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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS



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Charter change heads to legislature

The town hopes for a quick turnaround to the November ballot

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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AGAWAM – Following much debate, the Agawam City Council unanimously approved a charter change, which must now go to the state legislature. It would change the gap between the municipal primary and general election from four to eight weeks.

The change now must be approved by the legislature and then come back to the voters for a ballot question on the fall 2023 ballot.

The purpose of the change is to make it easier for the Town Clerk's office to get ballots ready for the general election and out to potential mail-in voters so universal mail-in balloting can be easier to manage.

State law does not allow late ballots for municipal elections. In state and federal elections, they can be accepted up to three days after the election.

In a brief discussion, the council's Legislative Sub-committee took up the resolution. The committee's chair, Anthony Suffriti, said so much debate had previously taken place on the issue, it was unanimously recommended to the full council.

Council President Christopher Johnson hopes it will move through the state house quickly.

"We're going to get it in the hands our state representatives and state senator quickly," Johnson said.

The change will allow the Town Clerk's office ample time to have general election ballots made and sent out to those seeking mail ballots in a timely fashion. The state law on universal mail-in voting allows a clerk to accept mail-in ballots up to three

days after a state or federal election. However, that same provision does not apply to municipal elections.

Town Clerk Vincent Gioscia said due to there being just four weeks between the primary and general election, he could not guarantee mail-in ballots could go out with enough time for a voter to get them in by election day. The council voted 7-4 in early April to support not having universal mail-in balloting for 2023 while pursuing the charter change.

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

But the earliest voters will be able to vote on the charter change

CHARTER | page 12

Give-back night successful



A Give-Back-Night fundraiser was held April 29 at Scoops in Feeding Hills. Mayor William Sapelli was among those helping scoop ice cream with some of the proceeds going to a fundraiser for Robinson Park School.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

SJC overrules dismissal of Soldiers' Home case

By Gregory A. Scibelli
 gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – In a huge ruling, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled 5-2 to throw out the dismissal of the Hampden Superior Court for criminal neglect charges against the former superintendent of the Holyoke Soldiers' Home and its chief physician.

Bennett Walsh and Dr. David Clinton were each charged with criminal neglect by then-Attorney General Maura Healey.

Healey's case against Walsh was dismissed in late 2021 by a Hampden Superior Court judge. The motion for dismissal was filed by Walsh's attorney, former Hampden District Attorney William Bennett.

Healey, who is now the governor of Massachusetts, filed an appeal before taking office.

According to court docu-

ments, Associate Justice Dalila Arguez Wendlandt wrote the ruling for the majority, stating the court's belief Walsh and Clinton did not properly handle the growing number of COVID-19 cases occurring in the home.

An independent attorney's investigation and subsequent report blamed Walsh and Clinton for their handling of the home when the COVID-19 pandemic began, which would eventually result in the deaths of 80 residents of the facility.

Wendlandt wrote the CEO of Holyoke Medical Center, Carl Cameron, expressed concern with the number of patients sent to the hospital. During the second full week of the pandemic, Cameron contacted Walsh twice to offer assistance from the hospital. Walsh did not return those calls.

SOLDIERS | page 12

Municipal election cycle set to begin

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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AGAWAM – The 2023 Town of Agawam election has already seen some controversy with the vote to eliminate universal mail-in voting though it will hopefully return in 2025 (see related story).

But the municipal decision day will see the election or re-election of all the town's officials in early November.

In Agawam, the mayor's seat, 11 city councilors, and six school committee seats are up for election every two years. Elections take place on the odd years.

Last year, a ballot question that would have increased the mayor's term from two to four years failed, which means the mayor's seat will remain a two-year appointment from the voters.

This year, Mayor William Sapelli will be up for re-election following his third term in office. He was opposed for re-election two years ago from businessman

Charles Alvanos. Sapelli has not made any announcement about his intention to seek re-election. No challengers have declared, either, with the date to begin taking out nomination papers set for Monday, May 15.

The full election calendar has not been released, but papers typically have to be returned to the clerk's office by sometime in August.

The 11-member city council will also have their terms up. The legislative body of the town is mostly a veteran group, led by longtime Council President Christopher Johnson. Several longtime councilors include George Bitzas, Robert Rossi, Cecilia Calabrese, Paul Cavallo, and Anthony Suffriti. Gerald Smith, Rosemary Sandlin, and Dino Mercadante have a few terms under their belt, and Anthony Russo is coming off his first term after being the lead vote-getter two years ago. The final seat belongs to Thomas Hendrickson, a newcomer who placed 12th

in last year's election, and was offered a seat on the council following the passing of two-decade Councilor Gina Letellier. Hendrickson looks to win a seat this November by finishing in the top 11.

On the school committee, which is chaired by the mayor, the current six members include veterans Shelley Borgatti-Reed and Wendy Rua. Kerri O'Connor and Dawn Dematteo were recent additions to the committee, and A.J. Christopher and Michael Perry won election in 2021.

Depending on the number of town residents who run for election, that will determine if a primary is needed.

The general election only allows two candidates per elected seat, which means two mayoral candidates, 22 city council candidates, and 12 school committee candidates.

The primary, if necessary, would take place in early October.



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Barbershop quartet closes out 'Applause' season

AGAWAM – Agawam Cultural Council's popular Applause Series ends on Friday, June 2 with a performance by New England-based a cappella and barbershop quartet VOCE at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam. Showtime is 7 p.m.; doors open at 6:15 p.m. This performance will also be livestreamed on Agawam Comcast channels 1074 (HD) and 15 (SD).

Formed in 2014, VOCE is on track to award-winning success with a commitment to hard work, setting goals and having a lot of fun. Three of the four members belong to high-level, award-winning small choruses, Millennium Magic Chorus and Saratoga Soundtrack Chorus. As a foursome, Cheryl Brusket (lead), Beth Paul (bass), Angie Clark (baritone), and Deanna Sargent (tenor) bring more than 75 years of barbershop experience to the group, and have competed internationally at the chorus/quartet level more than 30 times. In September 2022, VOCE earned sixth place at the 74th Annual Sweet Adelines International Convention and Competition in Phoenix, AZ.



The Agawam Cultural Council's Applause Series concludes its nineteenth season at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, with a June 2 concert by VOCE, a New England-based a cappella and barbershop quartet comprised of Cheryl Brusket, Beth Paul, Angie Clark, and Deanna Sargent.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Production sponsors of VOCE are Lawn Tech Lawn Care and Dave and Jackie Owens. The Agawam Cultural Council would also like to thank bankESB, Elaine Carlson, E. Cecchi Farms, OMG, Inc., Peoples-Bank, Howie and Mary Jo Safford, Anthony Suffriti, TD Bank, Westfield Bank, and the Westfield Cultural Council for their generous support as Applause Series season sponsors.

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

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

NAMI Walkathon scheduled to kick off 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 for pledge and sponsorship forms. Volunteers needed.

Lions holding breakfast

AGAWAM – The Agawam Lions Club will be holding their Spring Breakfast May 21 from 8 to 11 a.m., at the Big E Lions Den. Use Gate 1 for parking.

Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 children 10 and under, available from any Lions member or at the door.

Thank you for supporting the Agawam Lions.

Work beginning on new 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.

St. Martha's Guild to hold Mother's Day tag sale May 13

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

held at the Sacred Heart Parish Center located at 1061 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills.

