary.org](http://agawamlibrary.org) or call

413-789-1550 ext. 3. We hope to see you soon!

Thursday, May 1 – Teen Take & Make Craft for Grades 7-12 Stop by the Teen Space to pick up a Take & Make Craft kit! They'll be available until we run out of supplies. No registration necessary.

Every Tuesday in May from 2 to 3 p.m. After School Drop-in for grades 9-12. Play our Nintendo Switch, try out the button maker, eat snacks, or just hang out! No registration necessary.

Every Thursday in May from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Trivia Thursday for grades 7-12. Visit the Teen Space and answer a trivia question to get a small prize!

Wednesday, May 14 from 6 to 7 p.m. Teen Advisory Board for grades 7-12. Make plans for teen library programs and the Teen Space, and eat pizza! Members of the Teen Advisory Board can earn community service hours for their participation. If you'd like to join, contact Evan at [edelano@agawamlibrary.org](mailto:edelano@agawamlibrary.org) or 413-789-1550 extension 3.

Wednesday, May 21 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Chess Tournament for grades 7-12. Compete with your peers for the title of Chess Champion. Snacks will be provided. Registration required. Please register at [agawamlibrary.org](http://agawamlibrary.org).

Thursday, May 29 from 6 to 7 p.m. Teen Book Club (Bring Your Own Book) for grades 7-12. Come eat snacks and discuss books. Bring a book you love (or a few) and tell some fellow book lovers all about why you love it and why they should read it, too. Registration required. Please register at [agawamlibrary.org](http://agawamlibrary.org).

If you have any questions, or would like more information please visit our website at [agawamlibrary.org](http://agawamlibrary.org) or call 413-789-1550 ext. 3



## Memorial Day parade, ceremony announced

AGAWAM – The Agawam Veterans' Council is having their annual Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony on Monday, May 26.

The parade will take place along Main St. between Town Hall and the Veterans' Green.

The ceremony will take place following the parade at the Veterans' Green.

## Garden Club set to meet on May 13

AGAWAM – The next meeting of the Agawam Garden Club will be held Tuesday, May 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street. After a short business

meeting Jacqueline Clark will present a talk on "Gardening for Four Seasons". Jacqueline Clark is a Certified Landscape Designer and Certified Horticulturalist as well as a Mas-

ter Gardener. In 2005 she founded her own company "Garden Designs by Jacqueline".

All meetings are open to the public and not restricted to Agawam residents.

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## EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of Memorial Day, there will be an **EARLY AD DEADLINE**

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**Thursday, May 22**

– Thank you!

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# Opinion

## Guest Column

### SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

### Applying for Social Security at 62 when should I enroll in Medicare?

**Dear Rusty:**

I am writing to ask for your advice on when I should sign up or enroll in a Medicare Plan.

I have submitted an early retirement application to request benefits to begin 30 days after my 62 birthday, in April 2025. I am a single lady with no dependents and currently rent my residence. Please advise.

**Signed: Approaching Senior Citizenship**

**Dear Approaching:**

I assume that when you say you have submitted "an early retirement application to request benefits to begin 30 days after my 62nd birthday" you mean you have applied for your Social Security retirement benefits to start in April 2025 and that you will be 62 in March. To be sure you are clear, you must be 62 for an entire month to start your Social Security retirement benefits.

Even though you are starting your Social Security retirement benefits at age 62, you will not be eligible to enroll in Medicare until you are 65 years old. Since you will be already receiving Social Security when you turn 65, you will be automatically enrolled in Medicare Part A (inpatient hospitalization coverage) and Medicare Part B (coverage for outpatient services), effective with the month you turn 65.

You will get a "Welcome to Medicare" packet about three months before your 65th birthday. Your Medicare Part A (inpatient hospitalization coverage) will be free, but there will be a monthly premium (\$185 for 2025) associated with your Medicare Part B (coverage for outpatient services), which will be deducted from your Social Security payment.

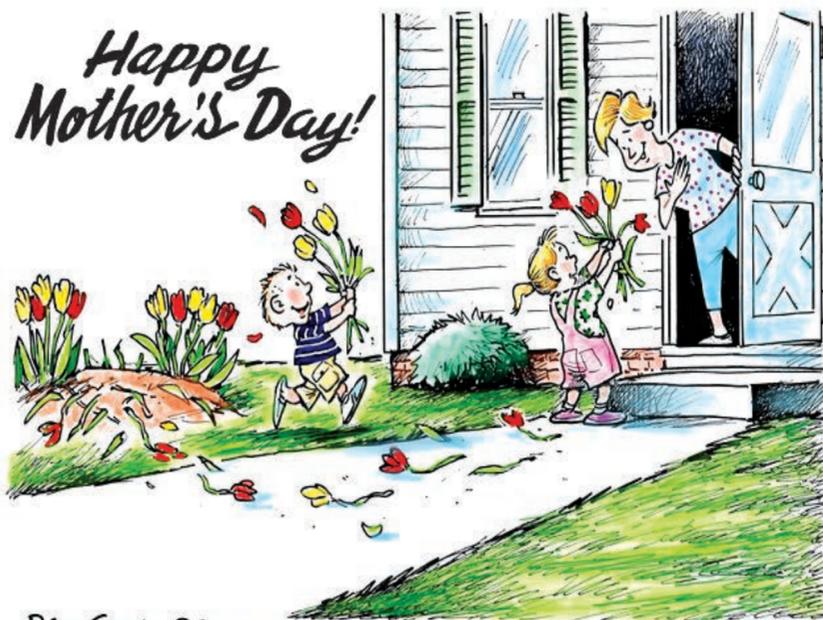
Note that Medicare does

not cover all healthcare expenses so, when the time comes, you may wish to explore other private healthcare coverage (either a Medicare Supplement plan, or a Medicare Advantage plan). Also, Medicare Part A or Part B do not include coverage for prescription drugs, so you may wish to obtain such coverage separately. One way to explore all of this is by, shortly before you are 65, contacting AMAC's Medicare department at 1-800-3349330 or [www.amac.us/medicare](http://www.amac.us/medicare). And until you are eligible to enroll in Medicare at 65, you may wish to seek regular healthcare insurance for those under 65 years of age.

