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# AGAWAM

## ADVERTISER NEWS

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Members of St. Martha's Guild, Peter, Mary Ann, Debbie, Joyce, Tom, Mary, Gina, John and Joanne.



## Sacred Heart Parish hosts annual Mother's Day Bake and Tag Sale

By Christina Gioscia  
Correspondent

AGAWAM – Last Saturday, May 9, Sacred Heart Parish held their annual bake and tag sale event in celebration of Mother's Day. Even with the rain, the bake and tag sale still had a large turnout of people ready to find a gift for Mother's Day or simply support Sacred Heart Parish. Joanne Cappuccilli, President of St. Martha's Guild at Sacred Heart shared that this event has been happening for over ten years now. Each year, Sacred Heart ac-

cepts donated items for the tag sale and donated baked goods for the bake sale. To get a table to sell for the tag sale, it was twenty dollars. All proceeds from this event go towards the scholarships that Sacred Heart Parish puts together. Along with the donated goods, St. Martha's Guild makes homemade Italian cookies and sells them for five dollars per box. Additionally, the boxes for the Italian cookies are carefully decorated with bows and flowers, making them the



Members of St. Martha's Guild, Bob, Sue, and Mary Ellen selling plants at the Mother's Day Bake and Tag Sale.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

MOTHER'S | page 12

## Town continues shelter agreement with Southwick

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – While Agawam is a larger community, for many years now, they have relied on smaller neighbor Southwick for their needs when it comes to animal control.

The town renewed its intermunicipal agreement with Southwick to house animals picked up by the animal control officer.

More than a decade ago, a Southwick resident, Robert Polverari, donated the funding needed to take Southwick's dilapidated, failing animal housing facility, and created and entirely new building behind the Southwick Police Headquarters. The facility has adequate storage for cats, dogs, as well as areas dedicated to medical evaluations, retrieving animals and allowing them to go outside.

Agawam has no such facility in the community and the law requires the town to have a place to hold dogs or cats for a short period of time.

According to the agreement resolution submitted by Mayor Christopher Johnson, Agawam's most recent agree-

ment with the Town of Southwick expired at the end of the last fiscal year, June 30, 2025.

According to a renewal agreement, which is retroactive to July 1, 2025, the Town of Agawam agrees to pay Southwick a total of \$15,000 per year for the next three years. The payments are made in monthly installments of \$1,250 per month. The provisions of the contract do not have any provisions related to the number of animals Agawam houses in Southwick.

Southwick provides any training necessary to Agawam's ACO personnel if they require access to the shelter in order to process an animal during off-hours.

The Massachusetts mandated quarantine period for dogs brought to the facility is seven days. If an animal is not claimed by its owner in that time period, either Agawam or Southwick may be able to enter the animal into Southwick's Animal Shelter Programs to make the dog available for adoption.

Southwick has been a no-kill shelter for many years and strives to find homes for

SHELTER | page 10

## Golf course looks to make major upgrades to maintenance equipment

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – With continued success at the Agawam Municipal Golf Course, the Golf Course is seeking to utilize its retained earnings and make multiple equipment purchases heading into the

new fiscal year.

The course and the mayor's office was subject of some criticism late last year after Mayor Christopher Johnson asked the city council to approval a loan from the town's stabilization fund to temporarily fund the purchase of a new fleet of golf carts for the

facility to replace aging carts.

Johnson pledged the have the loan paid back in two years with 4% interest. Previous loans to the golf course at various stages of success have not been paid back, leading to reluctance that this loan would be paid back.

Johnson was true to his

word, and the two-year loan was paid back within months of the purchase.

Now, the course's stabilization fund is at nearly \$550,000 and Johnson is asking the Agawam City Council to approve to spending nearly \$240,000 in equipment purchases from the course

fund.

According to information provided to the city council for the fund transfer, a quote from Finch turf details the purchase of a utility tractor, a John Deer Prognator, a tow-behind widespin, a golf-lift, a pro-flex, and a sod cutter. There are also more pur-

chases also being made.

"The Course Superintendent has asked to purchase some new and used course maintenance equipment with funding from the Municipal Golf Stabilization Fund," Johnson states. "The

GOLF | page 10

## Memorial Day Parade announced

AGAWAM – The Agawam Veterans Council is having their annual Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony on Monday, May 25. Please join us at the new Veterans Memorial in School Street Park. Parade starts at 10 a.m. at Bethany Assembly of God enters onto Main Street, turns down School Street and continue on to the new Veteran Memorial in School Street Park with the ceremony immediately following. There will be a picnic for those who wish to join the Veterans Council after the ceremony.

## AHS sports teams flag graves



Members of the boys volleyball and softball teams recently helped flag graves at local cemeteries. The student-athletes joined forces with the Agawam Veterans Council to help flag veteran graves. It was a powerful morning of service, honoring those who have served our country and ensuring their legacies are remembered. AHS is proud of these players and their coaches for leading by example and showing that Agawam Pride extends far beyond the court and the field.

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# Sheriff's Office rolls back law enforcement in first phase of budget reduction

LUDLOW — In response to the ongoing fiscal challenges facing sheriffs' offices across Massachusetts, the Hampden County Sheriff's Office today announced the first phase of a potentially multi-phase plan to reduce spending and align operations with the Commonwealth's current budget realities.

Sheriff Nick Cocchi said the initial phase will focus on scaling back and restructuring several external law enforcement and public safety programs which are not currently funded or reimbursed by another municipality or organization. In total, this phase will redefine, limit or eliminate around 50 positions to the tune of \$3.6-\$4 million in savings. Staff were notified of the changes on Tuesday, March 24, with some changes being immediate and others taking place over the course of the next couple months to allow for smooth transitions for staff and operations.

The changes follow the removal of approximately \$26.5 million from the Hampden County Sheriff's Office's Fiscal Year 2026 allocation as the Commonwealth closed the books on Fiscal Year 2025, further compounding an already strained FY26 budget. As noted by the Office of the Inspector General, this situation stems from years of the legislature's deficit-driven funding practices dating back to the abolition of county government in 1999.

Sheriff Cocchi said the plan reflects a broader effort to respond responsibly to

the fiscal environment while also acknowledging feedback from legislative leadership regarding spending by sheriffs' offices on units and programs that focus entirely outside the walls of our facilities.

"This is not something we want to do," Cocchi said. "These partnerships were built over decades and have made a real difference for public safety across Western Massachusetts. But given the current budget situation, we have to scale back in these areas. I don't believe it's the right move for public safety, but it's the reality we're being asked to respond to."

The Office of the Inspector General's preliminary review of sheriffs' budgets identified several law enforcement activities across the state as "discretionary expenditures," rather than mandated responsibilities. While Sheriff Cocchi maintains that the public safety work and partnerships throughout Hampden County go hand-in-hand with good correctional practices, it is clear that his view is not shared by everyone on Beacon Hill.

"In light of that perspective, and in the absence of clear direction about how those activities should be funded going forward, we believe the responsible course is to begin scaling back those external operations," Cocchi said. "If the financial situation in the Commonwealth improves, we will request prior approval of funding through the legislature to again support the public safety gaps

and deficiencies in Hampden County. But as of now, this is the sad reality we are facing."

Phase One: Scaling Back External Public Safety Partnerships

The first phase of the cost-reduction plan will involve eliminating, reducing or restructuring a number of specialized units and regional partnerships that support outside law enforcement agencies. In total, this phase will redefine, limit or eliminate around 50 positions to the tune of \$3.6-\$4 million in savings. Several units will move to limited or part-time status, operating only when resources allow or when agencies request support through special details with municipal reimbursement.

Among them:

Countywide Support- 26 Post Certified deputies regularly staffed 28 shifts to reinforce agencies with insufficient personnel. These deputies provided coverage across multiple jurisdictions facing staffing gaps, but these positions will no longer be filled, unless paid/reimbursed by the agency/municipality.

Palmer Police Department Partnership - HCSO currently provides full patrol coverage on two shifts, seven nights per week, with deputies handling calls for service, patrol duties, and community policing as the agency is facing significant staffing shortages. These positions will no longer be filled, unless paid/reimbursed by the agency/municipality.

Springfield Police Depart-

ment Partnership-- HCSO presently maintains a continuous presence at Union Station, Western Massachusetts' primary transportation hub that previously had a high call volume involving violent crime, disturbances, and drug activity. Deputies also provide year-round patrol coverage in Forest Park with two shifts daily, seven days a week, supported by the Mounted Patrol Unit. Additionally, deputies serve 209A restraining orders in the city. These positions will no longer be filled, unless paid/reimbursed by the agency/municipality.