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

Robotics teams registering students for new 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 (mwrua02@gmail.com) or Dana Henry (dphentry58@comcast.net).

Catholic Women's Club annual banquet set for Tuesday, 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 fraicaise, baked scrod, mashed potatoes, vegetables in season with ice cream parfait for

dessert.

Price is \$30 and checks are to be made out to the Catholic Women's Club (C.W.C.) and are to be sent to Betty Chapman, 70 Tracy Drive, Agawam, MA 01001 to arrive by May 8.

No Refunds will be made. Include who you wish to be seated with and requests will be honored, if possible. If any questions, please contact Katie at 413-786-1287.

Plant sale set for June 3



Agawam Garden Club is planning its annual plant sale for Saturday, June 3. This year's event will be held at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church 21 North Westfield St., 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. Also featured this year will be Agawam and Feeding Hills hand painted pots as well as chair planters painted and decorated by club members. Proceeds from the sale go towards funding the club's scholarship and providing gardening programs for the year. Please check the club's website for further information, agawamgardenclub.com.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Atrium care facility receives 'Best Memory Care' status

AGAWAM – The Atrium at Cardinal Drive, a Benchmark Mind and Memory Care community, has ranked among the best memory care communities in Massachusetts and the entire U.S. In U.S. News & World Report's second annual Best Senior Living ratings published today, the community was selected following a comprehensive resident and family member survey. The Atrium is the only assisted living community in the greater Springfield area to have earned this prestigious award.

The Atrium earned "Best" status by achieving the highest possible rating for memory care. Respondents gave the community high marks in critical areas, such as overall value, management and staff, resident enrichment, dining and food, safety, transportation, maintenance, housekeeping and location.

Forty Benchmark communities throughout the Northeast received a total of 53 U.S. News awards for the second straight year.

"We are honored and humbled that our residents and their families, once again, recognized the hard work, compassion, and dedication of our 6,000-plus associates. It's their shared purpose of transforming lives through human connection that earned Benchmark these U.S. News & World Report awards and continues to separate Benchmark communities from other senior living companies," said Tom Grape, founder, chairman and CEO of Benchmark.

The Atrium provides specialized assisted living with memory care for those who would benefit from a safer, engaging envi-



The Atrium at Cardinal Drive was recently recognized.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

ronment, chef-prepared meals, supportive living services, transportation and assistance with daily activities, such as getting dressed and medication management. Memory care assisted living residents enjoy connecting over programs and amenities offered in many common spaces including a secure outdoor courtyard offering seasonal dining, hair salon, private dining room, recreation room and a library.

The Atrium's award-winning Mind and Memory Care program offers carefully created living environments and unique opportunities for those with Alzheimer's and dementia to find joy in each new day. Residents are supported by 24/7 care providers who have been hired for heart and educated in memory loss, communication and empathy. Neighborhoods provide the

comforts of home and have unique features that help those with memory impairment stay connected to who and what matters most to them. Thoughtful touches, visual cues and purposeful amenities further promote familiarity and wellness.

"Our team is committed to keeping our residents connected to who and what matters most through outstanding care and experiences," said Cheryl Moran, executive director of The Atrium. "Exceeding expectations every day is what we strive for so it's incredibly exciting to have our dedication recognized by an industry leader like U.S. News."

For more than 30 years, U.S. News has served the American public as an unbiased arbiter of quality across a variety of important choices. Whether picking a col-

lege, selecting a hospital or moving to a nursing home, consumers go to U.S. News to research and make consequential life decisions.

"For the second consecutive year, U.S. News is providing in-depth information to help potential residents and their loved ones find the best place to help meet their needs," said Sumita Singh, senior vice president and general manager of Healthcare at U.S. News. "Communities that are highly rated excel in making residents feel safe, well cared for and highly satisfied by the services provided."

For more information about The Atrium, click here or go to its U.S. News profile at <https://health.usnews.com/best-senior-living/the-atrimum-at-cardinal-drive-1099>.

Feeding Hills Congregational Church calls new minister

AGAWAM – At a special congregational meeting on April 16, after more than two years of being led by members of the congregation, Feeding Hills Congregational Church voted to welcome Janet Brown as their new Minister and Pastor, a call which Brown joyfully accepted.

Brown has been a Member in Discernment in the Hampden Association of the United Church of Christ for nearly eight years. She graduated from Wesley Seminary in Indiana with a Master's Degree in the Art of Ministry and has been working as the Director of Family and Children's Ministry at Agawam Congregational Church for twelve years. In this role, she has developed many programs and events that served both the congregation and the

community. Prior to this, she worked in local non-profits supporting families and in public and private education.

Brown lives in Southwick on her family's farm, with her husband Randy and her two children, Jaxson and Madelyn. She will lead her first service on May 21, and her date of ordination and installation will be forthcoming.

"I am very excited for this new chapter in my journey. FHCC and congregation demonstrate deep commitment to God and their community, and I am excited to see how we can live that out together."

Worship at Feeding Hills Congregational Church is held Sundays at 10 a.m., followed by a time of fellowship. All are welcome.

Learn how to declutter your home at May 11 seminar

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.

Brochures for summer programs now available online

AGAWAM – The Parks and Recreation Summer brochure is now available with updated information on summer camps taking place. Go to www.agawam.ma.us and visit the Parks and Rec page to view the

brochure and get information and sign-up for camps, clinics, and many other summer programs. Information on the Perry Lane Summer Camp and the Agawam Piranhas can also be found in the brochure.

Boot camp class for newcomers at senior center

AGAWAM – If you have ever been to the Agawam Senior Center on a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon you are probably wondering what wildly popular class is taking place up in the Veteran's Hall? Well, now is your chance to experience this class. We are offering a Senior Boot Camp Class for new people only on Fri-

day, May 19 at 1 p.m. If you have never attended a Boot Camp Class this is your opportunity to see what it entails and if you are ready to join. Come and watch or participate in this class designated to first timers only. Class fee is a \$1. It is recommended to bring water and resistance bands if you have them.

Boy scouts host bottle/can drive

AGAWAM – Boy Scout Bottle & Can Drive Troop 82 of Agawam will be conducting a bottle and can drive on Saturday, June 3 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main Street, Agawam. Funds raised will be used for troop activities, training, and gear.

Founded in 1960, Troop 82 is Agawam's

longest running Boy Scout troop. Troop 82 has a year-round program and accepts new members aged 11-17 years at any time during the year.

Scouts are also offering pick up of donations before June 3. Please email troop82a-gawam@gmail.com to make arrangements. Thank you for your support.

HHS Dean Campus plans May 6 car show to raise funds for 'Kids for Wish Kids' initiative

HOLYOKE – Calling all cars. Calling all car enthusiasts, too! And anyone who wants to help make a wish come true for a child with a life-threatening illness.

On Saturday, May 6, the students and staff of HHS Dean Campus will be helping to organize a car show that could feature 100 or more vehicles in the school's main parking lot as part of a Make-A-Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island fund-raising event. Participating students will help in a variety of ways: Auto Collision and Diesel students will serve as judges, for example, while students involved in Student Government will assist

with event registration and welcoming attendees.

Registration runs from 9 a.m. - 12 noon on May 6; the registration fee is \$10 per vehicle. Participants can register any car of their choosing, from vintage automobiles to modern cars that have just rolled off of a dealer's showroom floor, or anything in between. Organizers are hoping for a wide range of vehicles to pique the interest of people of all ages.