Please understand that we are here to answer all your questions about Social Security and Medicare enrollment. However, at the AMAC Foundation, we are not insurance specialists, which is why I suggest contacting an insurance specialist as described above.

I hope this is helpful, but please don't hesitate to contact us again at any time.

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



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

## Guest Column

### Tasks for mid May

Last week's column alluded to the fact that there was a lot to do in the herb garden. But, let me clarify: there is a lot to do everywhere I look.

Here are some of the tasks I will be working on. Maybe you can relate!

The daffodils put on quite a show this year. Now that the flowers have gone by, they will be "deadheaded" and a sprinkling of balanced fertilizer will be spread around the base of each clump of bulbs.

As the foliage "ripens" it will take in all of those nutrients, storing up wonderful energy for next year's flowers. Leave the foliage in place until turns brown. The minor nuisance of old foliage is certainly worth the explosion of gorgeous flowers come spring.

close spacing will help to prevent sun scald on ripening fruit.

I also give my pepper plants support by installing tomato cages over each plant, so that the heavy fruit doesn't cause them to fall over in a windy summer storm.

Lilacs are bursting into bloom. Their season is fast and furious.

When the fragrant flowers have passed, its important to cut them back to the first set of leaves. Pruning the bush can take place anytime, now until July 1. After that, next year's flowers will be sacrificed.

Always think of the one-third rule when pruning. In other words, take no more than one third of the plant volume-wise. For over-

# in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



GARDEN | page 5

### in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer



Eastern phoebe

A Worthington resident reported he saw an Eastern phoebe on April 18.

He said it is the first insect eater to show up around his house. He also said he hoped to see swallows and bluebirds soon.

The eastern phoebe is a plump song bird with a medium length tail, which it wags up and down while perched. It is about 5.5 to 6.7 inches long and has a small, thin beak. Phoebes are brownish gray above with a white breast and belly. The head is the darkest part on the bird.

Phoebes prefer open woods such as yards and parks. They frequently construct nests on buildings or under bridges under the protection of an eave or

ledge. They lay two to six white eggs speckled with reddish brown and raise one or two broods.

Flying insects make up the majority of their diet. They occasionally eat seeds and small fruits. They depend on low woody plants for foraging perches where they watch for insects.

**Bald eagle**

I saw the mature bald eagle at my hayfield again. When I first saw it on Thursday, April 24 he was perched in a dead tree by the beaver pond. Later in the day, the eagle was sitting in an old great blue heron nest constructed in a nearby tree.

A New Braintree resident saw a bald eagle at a small pond in that town. I wonder if it is the same eagle

I've seen at my hayfield. The ponds are not that far apart.

Brimfield bird sightings  
I received an email from a Brimfield resident on April 16. He said, "This week we had the first of the year brown-headed cowbird (three, one male and two females and towhee (one male) in the yard." He said, "We hope the towhee isn't the one that previously spent the summer attacking our windows. We had to put glass wax on the windows to reduce the reflection to get the bird to stop." He read a recent newspaper column about a pileated woodpecker attacking and breaking side view mirrors on vehicles, 20 mirrors and one windshield.

BACKYARD | page 5

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## Agawam Advertiser News welcomes letters to the editor

The Agawam Advertiser News welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to the Agawam Advertiser News, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to [aan@turley.com](mailto:aan@turley.com). Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that

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

**Campaign news**

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper

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

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

# May activities announced for Agawam Public Library

AGAWAM – Marvelous May at the Agawam Library begins with a program you won't want to miss.

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

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

On Saturday, May 10 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, the Agawam Library will offer a Community Art & Paint Session for the New England Mosaic Project. Join us for a paint/art session in conjunction with Agawam Community Artists and Artisans and contribute to their mosaic project. Come to the library to paint or decorate a canvas that will be donated to the New England Mosaic Project. The canvases will be auctioned and proceeds will fund scholarships for local art students. This year's theme is "New England Treasures". A variety of art materials will be available at the library for attendees to use, or feel free to bring some of your own materials to make your piece more unique. Please register for this event.

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

The library welcomes talented artist, illustrator and author Ruth Sanderson on Thursday, May 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the Clini Community Room. In conjunction with her art exhibit on display in our gallery this month, Ruth Sanderson will discuss her career as a successful author and illustrator, having over 90 published books. She will show details of her process, and answer any questions people might have about writing and illustrating for children. Ruth co-founded and taught for many years in the graduate program in Children's Literature and Illustration at Hollins University in Virginia. Her signed children's books and prints will be available for purchase after the event. Ruth's website is [www.ruthsanderson.com](http://www.ruthsanderson.com). This event is sponsored by the Agawam Center Library Association. Please register for this event.

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

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



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

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

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## GARDEN ■ from page 4

grown lilacs in particular, cut away the oldest, widest trunks all the way down to the ground. Cut back select other large trunks some of the way, just above a branch. Keep some suckers coming from the ground, choosing the most logical for replacement trunks down the road.