Chicopee Police Department/City Partnership -- The HCSO staffs three full-time analysts as part of the five-person team at the Real-Time Information Center in Chicopee. This state-of-the-art operation has the ability to use an extensive camera network paired with AI-powered software to enhance public and officer safety, but relies on the analysts to make the connections happen. The facility, although based in Chicopee, has a regional impact, helping solve and prevent crimes across Hampden County. Additionally, POST-certified deputies serve 209A restraining orders in the city, and act as force multipliers when city patrol staffing is down. These positions will no longer be filled, unless paid/reimbursed by the agency/municipality.

West Springfield Police Partnership--The HCSO presently helps West Side police with targeted speeding details

and traffic patrols. Additionally, we also have deputies on patrol in Bear Hole Reservoir and on the Connecticut River Walk and Bikeway. These positions will no longer be filled, unless paid/reimbursed by the agency/municipality.

Marine Patrol Unit and Hampden County Regional Dive Team - Last year, the regional water safety team conducted 119 patrols on the Connecticut River and Lake Congamond, supported 55 public events, and performed multiple search and recovery operations. The unit, along with the specialized underwater recovery team that assists local agencies during missing-person and recovery incidents, will transition to a part-time operation based primarily on paid/reimbursed assignments or emergency dispatches.

Holyoke Police Partnership - In partnership with Holyoke Police, the HCSO has sent deputies to assist HPD with large events like the St. Patrick's Road Race and Parade. Additionally, the Sheriff has two deputies who run programs to connect at-risk individuals with addiction recovery and treatment resources. In the last fiscal year, that unit provided 2,857 successful outreach contacts, 1,049 referrals, and transported 338 people to treatment and Medication Assisted Treatment programs, bridging the gap between law enforcement and recovery. These positions will no longer be staffed, unless paid/reimbursed by the city of Holyoke.

HCSO Drone Unit- Presently the HCSO Drone Unit provides support to law enforcement partners across the region in everything from investigations, violent stand-offs and missing person cases. This unit will remain available for emergency responses, but not for non-emergency situations without a funding mechanism to reimburse the department.

Other specialized response teams — including the Crisis Negotiation Team, Emergency Medical Response Team, and Search and Rescue Team — will continue to be evaluated as part of the broader restructuring effort. "These are highly skilled teams that provide important support during critical incidents," Cocchi said. "Our goal is to preserve as much of that capability as possible while adjusting to the fiscal constraints we're facing."

Sheriff Cocchi said he remains committed to working with the Legislature and state officials as discussions continue regarding the long-term funding structure for sheriffs' offices.

"The Inspector General's report made clear that the current budgeting process has become difficult to navigate for everyone involved," Cocchi said. "Our goal is to be transparent, responsible, and collaborative as we work through these challenges with hopes of being funded fairly, with respect to the national reputation of our office based on our staff's dedication to changing lives."

## Win a trip to Italy while supporting hospice patients in need

CHICOPEE - Local nonprofit Harmony House of Western Massachusetts invites the community to take a chance on winning a trip to Italy for two while supporting its mission and residents.

The nonprofit is selling tickets for \$100 per chance to win a guided trip for two to Italy, with several destinations, including Rome, Capri, and the Amalfi Coast, from October 10-20, 2026.

Only 250 chances will be sold and the prize package-valued at \$9,900-includes airfare, accommodations, transportation, meals, and a curated travel experience, making it a unique

opportunity for community members to help care for their neighbors facing terminal illness. Profits from the raffle will directly support Harmony House's mission of providing a home with compassionate end-of-life care and companionship to hospice patients in need, regardless of their financial status or any other circumstances.

This is the second year Harmony House has hosted the fundraiser. Last year's winners, Jerry and Marilyn, reflected on their experience, sharing, "You buy something like this and assume that it would just be a donation, but this was the trip of a lifetime!

Great trip, brand new buses, guides were very knowledgeable, and the information session at Figaro's Restaurant before the trip was very informative."

Tickets are available for purchase now through Thursday, June 4, and the drawing will take place via Facebook Live on Friday, June 5. Visit [HarmonyHouse-WMA.org/ItalyRaffle](https://www.harmonyhouse-wma.org/ItalyRaffle) for purchase options, trip itinerary, and terms and conditions. Tickets are also available for purchase at Figaro's Restaurant in Enfield, Pizza Lino in Chicopee, and the office of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish in Westfield.

## Amelia Park Children's Museum announces plans for 'Farm in the Woods'

WESTFIELD - Diane Chambers, executive director of Amelia Park Children's Museum has announced plans for a unique outdoor playscape called Farm in the Woods, scheduled to open this summer.

In 2025, the museum was awarded a grant through the Beveridge Family Foundation for concept, construction and fabrication of the outdoor play space. The funding allowed the museum to hire Panoptic Design/Build, a museum exhibit designer and fabricator, based in West Springfield to create designs.

The project was also

funded in part by the Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism with state funding secured by Senator John Velis and Representative Kelly Pease.

"Panoptic is so excited to be working on the Farm in the Woods exhibit for the Amelia Park Children's Museum, with a community that has earnestly and enthusiastically supported this project. The Farm in the Woods is intended to bring out the best parts of growing up on a farm in New England: Curious observation, secret hideaways, exciting adventures, and always something new to discover.

It examines the place of farms in the broader ecosystem, exploring themes of biodiversity and connectedness with playful interactivities. We look forward to visitors coming here for the classic outdoor fun of sand, slides, and garden beds, and returning again and again with their friends and families to keep building curiosity and resilience," said Panoptic designer Terra Fletcher.

Sponsorships for Farm in the Woods are still available. For more information, contact [diane@ameliapark-museum.org](mailto:diane@ameliapark-museum.org), 413-572-4014.

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## Suffield Garden Club hosts May Market

SUFFIELD, CT - When you see the merry, yellow and white striped tents next to the Phelps-Hatheway House barn in Suffield, CT, you know it's time for May Market

Now in its 48th year, the Suffield Garden Club's May Market always delights. Thirty-five vendors will be offering everything from plants, garden art, pottery, house signs, metal work, wooden ware, unique wreaths, and second-hand treasures to power equipment, jewelry

and food. Shoppers can patronize returning favorites as well as new additions like the Dirty Sip, an on-trend drink that mixes soda with flavored syrup and creamer. Also new this year is live entertainment for children and adults in the Summer House just south of the main house.

Gardeners can enjoy extra benefits such as the availability of Spear Head Spades, roses and shrubs, and Suffield High School's Agriscience students with a selection of student-grown plants and herbs. The Garden Club also offers "Member Plants" - locally grown perennials and annuals at amazingly low prices - and free gardening advice at the

Club's booth.

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

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, high school scholarships, town conservation, horticulture education, and garden therapy programs.

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# Fish Ladder Open House set for Sunday

WESTFIELD – Hundreds of people are expected to gather along the Westfield River on Sunday, May 17 to watch the American Shad as they migrate upstream to spawn. The Fish Ladder Open House is a free event sponsored each year by the Westfield River Watershed Association (WRWA.) This year's activities celebrate World Fish Migration Day which recognizes the ecological, cultural, economic, and recreational importance of fish migration.

Community members are welcome to stop by and check out the annual migration of our large native fish. From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. WRWA members will offer short tours along the canal and dam at the former Southworth Paper Company on Front Street in West Springfield.

"Come and witness this spectacular migration event!" exclaims Joseph Boulia, the newest member of the WRWA Board. "Our anadromous fish swim hundreds of miles through open ocean, the Connecticut River, and into our very own watershed just to spawn at the very place they were born. This mass migration has been happening for thousands of years and plays an important part in our ecosystem health." Boulia, a scientist with a spe-

cialty in native fish loves to share his excitement with the public. "It's a great way for all families to enjoy the beautiful Westfield River and all of the natural wonders that inhabit it.

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

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

been nesting along the Westfield River," adds Damon.

This free, family-friendly and teen-friendly activity is open to the public, rain or shine. The walk to the fish ladder is about ten minutes down an accessible dirt path. Participants are encouraged to wear appropriate shoes and to dress for the weather; binoculars are helpful for bird-watching and seeing the wildlife up close. There is little shade along the open canal, so umbrellas, parasols and big hats are a good choice on warm, sunny days.

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

According to Caleb Slater of Mass. Fish & Wildlife, people can see the shad as they rest and gather strength at the bottom of the dam before they head up the fish ladder itself. "It's a powerful experience to watch them, knowing how far these fish have travelled from the ocean and where they still need to swim to spawn."