The car show is open to the public from 1-5 p.m. Admission is free. Funds will be raised for Make-A-Wish through car registration fees, donations, raffle

tickets, and tabling fees paid by local organizations and businesses to be represented during the event. There will also be fun activities, including face painting by Dean cosmetology students and much more.

Make-A-Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island believes that the hope, strength, and joy offered by a wish is vital to the treatment process of critical illness and can give a child an edge in their fight. A wish helps to care for the whole child—mind, body, and spirit—and also supports the community of caregivers, family, and friends around them.



Opinion

Letter to Editor

Increased revenues should go to school aid

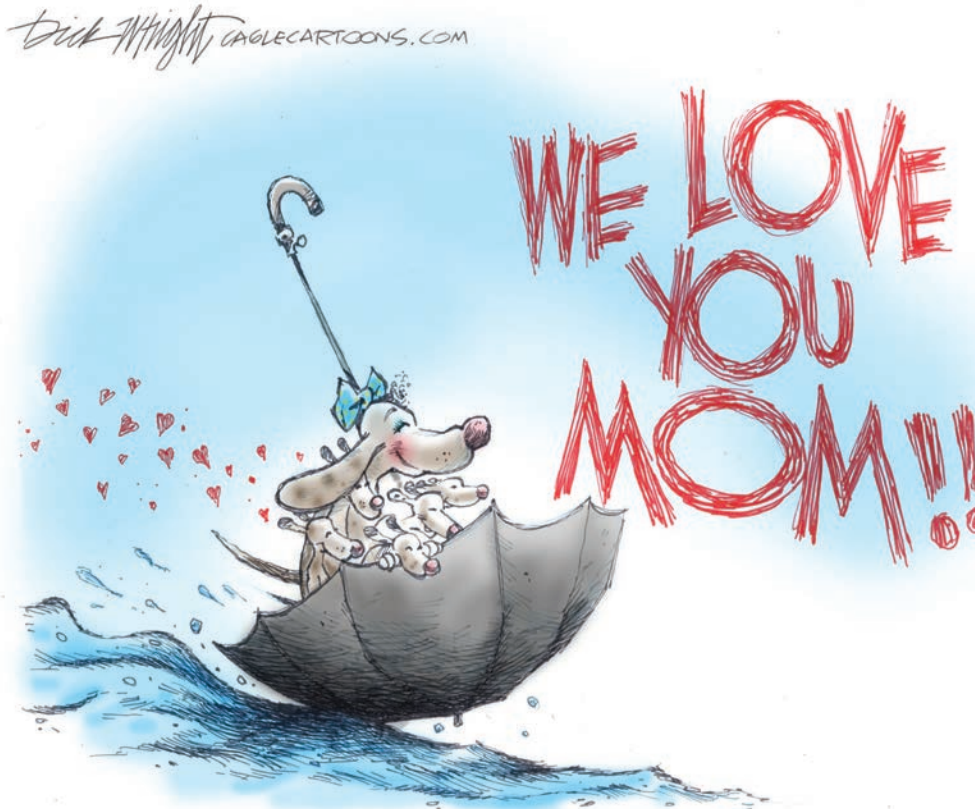
State revenues have increased by 34% from fiscal 2020 to fiscal 2023 which is an average increase of 11.3% per year while municipal property taxes have grown by an average of only 3.7% from FY 2020 to FY 2023. As you can see, state revenue growth has exceeded inflation during these years while municipal property tax revenue has not kept pace with inflation over the same time period. With the schools closing during the COVID-19 policy restrictions and at home learning causing student achievement to fail, our public schools are in dire need of a meaningful increase in Chapter 70 educational aid from our state to begin the remedial efforts necessary to assist increasing student achievement. The House fiscal 2024 budget is the first year that the revenue from the Fair Share Amendment approved by voters in November of 2023 will be implemented. The Fair Share Amendment or the "Millionaire's Tax" will generate about \$2 billion annually to support public education and transportation. I hope that elected state senators, representatives and our governor will keep their promises that they made to the voters for voting for the 4% surcharge for the "Millionaire's Tax" and use the extra revenue to increase the Chapter 70 school aid for our state public school systems. The Massachusetts Municipal Association asked all the city and town elected officials to contact their Representatives and State Senators to support Chapter 70 School Aid. I proposed a resolution to our city council supporting the Chapter 70 school aid increase and the council unanimously voted in favor along with the mayor who signed it. The resolution will be sent to our state representatives, our state senator and our governor. I hope in the next two weeks, the Senate and the House will agree to increase the much-needed Chapter 70 school aid.

George Bitzas

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Guest Column

Mid spring questions for the Garden Lady



Lisa, who has a beautiful daffodil collection in Palmer, wrote in with this question for the Garden Lady: "I planted a Rugosa rose bush that has encroached on a planting of 'Barrett Browning' Daffodils. For the first year in over a decade, I had no blossoms at all! I want to move them out of the way of the rose bush but I don't know if it is the right time or not. Can I lift and divide them now or should I wait?"

Thank you for your question! It is the perfect time to move your daffodils!

One thing to keep in mind, however, is that the bulbs will likely be in the ground deeper than you think. I actually use a spade when I have to dig mine up, so that is a straight, up and down slice.

I start four or five inches all the way around the clump and then carefully lift it out entirely, foliage intact.

Usually, it is pretty easy to tease the bulbs apart by hand, separating them by size. The biggest ones I replant at the same depth they were planted pri-

or, with ground level at the point where the foliage turns pale.

The general rule of thumb for distance from one another is twice the width of the bulb apart. This can vary depending on the variety.

A sprinkling of balanced fertilizer mixed in with the soil in the planting hole and thorough watering will get them off to a great start, hopefully with flowers for many years to come!

A question about sowing annual flowers came in from Melinda, who is introducing her young daughters to flower gardening. "I have never had much luck planting flower seeds directly in the ground. Either the rain washes them away or they come up too close. Is it too late to start a few easy flowers indoors?"

I love that you are sharing your love of gardening with your children! My mom did that with me and it shaped my career path, for sure.

I would so eagerly anticipate planting our garden every year! (Happy Mother's Day, mom!) Certainly it isn't too late to get a head start. I would recommend sowing easy to handle annuals, plants like zinnia, marigold, calendula and bachelor's button.

They don't take long to germinate and would be a manageable size by the end of the month, ready to be moved into the garden after the danger of frost has passed.

Generally, I fill up six-packs with moist potting

GARDEN | page 5

Survivor benefits and spousal benefits are not the same



Dear Rusty:

I will be 70 in August and will file my application for benefits in May. I know I'll get my maximum possible amount at age 70, but I need you to clarify things I have read. Per an award-winning TV host, author, and host of a money podcast "if the higher-earning spouse delays until age 70 to claim Social Security, that guarantees the survivor the biggest possible benefit." But then I read in a different article that if a person delays beyond their full retirement age to obtain a higher personal benefit like I have, my spouse's benefit would still be based on my FRA benefit amount. I am confused about which statement is the correct version.

Confused About My Spouse's Benefit

Dear Confused:

I'm not surprised that you are confused about these seemingly contradictory statements. It is, indeed, quite logical and common for a widow or widower to think they must apply for a "spou-

sal benefit" from their deceased spouse. And while that's technically true, those of us who live in this often confusing world of Social Security jargon would say the widow or widower is applying for a survivor benefit, not a spousal benefit. What's the difference? Well, when you're speaking with a Social Security representative or an advisor, the term "spousal benefit" means something entirely different than the term "survivor benefit."