I enjoyed my first meal of asparagus this week! Perennial edibles are the best. A little maintenance each year and you reap the rewards.

I was just mentioning to someone that asparagus spears grow so fast. In the morning one may be just three inches tall but during a hot, sunny day, it might put on another three inches by nightfall. Someday I am

going to have to conduct an experiment and measure!

I will be harvesting spears for about eight weeks now, and doing my best to keep the bed weed-free, less they take over!

Be on the look-out for asparagus beetles and the horizontal eggs they lay going up the spears. I squish on contact! More squeamish folks may prefer to

bring a cup of soapy water out to the garden and knock the bugs into it.

My strawberry patch was going on four years old. I decided turn it under, but I did move a few of the younger plants and started a smaller, new bed.

If you are experimenting with strawberries for the first time, be sure to remove the blossoms of June

bearing types so that energy will go into making strong plants, not berries this first year. I know it is a sacrifice, but patience will lead to lots of strawberry shortcake next year.

Have fun doing whatever needs to be done in your garden! I know I will be having fun in mine!

Isn't May just an awesome month?

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

## BACKYARD ■ from page 4

This resident makes visits to local ponds to bird watch. He said, "Last week in Monson the rookery at Conant Brook had five nest, three with birds on or near the nests. In Warren the pond on New Reed Street continues to be a spot to see eagles. I saw two adult bald eagles there yesterday in addition to seven common mergansers, all female and nine ring-necked ducks, one female and eight males."

He continued, "The osprey in Warren are doing osprey things. I saw a bird bring two branches to the nest yesterday and also mating. There are four great blue heron nest at the pond on South Street in

Warren. At least three are occupied. On Sunday we saw a pair of herons on the top of a broken off tree that is near

the location where there was a nest last year, but the tree fell over during the winter. Yesterday the pair was at the same tree and it looks like they are building a nest. I wonder if this is the pair that had the nest in the tree that fell over?"

### Other Brimfield report

On Monday, April 21 the Brimfield resident said, "A pair of broad-winged hawks nested between our property and a neighbor's last year. They texted my wife that there was a pair of broad-wings circling over our house recently."

He continued, "In the yard there are still a few junco, but no new arrivals since the towhee and chipping sparrows showed up. Two female turkeys are fairly regular and a male is following them sometimes. Last week in Warren there was a pair

of buffle-head ducks and it looks like incubation has begun at the osprey nest. I was there for almost an hour recently and the bird sitting on the nest never left or moved out of the deep part of the nest."

### Flying squirrel

The Brimfield resident reported, "When I was cleaning out the nesting boxes the other day I disturbed a flying squirrel. That has happened a couple of times when I clean the boxes in the spring." I had a similar experience years ago when cleaning out a nesting box.

*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](mailto:mybackyard88@aol.com) or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.*

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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 \$275, 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.*

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**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Herring-like fish
5. Perform on stage
8. Soda
11. Small growth
13. In support of
14. Step taken when walking
15. Hollyhocks
16. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
17. Feel pain
18. San Diego ballplayer
20. Inches per minute (abbr.)
21. Fat from a pig's abdomen
22. Create again
25. Honors once more
30. Thin coating of gold
31. Welsh river
32. Japanese novelist Mizumura
33. Husks of corn
38. Green vegetable
41. Showing guilt
43. Soldier
45. Photographers
48. Language spoken in Nigeria
49. Mimic
50. Expressed pleasure
55. Ancient Greek sophist
56. Beverage
57. Night monkey
59. Lace bugs
60. Hogshead (abbr.)
61. Frameworks
62. Keyboard key
63. Greek goddess of the dawn
64. Influential Korean independence figure
2. Helped (archaic)
3. Razorbill genus
4. Bleached accessory
5. Continent
6. Fruit preserved in syrup
7. Impediment to one's freedom
8. Nocturnal rodents
9. Earthy pigment
10. Relieved oneself
12. Golf score
14. Tech hub \_\_\_ Alto
19. Sportscaster Andrews
23. Records electric currents
24. Popular Hitchcock film
25. Revolutions per minute
26. NY Giants legend
27. Sports radio host Patrick
28. When you hope to get somewhere
29. French seaport
34. Thai river
35. Rocker's accessory
36. Extra charge
37. Influential American president
39. Pain in the head
40. Great Plains people
41. Consumed
42. Soluble ribonucleic acid
44. Improves
45. Secret clique
46. Behind the stern of a ship
47. Dough made from corn flour
48. Fallow deer
51. Swiss river
52. Grayish white
53. Engrave
54. College's Blue Devils
58. Midway between south and southeast

**CLUES DOWN**

1. A place to unwind

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 8**

# Parisi presents portrayal of women from 1776

AGAWAM – The Agawam Historical Association's commemoration of the American Revolution's 250th anniversary continues at its annual meeting on Thursday, May 15 at 6 p.m. at the Captain Charles Leonard House, 663 Main Street, Agawam when featured speaker Rita Parisi presents "Women of 76"; her portrayal of women – patriot and loyalist, American and foreign – who witnessed the American Revolution firsthand, and in some cases,

changed the course of it.

Parisi's performance will follow the presentation of the association's annual report and election of officers & directors, and will portray Baroness von Riedesel, wife of a Hessian General and chronicler of life in the military camps; Prudence Wright, minute woman and spy catcher; Nancy Hart, southern frontierswoman who faced the enemy and won, and others.