Stephen Mattocks of Mass Fish & Wildlife, Todd Provost of West Springfield, and Jim Driscoll of Westfield at the Fish Ladder along the Westfield River in 2024.

The American Shad (*Alosa sapidissima*), which are typically 20-24" long, can be found along the entire North Atlantic Coast from Labrador to Florida. Cleaner waters, fewer dams, and fish passageways such as the one in West Springfield are continuing to improve shad populations. Shad are anadromous, spending most of their lives at sea in salt water then returning to spawn in freshwa-

ter streams. Those native to this area typically survive to spawn repeatedly for up to ten years. This annual fish run has been an integral food source for the Connecticut River Valley since the native people, and later colonists, began fishing and drying them. Local fishermen today continue catching shad during the year-round open season.

For more information

about the Westfield River Watershed Association and its activities, visit [www.westfieldriver.org](http://www.westfieldriver.org). The Westfield River Watershed Association was established in 1953 to protect and improve the natural resources of the watershed, as well as to expand recreational and other land use opportunities for people's enjoyment and for sound ecology.

## Golf Tournament to support Wreaths Across America

AGAWAM — The Friends of the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Agawam and the Friends of the Agawam Veterans Council proudly announce their Second Annual Golf Tournament in support of Wreaths Across America, a national effort to honor and remember our fallen veterans during the holiday season.

This exciting event promises a day of camaraderie, remembrance, and community support. Golfers, sponsors, and community members are invited to participate and help lay wreaths at the graves of veterans resting at the Agawam Veterans Memorial Cemetery this December.

The Tournament will be held on June 28. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. and golfing starts at 12 noon at Agawam Municipal Golf Course. The costs are \$135

for an individual golfer, \$540 for a team of four, \$30 for dinner only, and \$100 to sponsor a tee. Other sponsorships are also available. To Register or Sponsor, contact Marline Claremont at 413-221-9548 or email [wreathfriends@gmail.com](mailto:wreathfriends@gmail.com). Registration forms are available upon request. Join us in honoring those who served with a round of golf, good food, and great company—all for a noble cause.

celebration on Thursday, May 7.

Agawam: David Abramchuk, Aidan Cavanaugh, Ken-na Rainville.  
Feeding Hills: Jose Dejesus, Grace Leiper, Giuliana Silva.

## Craft Beer Tasting event set for June 19

AGAWAM – The popular Summer Craft Beer Tasting and BBQ fundraiser will return to the historic Captain Charles Leonard House, 663 Main Street, Agawam, on Friday evening, June 19, 2026. The event will take place rain or shine, from 6 to 9 p.m., and will benefit preservation efforts at the 1805 former stage tavern, which has served as Agawam's Community House since 1939.

The event, sponsored by McCarthy's Liquors of Agawam and Phipps Discount

Liquors of Feeding Hills, will feature a wide variety of local and craft beers, live music, raffles, and food. Joey's Deli & Market will provide barbecue and Captain Leonard House Trustees will grill hot dogs and ham burgers.

Advance tickets are \$50 per person, available at McCarthy's Liquors, 430 Main Street, Agawam, (413) 786-9537, and Phipps Discount Liquors 1350 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, (413) 786-8471. Ticket includes food.

Tickets will also be available at the door for \$55 per person.

Guests must be at least 21 years old with a valid ID to attend this event.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Agawam Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a State agency.

More information about the Captain Charles Leonard House can be found at [Facebook.com/captainleonardhouse](https://facebook.com/captainleonardhouse).

## HCC celebrates Phi Theta Kappa inductees announced for 2026

Holyoke Community College is proud to announce that 169 HCC students have been accepted for membership into the Alpha Xi Omega chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa national honor society for

2026. Students are invited to join Phi Theta Kappa when they have completed 15 college credits while maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

HCC's 2026 inductees were recognized during a campus



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# Opinion

## Guest Column



### I'm still working; why didn't I get a higher Social Security benefit?

**Dear Rusty:**

I began collecting benefits at age 72 and am now 78.

Since that time, I have continued to work and have contributed over \$40,000 to Social Security over the last six years. At the time of my retirement, I was informed that the Social Security Administration would review my contributions annually and replace lower-earning years from my 35-year record with my current higher-earning years.

Despite my current annual income exceeding \$100,000, I have not seen an increase in my benefit amount over the past six years. I recently met with an SSA representative, who confirmed that my benefits are being reviewed annually but did not provide specific details or evidence of these adjustments. Could you please advise me on how to formally verify that my benefits are being accurately reviewed and updated to reflect my continued contributions?

Signed: Collecting and Still Working

**Dear Collecting:**

For information, your contributions from Federal Insurance Contributions Act payroll taxes to Social Security over the last six years are not what determines if you get an increase to your monthly SS benefit.

Although you contributed to SS since you started receiving SS benefits, those contributions do not affect your monthly SS benefit. Your monthly SS benefit is based only the highest inflation-adjusted 35 years of earnings over your lifetime. And for your monthly benefit to change, your current earnings each year would need to replace at least one of those 35 historical, inflation-adjusted year earnings.

We regularly hear from those who do benefit from SSA's regular review of work earnings after they start receiving monthly SS benefits, and our Advisory staff includes two individuals with a combined 70 years of service with the Social Security Administration. Thus, we are comfortable saying that SSA does, in fact, review your earnings annually to see if your monthly SS payment should be higher.

From a process standpoint, SSA receives your annual earnings information from the IRS (i.e., directly from your annual tax return) by mid-year annually, after which SSA evaluates your recent earnings to see if an increase in your monthly SS benefit is warranted. If so, that increase is automatically applied, usually around October each year and you are paid the extra amount retroactively to the beginning of the year.

What you may not realize is that your lifetime earnings (your historical earnings) are adjusted for inflation. This is a good thing, because that means your current monthly SS benefit is calculated using today's dollar values for your past earnings, rather than the actual money amounts you originally earned and received.

For example, \$50,000 of 1990 earnings would be worth about \$125,000 today. Which also means that those 1990 earnings would only yield a higher current Social Security benefit if your recent earnings were more than \$125,000. And this is true for all 35 years of lifetime earnings used to calculate your current monthly Social Security benefit.

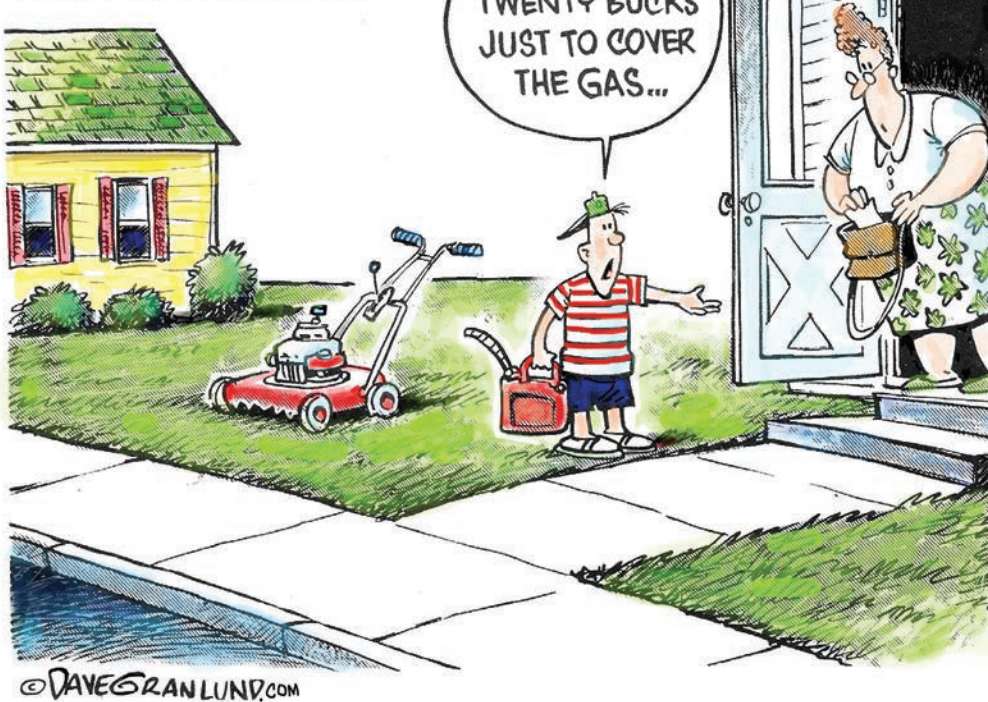
The best way for you to ensure that you are getting the right monthly benefit amount is to first obtain your lifetime earnings history from Social Security. This is most easily obtained through your online "my Social Security" account at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount). If you don't have an online account set up, you can also request an "Earnings Statement" by calling Social Security at 1.800.772.1213 (or call your local SS field office to request it). Next, I suggest you use Social Security's "Online Benefits Calculator" explained and available at this link:

<https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/Any piaApple.html>

If, after this, you believe you should be getting a higher monthly SS benefit because of your recent earnings, you can again contact SSA and tell them you believe they did not properly adjust your current SS benefit for your most recent earnings. Following that, you can submit a "Request for Reconsideration" (form SSA-561) which will result in a full separate review of your case by an independent SSA person, followed (some months later) by a formal written determination on your assertion. If you received a letter from SSA because of your previous meeting with them, include a copy of that letter with your "Request for Reconsideration."