The two articles you mention are, I believe, referring to two different types of Social Security benefit. The term "survivor benefit" is typically used to describe benefits available to a surviving spouse when the higher earner dies, but the term "spousal benefit" is typically used to denote benefits available to a lower earning spouse when both partners are still living. I agree this is confusing and that distinction was apparently not clear in the articles you read. Therefore, to clear your confusion:

If the higher earning spouse dies and has delayed claiming until age 70, that does, indeed, "guarantee the surviving spouse the biggest possible benefit." The survivor's benefit is based on the full amount the deceased was receiving at death.

If both spouses are living and the higher-earning spouse delayed until age 70 to claim, their living spouse's benefit, when the high-

er-earning spouse claims, will be a maximum of 50% of the higher-earning spouse's Full Retirement Age amount. A living spouse's benefit is based on their partner's FRA amount, regardless of when their partner actually claimed.

So, in your case, your wife's spousal benefit from you while you are both living will be based on your FRA entitlement, even though you waited longer to claim. But if you die first, your wife's survivor benefit as your widow will be based on 100% of the amount you were receiving at your death. In effect, both statements you referred to in your question are true considering that they refer to two different benefit types. It is a terminology distinction which frequently causes misunderstanding.

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 or email us at ssadvisory@amacfoundation.org.

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Obituaries

Thomas Ralph Pasquerella

1937-2023

Thomas Ralph Pasquerella passed away on April 17 at Noble Hospital in Westfield, Massachusetts. Tom was born in Everett, Massachusetts on Feb. 27, 1937. He was a retired Agawam Middle School and Robinson Park Elementary School teacher. Prior to his teaching career Tom served seven years in the United States Air Force.



After retirement, Tom volunteered at the Shriners Hospital in Springfield. He loved to amuse the children by reading books to them and taking on the roles of the many characters in unique and special ways, he always left them laughing!

In 1967, Tom and his wife Charlotte moved to Western Massachusetts to begin their teaching careers in Agawam and Westfield respectively. Together, they also hosted foreign exchange students from Italy. Tom was a life long member of the Kiwanis in West Springfield. He loved his many dogs, especially his very last one, Buddy! Tom enjoyed his monthly game of poker with his card group of 45

years. He leaves his wife Charlotte of 53 years, three brothers; Hank of Reading, Robert and his wife Anna of Haverhill and Richard and his wife Carolyn of Feeding Hills along with many nieces and nephews. Tom was especially grateful to his niece Susan Pasquerella Catellotti, who devoted much time and care to her Uncle Tom in his final years.

Colonial Forastiere Funeral and Cremation in Agawam is entrusted with a private burial service.

Aldo Chiarella

1937-2023

Aldo Chiarella, 85 passed away on Thursday May 4, 2023, in the care of his loving family. He was the husband of 30 years to the late Jeannine (Journet) Chiarella.



and Johan Tavernet (France).

He is survived by his siblings in Italy: Antonio Chiarella, Graziano Chiarella, Antonietta (Chiarella) Pugliese and Maria (Chiarella) Folino; and his brother in the US Luigi Chiarella.

Aldo is survived by nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Aldo was born on July 14, 1937 in Simeri Crichi (CZ), Italy, a son of the late Giuseppe and Grazia (Fratto) Chiarella and was a resident of Tracy, California for 21 years; having previously lived for 23 years in Feeding Hills, MA.

Aldo left Italy at the age of 19 to work in France where he met his late wife, Jeannine. They had three children, James Journet, Graziella Chiarella and Raymond Chiarella. He lived in France for 22 years before moving to the US with his family in 1978 to join his brother Luigi Chiarella former owner of Luigi's Autobody and Feeding Hills Self Storage.

Aldo worked for 19 years for EBTEC and Belt Technologies in Agawam prior to retiring in 1997.

Aldo enjoyed gardening, camping at Lake Pardee CA and cruising. He was always busy and on the go.

Aldo is survived by his children: James Journet (France), Graziella and Raymond Chiarella, his grandchildren: Marjorie Tavernet (France), Nicolas and Noah Chiarella; his great-grandchildren Julien

In addition to Aldo's wife and parents, he was predeceased by his older brother Luigi Raffaele Chiarella, his mother-in-law Ida (Jacquemoud) Journet, his stepmother Annina (Canino) Chiarella, his brother-in-law Michel Mabut.

Calling hours for Aldo will take place Saturday May 13, 2023, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 985 Main St., Agawam.

Funeral services will then follow, beginning at the funeral home at 10:30 a.m.; followed by a Liturgy of Christian Burial, to be celebrated at 11:30 a.m., in Sacred Heart Church, Feeding Hills. Aldo will be laid to rest next to his wife in the Springfield Street Cemetery, Feeding Hills.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. For online condolences please visit www.forastiere.com.

PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a "people news" form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

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DEATH NOTICES

Chiarella, Aldo
Died May 4, 2023
Funeral May 13, 2023

Pasquerella, Thomas Ralph
Died April 17, 2023
Services are private

Opinion

GARDEN ■ from page 4

soil and press two seeds per pack into the soil and cover slightly.

I like to keep them warm to start, but once the seeds sprout, I try to have them outside for most of the time, so that they don't get too leggy in the house. If both seeds sprout, I'll separate them at planting time.

One variety that does not need to be started indoors is the sunflower, if you try, usually the plants will end up spindly and tall and difficult to transplant. Simply sow

these in place, thinning to at least a foot apart.

My friend would always allow the seeds to mature on the plant and let them fall where they may, creating a colorful and eye-catching vegetable patch!

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.

Agawam Advertiser News

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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Schools & Youth

Agawam Junior High School Term 3 Honor Roll

Grade 7

Malac Abdelrahman, Daniel Abramchuk, Aimen Adeel, Nicholas Albro, Chloe Anderson, Jacob Anziano, Juliana Anziano, Ahmed Arslan, Callah Ashford, Justin Barbaneagra, Liam Bartone, Gianna Battista, Phoenix Bond, Jackson Bryant, John Carra, Madison Carroll, Julianna Castro, Jonathan Chechile, Joseph Chianciola, Patrick Chitu, Matthew Chobotaru, Kerem Cicek, Anthony Circosta, Reed D'Ambrosio, Conor Dahm, Katherine Dahm, Romano Daniele, Ivan Davydiuk, Lea Defilipi, Kevin Destin, Camren Ducharme, Declan Eagen, Chase Eggleston, Lola Fleury, Madalynn Fleury, Jonathan Forand, Sophia Frogameni, Madison Georgina, Andrei Gherasimciuc, Olivia Govoni, Nathan Granger-Nunez, Timothy Gut, Mitchell Haglund, Owen Hebert, Jasmin Hinckley, Isabella Iannarelli, Alexander Ivanchenko, Dylan Jorgensen, Fiona Kellogg-Brodeur, Minji Kim, Julia King, Cullen Kirk, Lukasz Korcz, Mor-

gan Kriebel, Ella LaCaresse, Atlas LaFromboise, Chance Land, Nicole LaRock, Charlotte Latulippe, Luke Latulippe, Frank Lawler, Michael Lichwan, Christina Livchin, Brody Lococo Sedelow, Skylar Lopes, Johana Luke, Eli Lukin, Jack Lynch, Matthew Machos, Isaiah Maldonado, Mackenzie Mapua, Nolan Mapua, Jacob Marino, Aubrey Maynard, Olsa Mirena, Lauren Moriarty, Jacob Morton, Madison Mularski, Destiny Negrón, Vy Nguyen, Bretton O'Connor, Efe Ozkay, Jesse Parrott, Connor Pellegrino, Olivia Polevoy, Oceana Pratt, Kaleb Progulske, Cayden Quinby, Andrew Radionov, Gabriella Ramos, Jack Reading, Leishliany Reyes Pagan, Artem Reznichenko, Luke Rios, Micah Rivera, Leo Rock, Caeden Roeder, Sofiya Rotina, Sophia Sarnelli, Deanna Savonin, Jordyn Senecal, Anna Shaia, Franco Sibia, Charlotte Smith, Mark Stepchuk, Jack Sullivan, Jada Sullivan, Kayleen Sullivan, Jace Wayte, Angelina Wells, Marie Wells, Kalare Wilson, Samuel Wolfe, Santino Wrisley