This event is free and open

to the public, but registration is required. Please send the names of those attending to 1855@agawamhistory.org with Annual Meeting in the subject line. Due to limited seating, preference will be given to Agawam Historical Association members. Membership information can be found at agawamhistory.org.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Agawam Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the mass cultural

council, a state agency.

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 owns the c. 1757 Thomas Smith House at 251 North West Street in Feeding Hills and operates the Agawam Historical & Fire House

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

# Turn back the clock with trivia

WEST SPRINGFIELD – The West of the River Chamber of Commerce invites you to participate in Chamber Trivia Night at the 99 Restaurant & Pub on Riverdale St. in West Springfield on Wednesday, May 28 from 5 to 7 p.m. To register for the event, go to www.ourwrc.com



Wistariahurst Museum announced new events related to its Newgate Prison exhibit. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

# Wistariahurst Museum holding new events about Old Newgate Prison

HOLYOKE – Wistariahurst is excited to announce events corresponding with our current exhibit: Prison Reimagined. Next month, a reading by authors who are currently or formerly incarcerated will be held at the museum in collaboration with the organization Voices from the Inside. A presentation from Old Newgate Prison will also take place at Wistariahurst in May.

Voices from the Inside (VFI) engages women and girls who have been incarcerated or who are at risk of incarceration through writing. The organization encourages these writers to find their voices and cultivate leadership through creative writing workshops. VFI's work lies in core principles: "everyone has a strong unique voice; everyone is born with creative genius; writing as an art form belongs to all people, regardless of economic class or ed-

ucational level; the teaching of craft can be done without damage to a writer's original voice or artistic self-esteem and; a writer is someone who writes." VFI also encourages their participants to share their work in presentations, conversations, and performances as part of their Voices Carry initiative. Wistariahurst Museum is excited to host one of these presentations. The Voices from the Inside reading at Wistariahurst will be held Saturday, May 17, 1 to 2 p.m.

East Granby Connecticut's Old New-Gate Prison will also be presenting while Prison Reimagined is on view. The Saga of New-Gate, hosted by Old New-Gate Prison's Curator, Morgan Bengel will dig into the tumultuous beginnings of the prison and the experimental way our criminal justice system was established. Old New-Gate Prison

& Copper Mine is recognized as our Nation's first chartered Copper Mine (1707) and First State Prison (1773). "Those distinctions did not come without trials and tribulations," says Bengel. "Countless prison escapes lend themselves to a dramatic story, with meaningful impact for our State and National history." The Saga of New-Gate will be held Sunday, May 25 at 12:30 p.m. at Wistariahurst. This event is sponsored by Old New-Gate Prison.

Engage in these upcoming events at Wistariahurst to immerse yourself in voices from the past and present. These events are free and open to the public. Registration for these events is encouraged. These programs are funded in part by a grant from the Holyoke Local Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

# Suffield Garden Club to host annual May Market on May 17

SUFFIELD – Looking for a gift for the garden enthusiast in your life? Or maybe a little something for yourself? Then mark your calendar for this year's May Market coming on Saturday, May 17. Choose your gifts from a huge selection of flowers, shrubs, herbs, garden sculptures, terrariums, birdbaths, and nature photography, as well as lo-

cal honey, jams, jellies and fragrant soaps and candles. Are you more of an indoor cat? Look for handwoven baskets, blankets, jewelry, tableware and refinished furniture.

Visitors are encouraged to bring their own reusable shopping bags, as well as a wagon or cart for transporting their treasures back to their cars. Admission is free,

but don't forget to bring cash or your checkbook since not all vendors take credit cards.

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, agriscience scholarships, conservation, and horticulture education.



Garden Club members David Witkins and Myron Marshaus offer colorful flowers and crafts for May Market shoppers. SUBMITTED PHOTO



The production will take place on May 8 and 9 at 7 p.m.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

## FROZEN ■ from page 1

mer AJHS student and Drama Club member, and AHS Graduate) is my assistant director and choreographer, and Chloe Pierson (former drama club member and current AHS sophomore) is an assistant director and assistant choreographer. I also was responsible for managing our Stage Crew.

Past productions under

his direction include: Disney's Aladdin, Jr., Beauty and the Beast, Jr., and The Little Mermaid, Jr. Our 2025 to 2026 Production will be Disney's The Lion King, Jr.

Brett Duchon, Artistic and Musical Director, has been teaching music for 26 years and directing musicals since 2002 between Connecticut and Massachusetts. Frozen, Jr. marks his 24th show. Brett is a native New

Yorker, growing up in West Harrison, NY (just 20 miles north of NY City), which allowed him the opportunity to see many Broadway productions. Brett is a graduate of Western Connecticut State University in Danbury, CT in 2000, earning a B.S. in Music Education and followed in 2007 with a Master's Degree in Educational Technology at Lesley University, Cambridge, MA. Brett is

a classically trained trumpet player (of 44 years) and can regularly be seen marching down the streets of NY, MA, and CT as a 37-year member of the Westchester Brassmen Drum and Bugle Corps. As a music and theatre educator, Brett has earned the following nominations: 2017, 2018 Excellence in Education TONY Award and the 2016, 2017, 2018 Music Educator GRAMMY Award.