*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 [ssadvisior@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisior@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*

### This summer...



## Rhubarb, a perennial fruit worth growing

Recently I was chatting with a coworker who has a dozen varieties of rhubarb.

Yes, rhubarb. He asked if I wanted a division or two.

Although I love all things old, and this fruit (yes, fruit) is considered about as old-fashioned as they come, I politely declined. Rhubarb and I don't particularly get along.

But, that doesn't mean I'll knock anyone who can eat it and not visit the bathroom. All the more power to them.

Read on for some rhubarb trivia that just may earn you a prize on your next cruise.

Back in the day when everyone made time for baking, or baked out of necessity, rhubarb was indispensable in the garden. Today, most folks figure they can buy what they need when they long to make a strawberry-rhubarb pie or some preserves.

I say, "Why buy it,

when it is so easy to grow?" And, as an added bonus, it may just out live you!

Rhubarb was featured on a cooking show and a lengthy discussion evolved between the celebrity cooks about whether it was a fruit or a vegetable. I never did hear the resolution, but did a little research of my own. Apparently, rhubarb is a vegetable but after a court decision in 1947 it is legally a fruit and was not subject to taxation of the time.

The best time for planting rhubarb is early through mid-spring. If you are lucky enough to know someone with an established patch,

it is very likely they will give you all of the divisions you need and then some.

You can also purchase roots or small potted plants from local nurseries. For an average family of four, plan on two or three divisions.

Rhubarb will do best in a spot in the yard that is in full sun or light shade. Most gardeners locate it separately from or at one end of the main vegetable garden.

Since we are dealing with a perennial plant, think carefully about where you site it- you may have to live with your decision for decades! Amend the soil with lots of organic matter prior to planting; the richer the better.

Finished compost or aged manure fit the bill just fine, and since rhubarb prefers slightly acidic soil, you'll want to hold the lime.

If you are getting divisions

GARDEN I page 5

## Being an advocate in the emergency room

In the emergency room, the health-care system's shortcomings are laid bare. Not enough nursing staff, too little communication, confusing interactions.

I have seen that effective advocacy, whether from a family member, friend, or professional patient advocate, can have a positive impact on emergency room outcomes. Caregivers, who are usually familiar with their loved one's care and medical conditions, have the ability to act as advocates and perhaps make up for some of the shortcomings we find in ERs.

The tips I will outline aren't easy, and they sometimes run counter to the natural fear or

your health



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN

Guest Column



even panic that accompanies a trip to the ER. But you will be doing your loved one and yourself a favor if you can remember them.

**Evaluate whether going to the ER is necessary.**

Patients present themselves at the emergency room with issues that could and should be handled by a primary care doctor or urgent care center. The result, of course, is an even more overburdened emergency room.

Go to the ER when there's:

- Chest pain or pressure (possible heart attack)
- Difficulty breathing (asthma attack, pulmonary embolism)
- Sudden numbness or weakness (stroke symptoms)
- Severe bleeding (uncontrolled, deep wounds)
- Head injuries with confusion/vomiting (possible concussion)
- Severe burn or fracture (bone protruding, major burns)
- Poisoning or overdose
- Seizure lasting more than 5 minutes

**Bring a list of the patient's current medications and allergies.**

Electronic health records (EHR) have done a lot to improve coordination of care, but the various systems

HEALTH I page 5

**AGAWAM**  
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*Agawam Advertiser News*

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Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice**

listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) 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.*

## 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 Thursday'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*.

# Hanscom Federal Credit Union and Alden Credit Union announce plan to join forces to expand financial wellness, innovation and member impact

CHICOPEE - Alden Credit Union and Hanscom Federal Credit Union today announced that their respective Boards of Directors have unanimously approved a strategic partnership and merger plan designed to expand resources, enhance services, and strengthen long-term financial stability for Alden members.

After an extensive and carefully planned search process, Alden Credit Union selected Hanscom Federal Credit Union as a partner that shares its deep commitment to personalized service, community engagement, and member financial well-being.

Upon completion, the combined organization will operate under the name Hanscom Federal Credit Union and will be led by Peter Rice as President and Chief Executive Officer, with Adam Corcoran, CEO of Alden Credit Union, serving as Regional President, ensuring continued local leadership and a strong Alden presence in Western Massachusetts.

Together, the combined credit union will serve approximately 128,000 members, manage roughly \$2.3 billion in assets, and operate 25 branches across Massachusetts, Maryland, and Virginia, including Alden Credit Union's two branch locations in Chicopee and Belchertown, Massachusetts.

All Alden employees will be retained, and Alden's branch locations will continue normal operations throughout the approval process and beyond.

"Our priority has always been our members," said Adam Corcoran, CEO of Alden Credit Union.

den Credit Union. "They trust us to protect what makes Alden special - our relationships, our local service, and our commitment to their financial well-being. After our comprehensive search, it was clear that Hanscom Federal Credit Union was the right partner to help us preserve those values while expanding the tools, technology, and educational resources available to our members."

Corcoran continued, "This partnership allows Alden to remain deeply rooted in our community while giving our members access to broader financial wellness programs, innovative services, and long-term strength. Most importantly, our members will continue to see the same familiar faces and receive the same personalized care they count on every day."

"This is a partnership grounded in shared purpose and a belief that credit unions exist to help people thrive," said Peter Rice, President and CEO of Hanscom Federal Credit Union. "Alden Credit Union has built a remarkable legacy of trust and service in its community, and we are honored to support and build upon that foundation."

If approved, the merger is expected to deliver important benefits to Alden and Hanscom members, including:

- Expanded access to branches and ATMs
- Continued investment in digital banking and innovative technology
- Increased lending capacity for home mortgages, auto loans, and small business support

- Broader access to free Certified Financial Coaching programs
- Enhanced long-term financial strength and operational resilience

Hanscom is nationally recognized for its leadership in financial wellness, anchored by its Certified Financial Coach program that provides members with free, one-on-one access to more than 45 certified coaches. Complementing this work is WealthTrek, the world's first financial questing experience, which transforms financial education into an immersive, hands-on journey that builds confidence and removes stigma around financial learning.

Adam Corcoran added, "I want to sincerely thank our Board of Directors for their thoughtful leadership and dedication throughout this process. Their focus was clear - finding a partner who would serve Alden members with the same care and integrity that has defined our credit union for generations. Hanscom Federal Credit Union shares those values, and together we are building a strong future for our members."

During the regulatory review period, Alden Credit Union and Hanscom Federal Credit Union will continue to operate independently. Members will be kept informed throughout the process and should expect no immediate changes to their accounts, services, or access.

The merger is anticipated to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2026, subject to regulatory approval and customary closing conditions.

## GARDEN ■ from page 4

from a friend's garden, ask for some from the outer portion of the patch – these roots will be the least fibrous and most eager to thrive. Keep as much soil as possible around them during transport to prevent dehydration.

If you can't transplant them the same day dig a quick hole somewhere else in the garden and "heel them in." Your other alternative would be to pot up the divisions.

In either case, water well until you can plant them attentively.

When it's time for your plants to make their way to a permanent spot, dig holes two to three feet apart. The depth of the holes will depend on the size of the divisions you have and how big their roots are.

Plant them at the same depth they were growing in your friend's garden or in the pot you bought them in. If you are planting roots, go by the buds – they should be planted about two inches below the soil surface.

During the first growing season our emphasis should be on root building. For that reason be sure that you water well and keep weeds at bay.

Do not pick stalks until the following spring, but do break off any flower buds that form. Once your patch has established itself there is no stopping it! All you'll need to do to maintain it is provide a topdressing of compost or rotted manure each spring and weed as needed.