Grade 8

Omid Afzali, Fidan Ahmadov, Nawra Ahmed, Kristiani Alberto, Andrew Amato, Kiril Artemov, Yvetteliz Asencio, Andrew Bagley, Mia Beaudry, Irene Birch, Tristan Blackak, Lia Boulos, Owen Bulmer, Daniel Carlson, Chelsea Casamento, Lily Charest, Patience Chiba, Jack Chivers, Stella Christopher, Sean Collins, Kaylee Conway, Lily Croteau, Gavin Cruz, Drake Dargon, Alyssa DaSilva, Lincoln Despard, Kaelyn Dion, Connor Dobies, Chatham Dupre, Timothy Dupre, Allie Eaton, Mahmoud Elbakri, Emery Ellis, Scarlett Estes, Donovan Fitzpatrick, Adrianny Freitag, Nikita Fronchkevich, Marissa Fusco, Timothy Garner, Luca Gauthier, Kyle Ghareeb, Nicolas Ghareeb, Maya Gingeruha, Cecilia Gomez Marin, Gianna Goodrow, Vas Gray, Mehty Gusenov, Emma Hart, Arbion Hasani, Nicholas Iellamo, Samantha Izzo, Autumn Jedrykowski, Forest Jones, Lily Kenny, Brady Klinakis, Nickolas Kontsema, Dmitry Korniyenko, Didem Kupuc,

Amanda Lareau, Khuong Le, Michelle Le, Rosalyne Le, Matthew Letellier, Ryan Litz, Dennis Livchin, Darina Lukin, Sophia Lunden, Douglas MacKinnon, Madeline Maharne, Jace Mansur, Zachary Marino, Zayden Maurer, Jason Mihalicenco, Aidan Monaghan, Gage Montagna, Dominick Moretti, Mihaela Moscin, Jason Nguyen, Hunter O'Connell, Talia Oliveira, William Olson, Charlyze Ortiz, Megan Outhuse, Madelyn Pajer, Victoria Papova, Anthony Parrelli, Het Patel, Yash Patel, Nicco Patuano, Chloe Pierson, Domenick Pisano, Addison Podworski, Arnisa Preniqi, Violet Pryce, George Ramsey, Sean Reopell, Shane Ritchie, Critian Rivera, Chloe Roderick, Angeliz Rodriguez, Olivia Roit, Jayce Rubio, Jayden Rubio, Kayla Ryan, Kiley Ryan, Camden Saltmarsh, Dante Scherban, Rylie Sheehan, Emma Shevchuk, Mark Sholopa, Bella Shunaman, Aalexiah Solo, Christopher Sonsini, Devin Soucy, Cole Stauch, Teagan Tingley, Hung Vu, Kylie Warner, Brady Webster, Jacob Weeks



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SPORTS

Agawam nearly completes comeback, falls short



Sarah Kriebel inbounds the ball.



Isabella Ugolini gets set to pass.



Angelina Kozhenevsky gets around a Minnechaug defender.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – At the beginning of April, the Minnechaug girls varsity lacrosse team traveled to Agawam High School and defeated the Brownies by 10 goals. The second meeting of the regular season between the Valley Wheel league rivals was a much closer affair.

The Lady Falcons, who held a man advantage for the final seven minutes of regulation, wound up sweeping the season series by squeaking out a 12-10 home victory over the Brownies, last Thursday afternoon.

“Agawam has a strong girls lacrosse program, so we were expecting a much closer game than the first time that we faced them,” said first-year Minnechaug varsity coach Maggie Kennedy. “It was a hard-fought game and I’m very proud of my team.”

Minnechaug, who entered this week’s action with a 4-7 overall re-

LACROSSE | page 8



Goalie Marisa Larocque deflects a shot above her stick.



Emma Murray scoops up a loose ball on defense.

Brownies continue dominant streak

AGAWAM – The sky could be the limit for this year’s Agawam High School boys volleyball team.

Now 13-1 this season, Agawam swept another strong team, Ludlow 3-0 last Monday evening.

Daniel Yovenko had 18 kills while Colin La had 19 assists and David Dzhenezherukha had 18 assists.

The Brownies had a tough test earlier this week with a rematch against powerful Westfield on Tuesday.



Joe Culhane goes for the spike.

PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Eric Nazarets gets a quick bump.



David Dzhenezherukha sets the ball up.



Daniel Yovenko gets a lot of air on this hit.

Sports

Brian Robie takes modifieds win at Monadnock

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Modified super star Brian Robie won Sunday's 80-lap NHSTRA Modified feature at Monadnock Speedway, first setting fast time in time trials, and then leading the final 54 laps of the afternoon's main event to top the second annual Duel at The Dog biggie.

Other winners on 2023 opening weekend at the storied quarter-mile speedbowl included Tim Wenzel after a post-race inspection was concluded awarding him the win in the NHSTRA Late Models, Cole Littlewood, who wired the Outlaw main, and Gordon Farnum, who rocketed to victory lane in the Mini Stock feature, something he did a dozen times a summer ago. On Saturday's event, Colton Martin took the Pure Stock victory. Owen Zilinski led all the way to score the Young Guns victory. Steve Miller, last summer's Six Shooter champion at Claremont, led all the way Sunday to earn his first career Monadnock victory.

Sunapee's Robie a former track Modified champion here set fast time with a blistering circuit of 12.660 seconds Sunday, the fastest of four sub-13 drivers in the 18-car field. By virtue of a top-four redraw, Sammy Rameau and Aaron Fellows sat on row one as the 80-lap main went green.

Rameau, who like Robie has impressed in past victories here, jumped all over the opening lead and set fast time the first 25



Brian Robie took the win in last Sunday's modified event. SUBMITTED PHOTO

times around. But then Robie, from row two, took control and never looked back.

Fellows, strong in third until the victim

of the second – of five – cautions, would return to notch a top ten finish, but with Robie and Rameau setting a blistering pace, it was Kimmy Rivet, methodical all afternoon as she marched forward from row five, earning an impressive third-place finish.

Kenny Thompson led the first 20 go-rounds of the Late Model feature but Ryan Bell, firing from row three, then took charge and outran 2022 Monadnock champ Tim Wenzel and Thompson into victory lane. In a post-race inspection, Wenzel was awarded the win.

Farnum, who sold his championship Mini Stock ride only hours before Sunday's feature gave it one last dash to victory lane. Cole Littlewood led all the way to win Sunday's Outlaw main just ahead of Steve Bly. Littlewood's brother Justin won the same event a year ago.