# Eversource submits seasonal heat pump rate

SPRINGFIELD – As part of its holistic approach to ensuring that the commonwealth's unprecedented energy transition takes place at a pace that is affordable and attainable for all customers, Eversource is putting forward a new proposal reaffirming its focus on cost-effective strategies and solutions that lower barriers for customers seeking to affordably adopt electrification technologies. In support of Massachusetts' goal to electrify the heating sector, the energy company is engaging with the state to make heat pumps more accessible and practical for customers. In support of those efforts, the energy company recently filed a proposal that will require approval by the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) to implement a resi-

dential electric heat pump rate – a new rate structure that is designed to encourage heat pump adoption.

"An electric heat pump rate allows for an equitable sharing of costs, and with electrification expected to increase in the coming years, it just makes sense for customers by removing a key financial barrier to adopting this technology," said Vice President of Distribution Rates and Regulatory Requirements Doug Horton. "With increased electric usage for many customers who switch to a heat pump, providing a seasonal rate better balances their energy and system usage. Solutions like this will be essential to meeting the commonwealth's energy transition goals while keep-

RATE ■ page 10

## CPA ■ from page 1

This allows communities to create a local Community Preservation Fund for open space protection, historic preservation, affordable housing and outdoor recreation. "The CPA gives a community the funds needed to control its future."

City Councilor Edward Borgatti brought up a question on parking at Still Brook Park, "It's not like

School Street Park where it's in a neighborhood. Parking could be an issue and if you have an event down there, it becomes more important and I'd love to get clarification on how many spots we have and if we can put in more parking. That's the only issue that I can see in the future with more people coming with the added amenities. I think this is fantastic and look forward to seeing the park grow and

become better."

Borgatti's concern was answered by a city council member saying if there are more events and more attendance in Still Brook Park, additional parking will be considered since there is enough space to do so in the future.

The City Council approved the funds for Still Brook Park and park updates can be found on the city's website in the future.

## ROBOTICS ■ from page 1

as many of them there. We are not an elite team. Rosie made a name for herself; there was a bunch of people who congratulated Rosie for being there. We haven't been to the World's Championship since 2016, that was a long time ago and that was our 4th trip there over our 24 years of existence. By far, this is the best robot on field performance in our 24 years,"

said Henry.

Ranking #13 out of 190 teams in New England, #116 out of 2,900 teams in the United States, and #145 in the world. "I think that's a pretty good showing and I hope to continue moving forward. It's been a great year across the board" added Henry.

On behalf of the school committee, members congratulated the "Rosie Robotics" team with a job well

done. Shelley Reed commented saying, "The whole town was rooting for you, everyone was following you on Facebook, the news, and everything. Job well done and you do make Agawam proud!"

Ending with comments reiterating that it's not just about the robots, but the impact the experience had on the team members and how it translated into other parts of their lives.



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# SPORTS



Finnola Mahoney gets a loose ball on the run.



Morgan Kriebel makes a recovery on defense.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Olivia Govoni muscled through the Minnechaug defense.



Gabriela Consentini sends a pass away.



Isabella Spaulding goes after the loose ball.

## Falcons score revenge on AHS

WILBRAHAM – Last Monday afternoon, Agawam girls lacrosse fell on the road at Minnechaug 11-6. The Falcons avenged an 8-4 Agawam win earlier this year. With the win, Minnechaug picked up its fourth win of the season. Agawam fell to 6-4 on the season. Minnechaug would fall in two more matchups with East Longmeadow and Longmeadow later in the week.

## Agawam boys lacrosse team hangs on to beat Tantasqua

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

FIKSDALE – The outcome of the non-league boy's lacrosse match between Agawam and Tantasqua Regional wasn't decided until there was no time remaining on the scoreboard clock.

Agawam sophomore goalie Douglas MacKinnon made a couple of key saves down

the stretch, as the Brownies hung on for an exciting 9-7 road victory over the Warriors, last Thursday afternoon.

"This is a huge win for us in terms of the state tournament rankings," said Agawam head coach Joe Heney. "Tantasqua is a very good program and they're well coached. We also beat them in overtime last year. It was another great

battle today and I'm proud of my players."

The Brownies, who pulled out an 8-7 overtime home win in last year's contest, had an 8-2 overall record following their third road win of the 2025 regular season. It's their best record after ten games in the eleven years that Heney has been coaching the varsity team.

"I don't believe we've ever

been 8-2 since I've been the head coach," Heney added. "It's a very close group of players and they always play for each other."

When the first Division 2 state power rankings of the spring season were released, Agawam was ranked 24th. The Brownies moved up eight spots to 16 when the MIAA released the second rankings last Friday.

Tantasqua (4-7) made the move from 35 to 31 in the Division 2 power rankings. The top 32 teams in each Division automatically qualify for the state tournament.

"We're a young squad this year with only a couple of returning starters," said first-year Tantasqua head coach Josh Newell. "We're still working on the fundamentals of the game. It's been a learning

experience. We're just going to continue working hard and we're hoping to finish the regular season with a .500 record."

Newell had been an assistant coach at Tantasqua during the past couple of years. He replaced James Putney as the varsity coach.

MacKinnon, who's the

LACROSSE | page 8

## Brownies boys volleyball continue regular season tear

LUDLOW – Last Monday evening, Agawam High School boys volleyball defeated Ludlow

3-0. The Brownies would also sweep the Lions on Thursday, May 1 in Agawam.

Agawam boys volleyball

is now an incredible 15-1 while Ludlow fell to 0-12 as the regular season nears conclusion.



Kyle Doughlas goes for a bump to his side.



Kaeden Clifford goes for the score.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHTOS.COM



Andrei Batranciuc looks to spike through a pair of defenders.



David Zhmiadziak tries a tip move on the Ludlow blockers.