## HEALTH ■ from page 4

sometimes don't "talk" to each other. Not only that, the medications and dosages listed in an EHR aren't always up to date.

Keep a list of current medications, including how many milligrams are prescribed and the frequency, printed out and kept in a "go bag" that you can grab on the way out the door. This can save precious moments in the ER.

### Understand the triage process.

People who need immediate life-saving care, or who appear to be having heart attack or stroke, are considered Level 1 and Level 2 patients and will be seen almost immediately.

Your loved one will be evaluated and, if it's determined they're not in imminent danger, you likely will have to wait. If the wait feels too long, calmly and courteously ask at the desk how much longer it may be.

### Be able to summarize the patient's conditions and what brought them to the ER.

The patient may be able to do this themselves, but I find they usually downplay certain things or even omit them. If your loved one has heart disease, diabetes, chronic kidney disease, allergies and previous surgeries, the clinicians need to know as soon as possible.

### Have the patient's ID and

### insurance card with you.

One of the first people through the door (faster probably than any doctor) will be from admissions, and they will need information to register your loved one as a patient: photo ID and types of insurance.

Also, if you're not the spouse or the patient is your child over the age of 18, you will need their permission to receive medical information from the clinicians. The patient can give permission verbally, but having a signed HIPAA form or durable medical power of attorney is better.

### Be familiar with the patient's preferences for care.

Some people don't want blood transfusions. Some don't want to be resuscitated if their heart stops beating or intubated if they stop breathing. The best way to provide this information is with a living will or advanced care directive. Bring copies with you.

### Make sure your loved one is comfortable.

If they need more pillows or a heated blanket, ask for them. If it's OK for them to drink water (they may not if the docs feel there may be a surgery), get them some. Talk to your patient about what's going on, what's being said to you and what they can expect.

### When you hear, "We're admitting you," understand what that means.

Of course, you will also want to pick as much as you can! No knife is needed: simply hold the stem near the base and give it a quick pull along with a gentle twist.

Use only the stem since the foliage is known to be toxic.

The patch will need dividing every 5-10 years; the perfect time to offer up divisions to your friends!

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 34 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.*

Is your patient being admitted for observation, which may have an impact on insurance coverage? Is an in-patient room available, or will they have to remain in the ER? What unit will they be admitted to, for example intensive care?

### Listen carefully to the discharge instructions, ask questions and take them seriously.

The most common reason people return to the ER is not following discharge instructions. This may include what activities to avoid or new medications to take. The most important instruction is often "follow up with your primary care doctor within 72 hours." Don't brush them off.

It's easy to feel lost in the ER. The staff is there to help you, so speak up as an advocate and remember to say "thank you."

*Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, R.N., a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of [www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com](http://www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com), which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. A Monson, MA resident, she is the author of "How to Be a Healthcare Advocate for Yourself & Your Loved Ones" and her new book, "Advocating Well: Strategies for Finding Strength and Understanding in Health Care," available at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com). Contact her at [Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com](mailto:Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com) to set up a free phone consultation.*

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of Memorial Day, there will be an **EARLY AD DEADLINE** To advertise, place your ad no later than **NOON Thursday, May 21** – Thank you!

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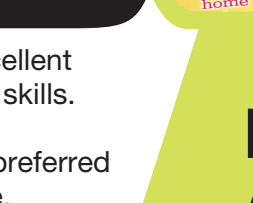
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**CLUES ACROSS**  
1. Notable casino destination  
6. Current units  
10. Roman military unit  
14. American lizard  
15. Fates  
17. The Yankees have lots of these  
19. Unhappy  
20. Mimic  
21. Remove from the record  
22. Where cargo ships dock (abbr.)  
23. A way to fight  
24. Turfs  
26. Contract  
29. Country along the Arabian peninsula  
31. Tree species  
32. Pituitary gland secretion (abbr.)  
34. Perfect  
35. "Partner" to groans  
37. Jewish calendar

**CLUES DOWN**  
1. Animal jaws  
2. Small water buffalo  
3. An appliance has

month  
38. Where wrestlers work  
39. Egotistical  
40. Potted plants  
41. Containers  
43. Large, flightless birds  
45. Part of a book  
46. American spies  
47. Pancakes made of buckwheat flour  
49. Swiss river  
50. Disfigure  
53. Have surgery  
57. Formal withdrawal  
58. Early English council  
59. Area units  
60. 2,000 lbs.  
61. Siskel and \_\_\_\_

one  
4. Every  
5. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)  
6. Very skilled  
7. No more than what is specified  
8. Tire measurement  
9. Towers  
10. Forward  
11. Jacob \_\_\_\_, American journalist  
12. Vale  
13. Former CIA  
16. Middle Eastern nation  
18. Exhausts  
22. South Dakota  
23. The complete duration of something  
24. Kids love him  
25. Singular  
27. Cod genus  
28. Mild yellow Dutch cheese

29. Resistance unit  
30. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea  
31. Cast out  
33. 60-minute periods  
35. Most worn  
36. European river  
37. Atomic mass unit  
39. Items of food  
42. Body parts  
43. Ireland  
44. Partner to Pa  
46. Sammy \_\_\_\_, songwriter  
47. Dutch settler  
48. Full-grown pike fish  
49. Sun or solar disk  
50. Minute arachnid  
51. From a distance  
52. A monthly expense  
53. Young women's association  
54. Brazilian state  
55. Air freight provider  
56. Pointed end of a pen

# Senior Center announces some upcoming activities

AGAWAM – Here are some upcoming activities happening at the Agawam Senior Center. Some require registration or confirmation. Information in the details below:

**Carfit helps improve comfort and safety “Fit” for Senior Drivers**  
*Friday, May 15 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon*

To help the 10,000 Americans turning 65 every day and all senior drivers find a better “fit” with their cars for comfort and safety, mobility experts are hosting a safety program designed to help older drivers and their families. CarFit is national program developed by AAA, AARP and the American Occupational Therapy Association and is designed to give a quick, yet comprehensive check on how well an older driver and their vehicle work together. Agawam Senior Center will host CarFit check-ups at the former senior center parking lot behind Agawam Housing Authority. At a CarFit event,

trained volunteers complete a 12-point checklist with each driver. Among the items checked are: correct position of driver’s seat, driver’s ability to easily reach pedals, and proper adjustment of mirrors.

Occupational therapists are on hand also to provide a consultation, if needed, that will teach drivers how to maintain and improve aspects related to their driving health. The therapist can also provide information to participants addressing individual needs, including information about local community resources on exercise, nutrition and other programs to help keep them safe on the road. It is critically important that mature drivers make safety a personal priority. Driving today is more difficult than ever because of increased traffic congestion, longer commute distances, new technology and faster speeds. Older drivers can take important measures to mitigate the stress associat-

ed with driving. CarFit is an opportunity for older drivers to make sure their personal vehicles are adjusted to their needs. Call Kristina to register for this great opportunity 413.726.2836.

**Powerback Rehab Seminar**  
*Tuesday, May 19 at 1 p.m. in the Garden Room*

“Why travel for outpatient therapy? Powerback Rehab to You provides rehabilitation services in your home or meeting you out in the community. Come join Emily from Powerback and learn about the different ways PT and OT can not only help you remain safe in your home but continue doing the things you love without having to drive to a clinic.”

**Sheryl Faye as: Ruth Bader Ginsburg – “I Dissent”**

*Tuesday, May 19 at 5:30 p.m. Dining Room*

Ruth Bader Ginsburg was an American lawyer and jurist who served as an associate justice of the Supreme

Court of the United States from 1993 until her death in September 2020. She was the second woman and the first Jewish woman ever appointed to the Court and became the longest serving Jewish Justice. She championed fairness and equality and objected to different expectations for men and women, prejudice against minority groups in places like hotels and restaurants, and women having fewer job opportunities than men. Ruth served on the national board of the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) and launched The Women’s Rights Project. She continued to be a leading voice for gender equality, women’s interests, and civil rights and liberties. Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s life continues to be one of achievement: as a lawyer, professor of law, a judge, and then a Supreme Court justice, she stands out because she was not afraid to dissent, disapprove, and disagree with conditions of unfairness and inequality.

This show is the inspiring story of how she changed her life—and ours. Call 821-0605 to sign up

**CPR and AED Training**  
*Wednesday, May 20 from 1 to 3 p.m. in Veterans Hall*

The Agawam Senior Center is extremely excited to offer this potentially ‘life saving class’ to our staff and any senior interested in joining us. On Wednesday, May 20 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Veterans Hall we will be offering CPR and AED training with Marsha Chappel from Baystate Hospital. Marsha is the certified AED and CPR trainer at Baystate Hospital and has kindly offered her training to the Agawam Senior Center. The cost is a \$20 donation due on the day of the class, all monies collected on that day will be donated to the American Heart Association. If you are interested in joining this class, PLEASE call Kristina at 413.726.2836 to reserve your spot. Spaces will be limited to 25.