Monadnock Speedway will return to action on May 20, when it begins its 2023 Saturday night racing series as it hosts Military Appreciation Night, with a seven-division card of racing.

Results:

May 6 Event

Pure Stocks: Colton Martin, Zach Zilinski, CJ Johnson, Chris Davis Carlos Grenier, Chris Conroy, Teagan Edson, Mike Douglas, Dominick Stafford, Tim Taft, Trevor

Carey, Chris Bingham, Jim Rhodes, Aaliyah Tacy, Matt Croteau, Ricky Melcher

May 7 Event:

Young Guns: Owen Zilinski, Adrian Smith, Emma Blake, Markus O'Neil, Kailyn Hubbard, Hunter Douglas

Six Shooters: Steve Miller, Michael, Yranton, Jacob Scott, Steve Miller Jr., John Thibodeau, Zach Zilinski, Andrew Scott, Tyler Scott, Garrett Barry, Rozwell Mason

Mini Stocks: Gordon Farnum, Louis Mather, Jon Fultz, Kevin Clayton, Chris Sontag, Robert Williams, Cameron Sontag, Patrick Houle, Skyler Shippee, Greg Millette, Reagan Buffum, Matt Lambert, Kyle Templeton
NHSTRA Outlaws: Cole Littlewood, Steve Bly, Phil Meany, John Meany, Leighton Lutz

NHSTRA Late Models: Tim Wenzel, Kenny Thompson, Hillary Renaud, JD Stockwell, Chris Emerson, Isabella Minchella, Kevin McKnight, Dan Robinson, Chris Castor, Robert Hagar

NHSTRA Modifieds: Brian Robie, Sammy Rameau, Kim Rivet, Tyler Leary, Geoff Rollins, Scott Zilinski, Jeff Battle, Adam Lapoint, Eric Leclair, Aaron Fellows, Nathan Wenzel, Nancy Muni-Ruot, Brian Chapin, Cole Littlewood, Josh Carey, Blair Culhane, Cory Plummer, Joel Belanger

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The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills and is also expected to gather news and write stories for the two papers as well as for other occasional companywide publications.

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- Willingness to mentor a staff writer and correspondents
- Editing experience and ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style
- Management experience and/or experience managing content for a print publication.

Please send resume and writing examples to:

Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or email directly to
ekennedy@turley.com

LACROSSE ■ from page 7

cord and had a 3-3 league record, snapped a three-game losing streak.

"Our schedule is very challenging this year," said Minnechaug sophomore Jayme Cerasulo "Our last game was against Concord-Carlisle, who's a powerhouse team in Division 1. Playing against stronger competition will only help us in the power rankings. We've been improving in every game that we've played this season."

Despite having a below .500 record, the Lady Falcons were ranked 13th in the MIAA Division 2 power rankings.

Agawam (6-7, 5-5), who's also a Division 2 team, was ranked 22nd. The top 32 teams in each Division automatically qualify for the state tournament.

"We played shorthanded for the final seven minutes of today's game, but we just kept battling back," said longtime Agawam head coach Carla Lemnah-Warner. "I thought the kids played with a lot of heart."

Cerasulo is recovering from a right knee injury, which forced her to miss the entire soccer season last fall. She scored a game-high five goals in the second meeting against Agawam.

"It just feels awesome to be back on the field again. All my hard work has paid off," Cerasulo said. "It's very easy to score goals when you're surrounded by players who know what they're doing. I also scored five goals against Leominster."

Jayne's older sister, Kaelin, is one of the eight seniors listed on the Lady Falcons varsity roster.

Kaelin Cerasulo, who had an assist in the home match versus the Brownies, is planning to play field hockey at Springfield College. Her father, Mike, has been the head football coach at Springfield College for the past seven years.

Kennedy, who coaches the Minnechaug varsity field hockey team in the fall, also played field hockey at Springfield College.

"It's very special to see one of my players play a sport at my alma mater," Kennedy said. "Kaelin has worked very hard and I'm very proud of her."

While Jayme Cerasulo led the way offensively against the Brownies, five other Minnechaug players scored a goal.

"Jayme has been playing great so far this season. She's a fantastic athlete," Kennedy said. "It was awesome to have several other players contribute offensively."

Junior Kalia Gagnon also posted a hat-trick, while freshman Elizabeth Woytowski, sophomore Rylee Welch, junior Jenna Scatolini, and Moore each scored a goal. Senior Moira O'Brien also had an assist.

Down at the other end of the field,

Minnechaug senior goalie Alexa Patrakis only had to make six saves. She's planning to continue playing lacrosse at Hartwick College, which is located in Oneonta, New York.

"Alexa has been a fantastic goalie for us this year," Kennedy said. "She's an outstanding student in the classroom and is very focused. She's going to make an impact for her college lacrosse team."

O'Brien, who was a member of the Longmeadow co-op hockey team is planning to join the women's hockey team at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, Connecticut.

The other Lady Falcons seniors are Vivian Tranhese, Reighan Demers, and Emma Kennedy.

One of the seniors listed on the Brownies varsity roster is Isabel Lalancette, who's going to be playing lacrosse at Springfield College.

"I've coached a number of players in the past who have played college lacrosse," Lemnah-Warner said. "It's always very nice to see your players play at that level."

The other Agawam seniors are Isabella Ugolini, Emilia Barron, Elizabeth Santore, Abigail Perry, and Marissa LaRocque, who's the starting goalie. LaRocque was credited with a total of 14 saves.

Lalancette and Perry combined to score six of the Brownies goals.

The duo of sophomore Isabella Spaulding and Ugolini netted the other four goals.

After the score was tied three times during the first half, the contest was tied for the final time at 6-6 following a Perry goal early in the second half.

With a little more than eight minutes remaining in the second half, Minnechaug built an 11-7 lead following Jayme Cerasulo's fifth goal of the match, which was unassisted.

A minute later, an Agawam player received a yellow card. It was the Brownies fourth yellow card of the match, which meant they had to play with one less player for the rest of the game.

Despite playing with one less player on the field, the Brownies battled back with a pair of goals by Perry, which were both assisted by Lalancette.

Ugolini also scored a goal closing the gap to 11-10 with five minutes remaining on the scoreboard clock.

Agawam had a couple of chances to tie the score once again, but a free position goal by Gagnon gave the home team a two goal advantage with two minutes left.

It turned out to be the final goal of the exciting match.

Agawam did celebrate an 11-4 home win against Westfield the following afternoon.

Sports

NECBL announces full schedule for 2023 season

SOUTH HADLEY – The 2023 New England Collegiate Baseball League (NECBL) first pitch is slated for June 6, as Commissioner Sean McGrath has announced the full schedule for the 29th playing season.

All eyes will be on Dodd Stadium in Norwich, Connecticut on June 6, as the league kicks off its season with the Mystic Schooners hosting the Newport Gulls in the lone matchup of opening day. Ten other teams, including the defending champion Martha's Vineyard Sharks, will get to work on June 7th, with six games on tap, while Sanford is the last team to open their season, part of a seven-game schedule on June 8th that includes the first doubleheader of the year.

In 2022, Martha's Vineyard claimed their first league championship with a 2-0 sweep of the Vermont Mountaineers. That completed a prolific season for the Sharks, who had hosted the 2022 NECBL All Star Game and earned a Wild Card berth in the postseason. On their way to the championship, Martha's Vineyard knocked off both of the top seeds, the Bristol Blues and the Mountaineers, who had each tied an NECBL record with 32 regular season wins.