Eric Nazarets sends a pass to the front line.



Dominic Manes is alone on the left side to make a spike.

# Sports

## Western Massachusetts Baseball Hall of Fame announces inductees

**HOLYOKE** – The Western Massachusetts Baseball Hall of Fame Committee is proud to announce the induction of its Class of 2025, recognizing a distinguished group of individuals who have made significant contributions to the sport of baseball in the region. The induction ceremony will take place on June 5 at 6 p.m. at the Wyckoff Country Club in Holyoke.

This year's honorees include:

- **Pete Fatse:** An infielder who played at Minnechaug Regional High School and the University of Connecticut. Fatse was selected by the Milwaukee Brewers in the 24th round of the 2009 MLB draft. He currently serves as the hitting coach for the Boston Red Sox.

- **Todd Ezold:** A stand-out catcher for Classical High School in Springfield and the University of Massachusetts Amherst. While

at UMass, Ezold was a finalist for a position on the 1984 US Olympic Baseball team and was later drafted by the New York Yankees in the 18th round of the 1985 Draft.

- **Terry Murphy:** Former Mayor of Holyoke. A graduate of Holyoke High School, Murphy played for Holyoke Community College and Stonehill College, contributing to the legacy of baseball in the area.

- **Tom Sgroi:** Coaching Westfield High School from 1983 to 2003, Sgroi achieved an impressive record of 330 wins and five Western Massachusetts championships, earning his place in the Massachusetts Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1996.

- **Kevin Stannard:** Recently retired after over 30 years of coaching at Taconic High School, Stannard led his teams to more than 400

victories and state championships in 2017, 2019, and 2021.

- **Rich Tetteimer:** The Hall of Fame committee is pleased to award the Garry Brown Excellence Award to Rich Tetteimer, who has been a prominent figure in local sports media since joining WWLP in April 1988. Rich currently anchors the weekday morning and noon editions of 22News.

"We are thrilled to hon-

or this remarkable group of individuals whose contributions to baseball in Western Massachusetts have left a lasting impact," said Matt Drury, President, Valley Blue Sox. "Their achievements reflect the rich history and passion for the game in our community."

The induction ceremony will include remarks from each inductee, celebrating their accomplishments and contributions to the sport.

### LACROSSE ■ from page 7

first-year starting goalie for Agawam, was credited with a total of 13 saves against the Warriors. He also plays for a lacrosse team during the summertime, which is coached by Newell.

"I coached the Agawam goalie on a summer league team," Newell said. "He's a great kid and he stood on his head at the end of today's game. I have a tremendous amount of respect for him. I'm hoping to coach him again this summer."

The first 24 minutes of last Thursday afternoon's match was low scoring. The score

was tied 2-2 at halftime.

"We were just feeling each other out for almost the entire first half," Heney said. "I also thought my team was lacking a little bit of energy. We played much better during the third period."

After both teams failed to score during the first eight minutes of the contest, Agawam junior Jaden Holloway finally broke the ice with an unassisted goal with 3:12 left in the opening period.

The Brownies managed to hold onto the one goal lead until Tantasqua junior Vincent Laprade scored the equalizer, which was also unassisted, with a little more

than four minutes remaining in the first half.

With 3:42 left in the second period, Agawam retook the lead again following another unassisted goal from junior Liam Grealis.

Less than a minute later, the Warriors tied the score again following a man-up goal by junior Alex DeVarenne, which was assisted by freshman Wyatt Springer.

Agawam sophomore Brayden Martin began the second half with another man-up goal.

Senior Riley Jorgensen would also put a shot into the cage past Tantasqua senior goalie Andrew Jacques (7

saves) with 8:16 left in the third period giving the visiting team a two goal lead (4-2) for the first time.

A goal from Tantasqua senior Liam Rainville cut Agawam's lead in half with seven minutes remaining in the third period.

Then the Brownies pulled away by scoring three man-up goals in a row.

Jorgensen scored the first two goals, and sophomore Justin Lareau added the other one giving the Brownies a 7-3 advantage with 2:40 remaining in the third.

"We played very well in the third period," Jorgensen said. "The man-up goals gave us a

little bit of a cushion entering the fourth period."

Junior Casey Thomas, who made the pass on Lareau's goal, finished the match with three assists.

During the final seconds of the third period, Lareau wiped another shot from near midfield that went into the cage giving the visiting team an 8-3 lead entering the final period.

"That was the first time in my coaching career that I've seen a player score a goal at the end of a period like Justin did," Heney said. "I'm not sure he even knew that the ball was going to go into the net."

The Warriors began the

fourth period with goals from sophomore Andrew Radebaugh and Rainville.

After winning a faceoff, junior Brayden Federico quickly scored his first goal of the match pushing the Brownies lead to 9-5 with 7:47 left in regulation.

The home team responded with two more goals from junior's Zach Godek and Alex DeVarenne, but MacKinnon wouldn't allow the Warriors to get any closer than 9-7.

"I was hoping we would be able to hold onto the ball a little bit more in the fourth period," Heney said. "MacKinnon made some big saves at the end of the game."

## Public Notices

Section 00 11 13  
**AGAWAM HOUSING AUTHORITY**  
**ADVERTISEMENT TO BID**  
 MGL c.149 Over \$150K  
**The AGAWAM HOUSING AUTHORITY**, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Window Replacement at State Aided Development: Country View (667-1) in Agawam, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by **KMA DESIGN STUDIO**.

The Project consists of but not limited to:

Replacement of existing vinyl windows in 1 story brick senior housing. The work is estimated to cost **\$600,871.00**.