**Comedy Show**  
*Wednesday, May 20 at 1 p.m. in the Auditorium*

Comedians “On The Hill” are better than Under the Hill. Hosted by Angela Grout, better known in the comic world as-Tangela G. Join Tangela G & friends for an hour of laughter with 5 comics from WMASS. This comedy showcase is filled with humorous stories, and laughs for those over the limit in age or miles.

**Hearing Checks with Gary**  
*Thursday, May 21 by appointment*

The next New Ears hearing care clinic will take place on Thursday, May 21. Gary Winn a licensed Hearing Instrument Specialist, and owner of New Ears Hearing Care, will conduct a free hearing clinic. He will check ears for wax build-up, perform hearing screenings, and counsel people about hearing loss. Hearing aids will be cleaned and adjusted if possible. Call 821-0604 to make an appointment. Hearing checks will take place in the seminar hall.

# New kids, teen activities available at Agawam Public Library

AGAWAM – April showers bring May flowers, which works beautifully for us at the Agawam Library, as we have just rolled out our brand new plant inspired logo! We are also rolling out a slightly smaller program roster this month as we begin our Summer Reading Challenge preparations. Our Summer Reading Challenge will begin Monday, June 29th and go through August 8th. During the Summer Reading Challenge there will be lots of activities, games, and prizes to keep kids of all ages reading throughout the summer. But we still have some fun activities planned before that. Below is a listing of everything that’s going on for kids & teens this month. Some events require registration. To register, call 413-789-1550 ext 3 or go to

our website [agawamlibrary.org](http://agawamlibrary.org).

**Art and Stories - For ages 3 – 5**  
*Tues. May 26 at 9:30 a.m. - Drop-in*

Join us for a short story time followed by an art project. We will explore simple art concepts and experiment with materials. Please wear clothing that can get messy!

**Baby Story Time - For birth – 18 mo.**  
*Thursday, May 14 and 28 at 9:30 a.m. - Drop-in*

Join us as we learn a little American Sign Language, read stories, sing, & play together.

**Family Movie: Lilo & Stitch (2002) – For all ages**  
*Thursday, May 21 at 6 p.m. - Drop-in*  
Join us for a showing of

the original Lilo & Stitch film. Bring a small (not messy) picnic to eat during the movie. We’ll have some snacks and coloring sheets available during the movie.

**Family Take and Make Crafts – For all ages**  
*First Day of the Week & Thursdays - While supplies last - Drop-in & pick up.*

A new Take & Make craft will be available the first day of each week and again on Thursdays. May 7: Foam Owl Ornament May 11 and 14: Butterfly Hand Puppet May 18 and 21: Construction Site Scene May 26 and 28: Robot Mask

**Grow, play and Learn - This program is provided by Pathways for Parents.**  
*Wednesdays and Fridays Ages 0-2 at 9:30 am Ages 3-5 at 10:30 a.m. - Drop-in.*  
Stories, songs and skill

building, led by an Early Childhood Developmental trained staff member, guiding caregivers in strengthening interactions with their child.

**Polymer Clay Crafting - For students in grades 5-6**  
*Wednesday, May 27 at 6 p.m. - Registration is required*

Come craft small trinkets out of polymer clay! We’ll be able to bake it in our mini oven to set it for you.

**Pre-K Pals - For ages 3 - 5 This program is provided by Pathways for Parents.**  
*Mondays in May at 11 a.m. - Registration is required*

No class Mon. May 25 Each week, we will focus on an area of development and provide fun activities to support your child to learn through play.  
**Special Saturday Drop-in**

**Craft: Dogs in Rain Gear Craft - For All Ages**  
**Saturday, May 30**

*All Day - While supplies last - Drop-in and pick up.*

These pups are playing in the rain. This craft kit features two different designs that show images of dogs in colorful rain gear holding umbrellas and grinning while standing in the falling rain.

**Spring Carnival - For all ages.**  
*Wednesday, May 20 at 6 p.m. - Registration is required*

Celebrate Spring with fun activities, crafts, and games! This program is hosted by the Agawam Public Library Teen Advisory Board.

**Teen After School Drop-in - For grades 9-12**  
*Every Monday the Agawam Public Schools are in session at 2 p.m.*

Stop by the library after school and visit the Activity Room. Play our Nintendo Switch, try out the air hockey table, eat snacks, or just hang out. No registration necessary. Note: there is no drop-in on Monday, 5/25.

**Teen Take and Make Craft – For grades 7-12**  
*Available starting Friday, May 1*

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.

**Teen Trivia Thursday – For grades 7-12**  
*Every Thursday the Agawam Public Schools are in session 2 to 3:30 p.m.*

Visit the Teen Space and answer a trivia question to get a small prize.

# Agawam Public Library announces May activities for adults

AGAWAM – Agawam Public Library has a great lineup of programs happening this month that you won’t want to miss! From author talks to arts and crafts, we have something for everybody.

Are you looking to focus on your fitness this spring? The library is the place to be! Join us for weekly Chair Yoga at 9:05 a.m. on Wednesdays in the Clini Community Room. Led by yoga instructor Heidi Taberman, these drop-in classes are perfect for folks of all fitness levels. Qigong for Spring is a weekly class held throughout the season that will help you harness the expansive energy of spring to

build strength and flexibility while balancing mind, body, and spirit for a fresh new year. With similarities to yoga and tai chi, Qigong is an ancient healing art that blends fitness, breathwork, and meditation. Classes are drop-in and will meet on Tuesdays at 11 a.m. in the Clini Community Room through June 23. Have you been trying to find ways to increase your daily step count? Are you looking for other people who might want to get some fresh air and exercise? Join the Agawam Public Library Walking Group! On Saturday, May 30 at 9 a.m., librarian Kristen Frost will lead participants

for a morning session of movement and motion at School Street Park in Agawam. Registration is required so we know how many walkers to expect. Please meet at the Corey Street entrance of School Street Park under the pavilion.

Our monthly programs are a great way for folks to pursue their interests or try out something new. Tea and Trivia returns on Tuesday, May 19 at 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday, May 20 at 2:30 p.m. in the Clini Community Room. We’ll have a couple of rounds of both Jeopardy and pub-style trivia, and prizes will be awarded

to the winning teams. The questions are the same for both sessions, so register for the time you prefer and join us for some fun! Are you a writer looking to connect with other writers? Join our Writers Group hosted by author Katherine Anderson on Thursday, May 21 at 6 p.m. in the Peirce Conference Room. This in-person workshop is open to writers of all levels and genres. There will be opportunities for peer and host feedback, learning the basics of self-publishing, finding opportunities for submission to magazines, literary journals, and presses, assembling a portfolio, and the basics

of a query package for submissions and publications. Please register to attend!

Do you need help using digital library resources like Libby, Hoopla, or Kanopy? Our One-on-One Library Tech Help Appointments make it a breeze to get started! We’ll have three 45-minute appointments on Wednesday, May 20 between 5:30 and 8 p.m. as well as Tuesday, May 26 between 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. To book an appointment, please visit [bit.ly/APLTech](http://bit.ly/APLTech). Please note that these appointments are for help with library resources, not general tech help.

Bestselling author Nir

Eyal will explore this question as he discusses his new book Beyond Belief: The Science-Backed Way to Stop Limiting Yourself and Achieve Extraordinary Results on Tuesday, May 19 at 2 p.m. To register to attend any or all of these virtual talks, please call the library or visit [libraryc.org/agawamlibrary](http://libraryc.org/agawamlibrary).

Thank you to the Agawam Center Library Association and the Friends of the Agawam Library for sponsoring select library programs. Please note that the library will be closed on Monday, May 25 in observance of Memorial Day.



## The best of two worlds

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**12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES**  
Agawam Advertiser News • Barre Gazette • Country Journal • Chicopee Register  
Ware River News • The Journal Register • The Register • Quabog Current  
Sentinel • The Holyoke Sun • The Wilbraham-Hampden Times • Town Reminder

# Photo Group to host Malcolm-Brown on May 18

BELCHERTOWN – The Quabbin Photo Group (QuabbinPhotoGroup.com) will host a presentation by Western Massachusetts landscape photographer Jamie Malcolm-Brown on Monday, May 18 at 7 p.m. at the Belchertown Recreation Department, 66 State Street, located behind the Belchertown Police Station.