The anticipated rematches of the championship series will take place on June 27 on the Vineyard and July 12 in Montpelier. Comprising 13 teams for the 2023

season, the league will once again operate with a three-division alignment. The Coastal Division will feature five teams (Martha's Vineyard, Mystic, Ocean State, North Shore & Newport), while the North Division (Keene, Vermont, Sanford, Upper Valley) and West Division (Bristol, Valley, North Adams, Danbury) will each include four teams.

Once again, all teams will play a 44-game slate in which they will play each of their divisional opponents seven times. Coastal Teams will play each non-division opponent twice, once at home and once on the road, while teams in the North Division and West Division will play non-divisional opponents three times apiece.

The league is grateful to the work of Ben Grannan, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Business Analytics at Queens University (NC) for taking on the complex task of creating the 2023 schedule. Grannan had to balance each team's facility availability, the number of intra- and inter-division matchups, travel considerations, double-headers, off-days, and more.

"The combination of computers and subject matter expertise is the current best practice to create sports schedules," explained Grannan. "Specifically, analytical models are used to track the potential home team, away team, and date of each baseball game during the season. The best

schedule satisfies as many items as possible from the list of submitted NECBL team requests as well as the league requirements. Most importantly, the league office participates in a feedback loop to review the schedule and identify any nuances missed by the computer."

Sunday, June 23rd will see the league's best gather at historic Fraser Field in Lynn, Massachusetts for the 2023 NECBL All-Star Game, presented by Metro Credit Union. The

All-Star Game features the NECBL's top talent, with players from all NECBL organizations showcasing their skills in front of scouts from every Major League Baseball (MLB) organization.

In the final week of the season, each of the league's 13 teams will play solely against division rivals in hopes of qualifying for the 2023 NECBL Postseason, which will feature six teams (the three division winners and three wildcards who have the next three highest winning percentages league-wide after the division winners).

The division winners with the top-two regular season winning percentages will earn first-round byes, while the third division winner will battle the wildcard team with the lowest win percentage, and the wildcard teams with the best and second-best win percentages will also face off in a single-elimination wildcard round

matchup.

The top seed/division winner will then meet the advancing team that is the lowest remaining wildcard team, while the second-highest seed/division winner faces the highest remaining wildcard team in the best-of-three semifinals before the last two teams standing square off in a best-of-three NECBL Championship Series for the right to hoist the Fay Vincent, Sr. Cup.

The final games of the regular season will be held on Saturday, July 29, with the following day (July 30) open for makeup games before the postseason begins with the Wild Card games on Monday, July 31.

The semifinals series will be played from August 1-3, and the final two teams will play for the championship from August 4-6.

All NECBL games will be streamed live on the NECBL Network, powered by Blue-Frame Technology. The NECBL Network is available on both your desktop and mobile/tablet devices, as well as Roku, Amazon Fire TV, Android TV and Apple TV 4th Gen.

Rosters are filling up, and you can check out who is coming to play for your favorite team by heading to their team page at www.necbl.com. Make sure to follow these players all spring long as they compete for their colleges and tune up for their summer in the NECBL.

Western United Pioneers U19, U15 take part in tournament

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – Two girls soccer teams representing the Western United Pioneers had the opportunity to compete in the third annual USL Academy Cup, which was held at the Tournament Sportsplex in Tampa Bay, Florida, from March 30-April 2.

It was the first time that the Western United Pioneers participated in the event.

"The tournament was run very well, and it was a great experience for our girls," said Joe Ferrara, who's the Director of Soccer Operations for the Western United Pioneers. "I've received a lot of positive feedback from both the parents and the players."

The Western United Pioneers U19 and U15 soccer teams took part in this year's Academy Cup matches because the Western Mass. Pioneers, which is a semi-pro men's team, is a member of the USL (United Soccer League).

"The USL Academy is a youth platform for professional teams within in the USL system," said Ferrara, who's also the Pioneers General Manager. "Having the Pioneers gives us the rights to have the USL Academy teams."

Federico Molinari coached both the U19 and the U15 teams at the USL Academy Cup. He has been coaching the Pioneers men's soccer team for the past

ten years. He's also the club's Director of Coaching.

"It was a great experience coaching the two soccer teams. The players worked very hard at the Academy Cup," Molinari said. "It was also the first time that we combined two age groups together. We really didn't know how the other teams down there were going to be, but both of our teams competed very well against them."

The U-19 girls' team, which was made up of players born in 2006 and 2007, finished with a 1-2-1 record.

"Players who were born in 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007 were eligible to play for the U19 team," Ferrara said. "Our U19 team was one of youngest teams down there. We played mostly against 05 players. Our club currently doesn't have a 05 team and the majority of the 04 players are in college and they would be ineligible to play in the tournament."

The U19 team lost their first two matches 1-0 against teams from West Virginia and Tennessee.

"We hit the post three times in our first two games," Molinari said. "The other team had a shot hit off the post, but the ball went into the net."

After playing a 1-1 tie against a team from Miami, Florida, the Western United Pioneers finished the tournament by posting a 4-3 victory over a team from New Jersey.

"Overall, the U19 team had a very

good showing," Ferrara added. "We played against older teams from the south, who have been playing together for a few years. Our two teams only had five or six training sessions."

Twelve of the U19 players attend a high school located in the region.

Those players are Mia Carvalho (Ludlow), Sophia Scyocurka (Ludlow), Calleigh Foley (Ludlow), Emma Ellis (Ludlow), Brianna Ribeiro (Belchertown), Fallon Clancy (Belchertown), Brooke Burrows (Belchertown), Christina Ritter (Agawam), Ava Chevalier (Tantasqua Regional), Tess Chevalier (Tantasqua Regional), Claire Poindexter (Minnechaug Regional), and McKenzie Murray (Minnechaug Regional).

The U15 team, which was made up of players born in 2008 and 2009, finished the tournament with a 0-1-3 record. All three of their draws were scoreless.

Twelve members of the U15 squad also live in the Turley Publications coverage area.

They are Audrey Afonso (Ludlow), Aneysha Donais (Ludlow), Kacie Klimek (Ludlow), Valentina Molinari (Ludlow), Payton Dersarkisian (Ludlow), Ava Friese (Ludlow), Zorah Wray (Minnechaug Regional), Madison Boulanger (Chicopee), Maeve Carter (Chicopee), Makenna Sacco (Hampden), Carson Humphries (Hampden), and Isabel Moreau (Belchertown).

"I've coached the 09 players in the

past," Molinari said. "The 09 players had to adapt to playing with the 08 players. It was also the first time that the U15 team played in a tournament outside of New England. They got to see a different style of soccer."

Because the Academy Cup matches took place in the afternoon, the Western United Pioneers players didn't have a lot of time for sightseeing while they were down in Florida.

"Our games were in the middle of the day, which made it difficult to do anything else," Ferrara said. "We did go out to eat together as a team a couple of nights. It was a fun experience for the players."

Ferrara is also the League Commissioner of United Women's Soccer and is the owner of the New England Mutiny.

Both the Pioneers and the Mutiny play their home matches at historic Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow.

Ferrara is hoping a few of the Western United Pioneers girls' soccer players join the Mutiny in the coming years.

"That's our plan," he said. "I'm always looking for the local soccer players to play for the Mutiny."