All bidding Requests for Information (RFIs) shall be submitted online by 05/02/2025 at 2:00PM EDT for general bids.

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §26 to 27H inclusive.

**THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. All Bids shall be submitted online at biddocs.com and received no later than the date and time specified.**

General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the following category of work, **General Building Construction**, and must submit a current DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility and signed DCAMM Prime/General Contractor Update Statement.

General Bids will be received until **12 May 2025 at 2:00PM EDT** and publicly opened online, forthwith.

General bids and sub-bids

shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (including all alternates) and made payable to the **AGAWAM HOUSING AUTHORITY**. Note: A bid deposit is not required for Projects advertised under \$50,000.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for review at biddocs.com (may be viewed and downloaded electronically at no cost).

General bidders must agree to contract with minority and women business enterprises as certified by the Supplier Diversity Office (SDO). The combined participation benchmark reserved for such enterprises shall not be less than 13% of the final contract price including accepted alternates. **Request for waivers must be sent to EOHLC** 05/08/2025

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given by Langonet Towing pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.255, Section 39A, that on **May 11, 2025** at 63 Ramah Cir S, Agawam the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy the garagekeeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.

**2009 Honda Civic**  
 VIN: 2GHFA16519H521836  
 Elizabeth Ritchie  
 36 Rivera Drive  
 Agawam, MA 01001  
 04/24, 05/01, 05/08/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Hampden Division**  
 Docket No. **HD23P0432EA**  
 Estate of:  
**Marjorie Viola Wilmes**  
 Date of Death: **02/02/2023**

### CITATION ON PETITION FOR ALLOWANCE OF ACCOUNT

To all interested persons:  
 A Petition has been filed by: **Richard D Normandeu of Charlestown, IN** requesting allowance of the Second account(s) as Personal Representative and any other relief as requested in the Petition.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on **05/28/2025**.

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

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

Date: April 23, 2025  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**,  
 Register of Probate  
 05/08/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Hampden Probate and Family Court**  
**50 State Street**  
**Springfield, MA 01103**  
**(413)748-7758**  
 Docket No. **HD25P0873EA**  
 Estate of:  
**Cecile T Piquette**  
 Date of Death: **11/05/2024**

### CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:  
 A Petition for **Formal Ap-**

pointment of **Personal Representative** has been filed by **Robert W Piquette, Jr. of Chester, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Alison M Bartlett-O'Donald of Holyoke, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

**You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/16/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

### UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A **Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.**

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

Date: April 29, 2025  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**,  
 Register of Probate  
 05/08/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Hampden Probate and Family Court**  
**50 State Street**  
**Springfield, MA 01103**  
**(413)748-7758**  
 Docket No. **HD21P0161EA**  
 Estate of:  
**Paula Miriam Tanzer-Gushue**  
 Date of Death: **06/02/2020**

### CITATION ON GENERAL PROBATE PETITION

To all interested persons:  
 A Petition has been filed by **Robert L Lankford, Sr. of Wichita, KS**

requesting to vacate the Decree and Order of Complete Settlement all as more fully set forth in said Petition.

**You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on 05/27/2025.**

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

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

Date: April 23, 2025  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
 Register of Probate  
 05/08/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Hampden Probate and Family Court**  
**50 State Street**  
**Springfield, MA 01103**  
**(413)748-7758**  
 Docket No. **HD23P0432EA**  
 Estate of:  
**Marjorie Viola Wilmes**  
 Date of Death: **02/02/2023**

### CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

To all interested persons:  
 A Petition has been filed by: **Holly Ann Wilmes** of North Providence RI requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order that **John J Ferriter** of Holyoke, MA be

appointed as Successor Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on **05/28/2025**.

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

The estate is being administered under formal 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 recipients 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.

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

Date: April 23, 2025  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
 Register of Probate  
 05/08/2025

### PUBLIC NOTICE DESTRUCTION OF STUDENT SPECIAL EDUCATION RECORDS

Changes made to record retention laws now require Agawam Public Schools Special Education Records to be retained for five years rather than seven years after the student has either graduated, aged out, moved out of Agawam or has been dismissed from Special Education Services.

Agawam Public Schools Special Education records from the 2019-2020 school year will be destroyed after July 7, 2025. Any person(s) who have graduated, aged out, moved out of Agawam or has been dismissed from Special Education Services during the **2019-2020** school year may sign a release and pick up their special education file at the Agawam Special Education Department, 760 Cooper Street Agawam, 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. before July 7th. If you have any questions please call Jennifer Roberts at 413-726-1658 or email [Jroberts@agawamed.org](mailto:Jroberts@agawamed.org).  
 05/08, 05/15/2025

# EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of Memorial Day,  
**PUBLIC NOTICES & CLASSIFIEDS**

EARLY AD DEADLINE  
 Place your public notice  
 no later than **NOON**

## Thursday, May 22

– Thank you!

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# Classifieds

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**TAG SALE**

**LARGE INDOOR TAG SALE.** Apple Storage, 1207 So. Main St., Palmer. **Saturday, May 17 & Sunday, May 18; 8 a.m.-3 p.m.** Vintage furniture, antiques, decorations, home goods! All proceeds donated.

**MAY 10-11, 9AM-4PM. 99 PETERSON ROAD, PALMER.** Tons of collectibles and jewelry. Child's quad, needs work.

**WILBRAHAM DKG SCHOLARSHIP** benefit tag sale. Grace Union Church, 10 Chapel St., Wilbraham. **Saturday, May 10, 9am-4pm.** Huge selection!