His presentation, “Weather, Light, and Luck: The Reality Behind the Shot,” will offer an in-depth look at the decision-making process behind his images. Attendees will gain insight into how he scouts locations, uses tools such as PhotoPills, tracks weather patterns, and adapts when conditions change unexpectedly.

Rather than focusing solely on technical settings, Malcolm-Brown will emphasize the realities of fieldwork that include missed oppor-

tunities, shifting plans, and the importance of flexibility. The program will highlight how learning to pivot can lead to stronger, more compelling photographs that convey a sense of place and story.

“We’re really looking forward to learning how Jamie puts together his incredible images,” said QPG President Mark Lindhult. “He has an impressive ability to capture absolutely stellar images.” You can see his photographs at [www.jamiemalcolm-brown.com](http://www.jamiemalcolm-brown.com) or on Instagram at @jamiemalcombrown.

Malcolm-Brown, a self-taught photographer with more than two decades of experience, works primarily throughout the Pioneer Valley, focusing on capturing wild places shaped by fog, storms, night skies, and other fleeting natural conditions. His professional work

with Cultural Survival, an Indigenous rights organization, informs his approach to land conservation and visual storytelling.

The event is open to photographers of all skill levels, as well as anyone interested in landscape photography and the natural beauty of the Quabbin region.

The Quabbin Photo Group (QuabbinPhotoGroup.com) is a community of photographers based in Belchertown with a shared interest in nature, wildlife, and landscape photography, particularly within the Quabbin Reservoir region. The group hosts regular meetings, guest speakers, workshops, and field outings designed to help photographers of all experience levels improve their skills, share their work, and connect with others who appreciate the natural environment.



A frost covered tree stump sits in the foreground as the sun began to rise on a cold November morning. It is one of many photos to be featured when Jamie Malcolm-Brown presents to the Quabbin Photo Group May 18

SUBMITTED PHOTO

# Historical Association to hold annual meeting

AGAWAM – The public is invited to the historic Captain Charles Leonard House, 663 Main Street, Agawam, for the annual meeting of the Agawam Historical Association at 6:30 pm, Thursday, May 28. Following the election of officers & directors, announcement of the Agawam Historical Association-Marilyn P. Curry Memorial Scholarship recipient, and a short business meeting, will be the featured presentation “Meet John Adams – A Lively and Revolutionary Conversation with America’s Second President.”

Acclaimed John Adams playwright George Baker will transport audience members to the Revolutionary era with his engaging and entertaining portrayal of America’s second president. Wearing historically accurate clothing and performing songs from the period,

Baker will capture the Massachusetts native’s sharp wit, principled leadership, and deep commitment to the American experiment. Baker’s portrayal is part of the association’s year-long celebration of the United States Semiquincentennial. Sheryl Faye’s one-woman show “Abigail Adams - Liberty & Legacy” was presented to a capacity crowd at the group’s March meeting. An 18th century

encampment is among activities planned for a July Fourth event at the association’s historic Thomas Smith House in Feeding Hills.

Baker has performed his one-man show throughout the country, at venues such as the New York Historical Society, the Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, and George H. W. Bush Presidential Libraries, and was featured on National Public Radio’s weekend program, Studio 360. A lawyer by profession, Baker brings clarity and credibility to Adams’s ideas through a blend of history, music, and storytelling, making Adams feel immediate and human, rather than distant and monumental. The program concludes with time for thoughtful audience questions and conversation.

This event is free and open to the public, but registration is suggested. 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 [agawam-history.org](http://agawam-history.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 private, non-profit, all-volunteer Agawam Historical Association preserves and presents Agawam and Feeding Hills history at its two locations and provides educational opportunities at its quarterly meetings. The association archives and displays artifacts pertaining to the Town of Agawam and its Fire Department in the Marilyn P. Curry History Room and Chief Russell “Rusty” Jenks Apparatus Room of the Agawam Historical & Fire House Museum, located in the former Elm Street Fire Station at 35 Elm Street in Agawam Center. The association has preserved the ca. 1757 Thomas Smith House, at 251 North West Street in Feeding Hills, in largely original, unrestored condition; the property was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2005. The association also offers an annual scholarship to an Agawam senior pursuing higher education in a history-related field. For more information, please visit [agawamhistory.org](http://agawamhistory.org) or follow the Agawam Historical Association on Instagram and Facebook. Volunteers and new members are always welcome!

# HCC transfer coordinator receives lifetime achievement award

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College Transfer Affairs Coordinator Mark Broadbent received a lifetime achievement award from the New England Transfer Association, a nonprofit association of transfer professionals from two- and four-year colleges and universities.

Broadbent, a resident of Longmeadow, was presented with the Dr. Mary E. Dunn Lifetime Achievement in Transfer Award at the association’s 2026 annual conference, which was held April 13-15 at the Hotel Northampton in Northampton, Mass. The award recognizes individuals who have made significant and sustained contributions to transfer in New England through their advocacy, leadership, and mentoring.

Broadbent has worked at HCC since 1990 and served as coordinator of transfer affairs for 34 years.

“This award is well deserved,” said Renee Tastad, assistant vice president of student affairs and enrollment management. “Mark’s work has opened doors and created transfer paths for countless HCC students. He continues to elevate HCC as a college of academic excellence through our many transfer programs.”

Each year, HCC transfers hundreds of graduating students to colleges



HCC Transfer Affairs Coordinator Mark Broadbent recently received a lifetime achievement award

and universities both near and far, with University of Massachusetts Amherst, Westfield State University, Elms College, Western New England, Smith College, and Mount Holyoke College being among its top transfer partners.

“It’s an honor, and it’s humbling,” said Broadbent. “It’s an outstanding award.”

Broadbent earned a bachelor’s degree in history from Syracuse University and a master’s degree in psychological services from Springfield College. He started working at HCC as a Springfield College intern and then moved into Admissions and the TRIO program before landing in his current position.

# HMC scores high in safety grade

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Medical Center earned an “A” Hospital Safety Grade from The Leapfrog Group, an independent national nonprofit watchdog focused on patient safety. Leapfrog assigns an “A”, “B”, “C”, “D” or “F” grade to general hospitals across the country using evidence-based measures of patient safety focused exclusively on errors, accidents, injuries and infections.

“We are very proud of our team for earning two consecutive ‘A’ grades from The Leapfrog Group,” said Spiros Hatiras, President and Chief Executive Officer of Holyoke Medical Center and Valley Health Systems. “Holyoke

Medical Center is dedicated to being a high-reliability organization, providing the very best quality care to area residents, while empowering our employees through an environment valuing respect, leadership, belonging, and emphasis on exceptional care.”

“An ‘A’ Grade is a strong sign that Holyoke Medical Center is deeply committed to protecting patients from harm,” said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. “We commend the leadership, Board, clinicians, staff and volunteers for the role each played in earning this distinction.”

The Leapfrog Hospital

Safety Grade stands as the only hospital ratings program focused solely on preventable medical errors, infections and injuries that kill more than 500 patients a day in the United States. This program is peer-reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public. Grades are updated twice annually, in the fall and spring.

To explore Holyoke Medical Center’s full grade details and to find valuable tips for staying safe in the hospital, visit [HospitalSafetyGrade.org](http://HospitalSafetyGrade.org). Connect with The Leapfrog Group on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram and stay informed through The Leapfrog Group newsletter.

# Agawam Community Artists and Artisans ‘Call for Art’

AGAWAM – Agawam Community Artists and Artisans (ACAA) is inviting artists and artisans to participate in its Sixth Annual Pioneer Valley Art Festival.

The Art Festival will be held on Friday, Aug. 21, and Saturday, Aug. 22 at the Polish American Club in Feeding Hills. Show hours are from 2 to 8 p.m. on Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

The ACAA is encouraging artists, artisans, and writers to submit their work for review. Among the artistic mediums included are watercolor, acrylic, oil, mixed

media, sculpture, photography, ceramic, stained glass, wood, fashion, textile, and jewelry.

All work must be original and handmade by the artist or artisan, of professional quality. Prints and giclees will be accepted. No kits, food, soap, candles, or AI-generated work will be accepted.

Tent space is available on the paved parking lot for \$50. Students from any area high school are accepted free of charge, and must have a tent set up.

The Pioneer Valley Art Festival is highly promoted

through local TV stations; Agawam Media Channel 15 and 1074HD; Agawam Cultural Council website; newspapers; town forums; Mailchimp; the ACAA website, [www.agawamarts.com](http://www.agawamarts.com); and the ACAA Facebook page, that has over 850 followers.