Rich Friese, who's from Ludlow, was also a member of the coaching staff at this year's Academy Cup.

Ferrara is looking forward to having several of the Western United Pioneers teams compete in the 2024 USL Academy Cup.

Public Notices

MORE PUBLIC NOTICES ON PAGE 10

AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT SILVER LAKE
On Tuesday, June 6, 2023, The Pond and Lake Connection will be conducting an aquatic plant management program at Silver Lake in Agawam, MA.
The use of the lake's water will be restricted as follows:
Swimming, fishing, and boating - Restricted until completion of the treatment on June 6, 2023.
Direct Drinking -

Restricted for 3 days.
Livestock Watering - Restricted for 1 day.
Irrigation - Restricted for 5 days.
If you need additional information, please contact Silver Lake Corporation or The Pond and Lake Connection, 203-885-0184. 05/11/2023

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 2017-2018 school year will be destroyed after July 7, 2023. Any person(s) who have graduated, aged out, moved out of Agawam

or has been dismissed from Special Education Services during the 2017-2018 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 05/11, 05/18/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Probate and Family Court Department HAMPDEN ss
Docket No: HD22P1348EA
To all persons interested in the estate of Linda A. Wisen of Wilbraham in said County, person under conservatorship.
A petition has been presented to said Court for license to sell at private sale - public auction - certain real estate of said Linda Wisen for her maintenance.
If you desire to object

thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at 50 State Street, Springfield, MA before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the 31st day of May 2023, the return day of this citation.
Witness, BARBARA M. HYLAND, Esquire, First Judge of said Court this 24th day of April, 2023.
Rosemary A. Saccomani,
Register
05/11/2023

Public Notices

MORE PUBLIC NOTICES ON PAGE 9

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 .6250%.

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
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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 29, 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: 541FC3433HM000739
NO PLATES ON TRAILER
Last known reg. owner:
Cruz Fontanez
19 Yale St., Springfield, MA
01109

2009 Subaru Forester
VIN: JF2SH63619H775637
Plate#: 1RTK39 - MA
Last known reg. owner:
Maureen Sheehan,
438 Springfield St., Apt. 15
Agawam MA 01001
05/11, 05/18, 05/25/2023

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FLEA MARKET

FLEA MARKET SPONSORED BY THE PVPA NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY. Saturday, May 13th, 10am - 2pm. Front of Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School, 15 Mulligan Dr. South Hadley. Come find treasures new and old to support National Honor Society students at PVPA!

TAG SALE

325 THREE RIVERS ROAD, WILBRAHAM MAY 13 9:00-6:00
No Early Birds. Multifamily, Sewing Machine, Decorative Items, Beautiful Clothing, Stereo Equip. So Much More

TAG SALE & BAKE SALE MAY 13RD - 8AM-2PM. Tag Sale - 915 Plumtree Road, Springfield. Easy parking in church parking lot! Inside if it rains.

TAG SALE/MOVING SALE Saturday May 13th, 9-4. Housewares, furniture, tools, and more! **25 Freedom Street, Chicopee**

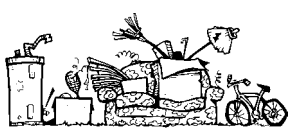
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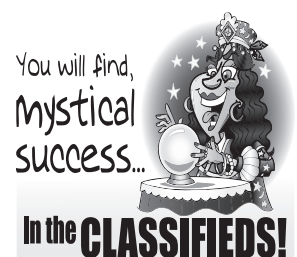
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Revolutionary re-enactment taking place at Smith House

AGAWAM - The public is invited to an open house at the Agawam Historical Association's c. 1757 Thomas Smith House, located at 251 North West Street in Feeding Hills, from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 13. That afternoon, member reenactors of the 25th Continental Regiment will portray both the military unit of 1776 and civilian aspects of 18th century life. Women members will present demonstrations of open hearth cooking and 18th century crafts; soldiers will conduct a military drill and present their equipment. The 25th Continental Regiment has participated in events such as the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution in Philadelphia, the 225th anniversary of the taking of Fort Ticonderoga, and the 220th and 225th anniversaries of the Battle of Saratoga. Tours of the Thomas Smith House and its recently preserved 1920s garage will also be offered.



The historic Thomas Smith House at 251 North West Street in Feeding Hills will be open on Saturday, May 13 from 1 to 3 p.m., when the Agawam Historical Association will host members of the 25th Continental Regiment Revolutionary War reenactors and offer tours of the c. 1757 house and recently preserved 1920s garage.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Thomas Smith House was built c. 1757 and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Smith House remains in near original condition, with no central heat or plumbing, and is a time capsule of 18th century life. The property also features a 1920s garage, recently preserved for use as exhibit space with funding from the Town of Agawam Community Preservation Act

Committee. The house was constructed by Thomas Smith, a carpenter and housewright who purchased the property in 1757; members of his family retained ownership of the property for the next eighty-six years. The vernacular Georgian-style residence has been described as "a rare surviving example of mid- to late-18th century Connecticut River Valley design and materials and one of

the few remaining resources from the 18th century agricultural past of Feeding Hills. The history of land ownership for the Smith family property – its assembly by grant and purchase, its speculative trade, and familial division – is a model for the history of typical land transfers of the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries, which has resulted in the property today having been vastly reduced

to only a single acre of land. The history of its residents represents the long history of farming of this section of Agawam, well into the 20th century, and the shift into working outside the community that its later owners made is representative of the pattern of suburban development that occurred throughout the town." The Thomas & Esther Smith House was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on June 2, 2005.

The Agawam Historical Association is a private, non-profit organization working to preserve historic materials, documents, and landmarks pertaining to the Town of Agawam and to provide educational opportunities

concerning Agawam's history. The association operates the c. 1757 Thomas Smith House at 251 North West Street in Feeding Hills, and the Agawam Historical & Fire House Museum at 35 Elm Street in Agawam. The Smith House is preserved in largely original, unrestored condition. The museum occupies the former Elm Street Fire Station, and houses artifacts pertaining to the town and the Agawam Fire Department. New members are always welcome! For additional information regarding the Agawam Historical Association, please visit agawam-historicalassoc.webs.com/

SOLDIERS ■ from page 1

Cameron eventually spoke to Clinton, who confirmed the home was struggling with staff members getting COVID-19.

Wendlandt presented a grim scene following the deaths of many of the residents and noted how residents with COVID-19 were allowed to be near those who had not contracted the very contagious disease.

With the ruling, the charges are reinstated and newly-elected Attorney General

Andrea Campbell will handle the case from this point.

"The Court's decision today is welcome and important news, and it affirms what we already knew: the leaders and managers of facilities like the Soldiers' Home share responsibility for the health and safety of their residents," Campbell said in a statement. "Today's decision allows us to focus once again on securing accountability for the tragic and preventable deaths at the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke."

The Soldiers' Home has since undergone a full change in management with a new superintendent and new board of trustees members.

In the dissenting statement, Associate Justice David Lowy contended there is insufficient evidence Walsh and Clinton acted wantonly and recklessly. Lowy claims those two factors need to be proven in order for the charges to stick.

The Soldiers' Home tragedy had one of the largest mass deaths from COVID-19 of any care facility in the country.

CHARTER ■ from page 1

will be this November. When the item appeared at the April 18 council meeting as new business, Council President Christopher wanted to make sure residents were clear on how the procedure would go.

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

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