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# Donations needed for Dress for Success programs

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

Both causes request interview-appropriate women's and men's clothing, shoes and accessories. Items will be collected at Cooper's now through April 30.

"We invite everyone to spring clean their closets and change a life," said Kate Gourde, owner of Cooper's

Gifts, Apparel, Home.

Donations must be like new, clean and on hangers. All professional attire is welcome, but casual clothing will not be accepted. "Just ask yourself 'Would I wear this to an interview?' If the answer is 'yes,' Dress for Success and Suit Up Springfield can put it to good use," Gourde said.

The mission of Dress for Success (DFS) is to empower women to achieve economic independence by providing a network of support, professional attire and

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

Suit Up Springfield (SUS) is a community organiza-

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

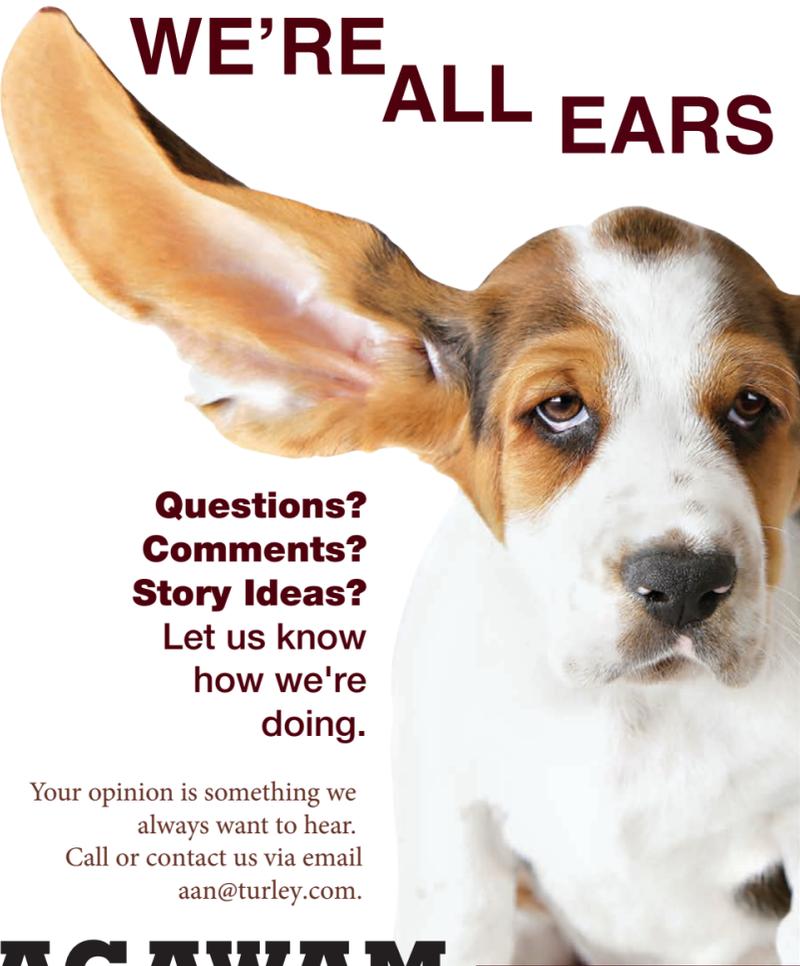
"We have held clothing drives for years; our customers consider it a convenience. Especially for people west of the river, it's easier to bring donations here, and we are open 7 days a week,"

Gourde said. Items may be brought to the shop anytime during the month of April. Cooper's is located at 161 Main St., Agawam, Mass., and is open daily 10am-5pm, Saturdays 10am-4pm and Sundays 12-4pm. Cooper's will be closed on Easter Sunday, April 20.

"This drive coincides with Dress for Success as our April Round-Up charity; so, it's the perfect time to spread the word about their mission and really help them out," Gourde said. Each month Gourde chooses

a local charity to receive the profits of the store's Round-Up Program through which customers are invited to round up their purchase total to the nearest dollar amount. Gourde will then match 50% of the total collected. The program has donated more than \$60,000 to local organizations since its inception in 2014.

More information on the Round Up program and how to nominate a charity may be found on Cooper's website [www.coopersgifts.com/round-up/](http://www.coopersgifts.com/round-up/).



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## Gina Kos to be featured speaker at next ACAA meeting

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

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

Clients at the CBDS pro-

gram are supported with professional development including technology, teamwork, problem-solving, communication and social skills while improving personal development, involving wellness, self-motivation and self-advocacy. Kos said, "Sunshine Village is so proud of our artists who shine each day through their incredible paintings, drawings and photographs. We often display their works of art at local exhibits and now will be able to share not only their unique talents through portraiture but also showcase their hand-crafted goods - many of which are sold at local boutiques and consignment shops."

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



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

SUBMITTED PHOTO

live on our promise of a great day with their members," Kos said.

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

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

### RATE ■ from page 6

ing affordability top of mind, and we will continue to advocate for opportunities that increase accessibility while remaining economical for all customers."

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mitigate the bill impact of increased electric usage necessary to operate the technology, promoting bill stability and predictability for customers. The proposed rate would offer its largest benefits through a lower rate during the winter when electric usage is typically the greatest for heat pump customers, resulting

in significant savings on top of already improved energy efficiency. If approved by the DPU, Eversource estimates that customers who transition from natural gas to an electric heat pump for heating will see total annual energy costs remain stable or slightly decrease despite a significant increase in electric usage.



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