The week before the festival, there will be over 20 street signs placed around Agawam.

Further information, including registration forms, can be obtained by contacting Ceil Rossi at email: [tocarefree2@hotmail.com](mailto:tocarefree2@hotmail.com).

# Class of 1967 needs help organizing reunion

AGAWAM – Agawam High School Class of 1967 will be holding its 60th reunion sometime in calendar

year 2027. We are seeking our classmates that have not been contacted recently. Please contact John DeVec-

chi with your name, address and phone number(s) to [agawam67@aol.com](mailto:agawam67@aol.com)

Subscribe to the Agawam Advertiser News online at [agawamadvertisernews.turley.com](http://agawamadvertisernews.turley.com)

# SPORTS

## Ten-run sixth leads Agawam past Comp

CHICOPEE – Last Thursday afternoon, it was all Chicopee Comprehensive for the first four innings, as they built a 6-1 lead. But Agawam scored three in the fifth to close the gap, and then had a 10-run sixth inning to turn the game around and Agawam would defeat Chicopee Comprehensive 15-9. Cameron Vanderhoof went 3-for-5 with an RBI and three runs scored. Gavin Cruz had two hits and two walks and drove in four runs for the Brownies. Agawam improved to 5-10 for the season while Comp fell to 6-10.



Parker Bean slides into second.



Connor Glynn cleanly fields a grounder to second.



Dominic Chriscola sends a pitch home.



Cameron Vanderhoof slings a throw to first.



Gavin Cruz makes solid contact.



Zachary O'Connor catches a throw to third.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

## WSU softball wins conference title

WESTFIELD – After 10 trips to the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference softball championship game, the top-seeded Westfield State University Owls finally cashed in when first year RF Lyla Dwyer pulled a ball through the hole on the left side infield and sophomore 3B Allysa Slack scored with a head-first dive across the plate in the bottom of the ninth inning as the Owls scored a 1-0 extra innings win over #2 seed Worcester State on Sunday.

With the win, the Owls improve to 38-1 on the season, and the Owls earn the league's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. Westfield will be making its third-ever appearance in the big dance, but first since 1983. Westfield will learn their destination and opponent in the NCAA's in a live selection show on NCAA.com slated for Monday at 11.

Worcester's season comes to a close at 25-15.

The two teams dueled through seven innings scoreless at 0-0, an old-fashioned pitchers duel between the Owls Angelina Vartuli, who was named the tournament MVP, and Worcester's Peyton Maloney.

Worcester put one runner aboard in the top of the eighth on a single by Emma LaPoint, but Vartuli invoked a pair of pop ups to Slack at third to end the threat.

Westfield appeared to catch a break in the bottom of the eighth as Hannah Wodecki singled to left with one out, and the ball slipped past the fielder to put Wodecki at second base, but Mia Alfonso popped to second and Latour lined to center to go to the ninth scoreless.

Vartuli sent the Lancers down in order in the top of the ninth, with a pair of ground outs to Slack sandwiched around one to Sarah

Hough at short.

Slack doubled to right center leading off the bottom half of the inning when the ball dropped between the center and right fielder after an apparent miscommunication, and after Caroline O'Donnell popped to right, Dwyer stepped in with one out, and slashed one pitch just foul down the third base line, before finding the hole for a base hit on the game winner.

Vartuli (W, 13-0) allowed six hits over nine innings, walking just one and fanning six for her 13th win of the season.

Worcester's Maloney (L, 10-6) matched her nearly pitch for pitch, working 8.1 innings, scattering 10 hits, and walking and striking out one against an Owls lineup that entered the weekend ranked third in the country in scoring offense at almost nine runs per game.

LaTour was 2-4 with a double and O'Donnell finished 2-3 with a walk to lead the Owl bats. Carisa Andrews was the lone repeat hitter for the Lancers, finished 2-4 with a stolen base. Bailey Tammaro's double in the fifth was the lone extra base hit for the Lancers.

Worcester put two runners aboard in the second before Vartuli got a pop up to end the inning. Andrews made it as far as third in the seventh, but again Vartuli got a pop out to short to end the threat.

The Owls first true scoring chance came in the second inning after a one-out single by Cassidy LaTour followed by a Lancers error put two in scoring position. O'Donnell followed and stung a line drive back up the middle, hitting Slack who had no way to avoid the ball, causing a dead ball and sending LaTour back to third base instead of scoring the first run of the game. Maloney then escaped the threat by getting a pop up in

foul territory.

In the fifth inning, the Owls put two aboard with two outs after a single into left by Rylie Camacho. Hough stepped in and laced a liner back up the middle forcing pinch runner Kalisa Pomfret to duck as she narrowly avoided getting drilled. She could only advance up to third base causing Camacho to overrun the bag at second in expecting the runner to be sent, but the Lancers were able to tag her out in a rundown before Pomfret could cross home.

Westfield wins the MAS-CAC tournament title for the first time since the league began a post-season tournament in 2001, though the Owls had played in 10 previous finals. Westfield lost as the #1 seed in 2024 and 2025, dropping two games in the championship round to Framingham at home in 2024, and falling to Worcester in the elimination semifinal in 2025

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## Brownies qualified for state tournaments

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School boys volleyball team is once again looking to challenge for a state championship. They will have some tough challengers to contend with this season as they move toward the final stages of the regular season.

Last week, Agawam was defeated by rival Westfield 3-1. It was the second loss of the season to Westfield, and between Western Mass. and the state tournament, it is possible both teams will see each other again at least one more time. Agawam also beat Central last week 3-1 and their final regular season is set for Friday, May 15 at home against Milford High School at 6:15 p.m.

Sports

# Brownies squeeze past Falcons

AGAWAM – Agawam and Minnechaug boys lacrosse have quite a rivalry, and it has peaked this season with both teams having great seasons. But Agawam has been just a little bit better so far, going to 10-1 this season after beating Minnechaug last Tuesday 6-4. Justin Lareau had two goals while four others had single scores for the Brownies. Drew Jennings and

Tommy Hutchseon had two goals each for the Falcons. Minnechaug is 11-4 this season. Agawam has yet to lose to an opponent in Western Mass. Their only loss has come against Wachusett Regional, a Central Mass. team. Both teams are heading for the end of the regular season and could meet against in the Western Mass. tournament.



Cameron King gets ready to make a run to the goal.



Liam Grealis goes on a run toward the other end of the field.



Justin Lareau winds up for a shot on goal.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Brayden Federico holds his stick back to avoid defenders.



Andrew Bagley watches for an opening to shoot.



Jason LaRocque surveys the area for an open teammate.

# Thunderbirds complete upset of Bruins to advance in playoffs

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds outlasted the Providence Bruins, 1-0, in a goaltending duel for the ages on Thursday night inside the MassMutual Center, defeating Providence in four games to advance to the Atlantic Division Finals against the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins.

By completing the upset

of the Macgreor Kilpatrick Trophy winners, Springfield, which finished 38 points behind Providence during the regular season, completed the largest upset by point differential in Calder Cup Playoff history.

Georgi Romanov's dream postseason continued rolling along in the first period for the T-Birds, as the goaltender

made a highlight-reel stop for the second straight game in the series, stretching post-to-post to make a tremendous left pad save on Riley Tuft on a 3-on-1 Bruins rush.

Not to be outdone at the other end, AHL regular season MVP Michael DiPietro had answers for each of Springfield's eight shots on net in the first period. The

Providence backstop would not be very busy at all in the second period, needing to make just five saves, but one was notable when he flashed out the glove hand to deny a broken play attempt from the left slot by Akil Thomas.

Providence had a tremendous chance presented to them with a power play in the closing minutes of period

two, but the Springfield penalty kill continued to shine, improving to 13 out of 15 for the series and 22-for-24 in the postseason.

Neither Romanov nor DiPietro showed any signs of blinking in a busy third period for both netminders, which featured a combined 23 stops between the backstops.

For a second straight game, overtime was required, and for a third straight extra session in the postseason, the T-Birds had a hero rise to the occasion. Romanov was the first hero, as he kicked out the right leg to deny a Navrin Mutter breakaway early in the session.

Sports

T-BIRDS ■ from page 9

Then, at 4:01 of the extra session, Otto Stenberg carried the puck over the blue line, slipped a cross-ice pass to Chris Wagner, and from there, Wagner spotted Dillon Dube crashing the left side of the crease. The veteran winger did the honors from there, beating DiPietro and completing the upset with his second goal and fourth point in the four-game series.



With the win, the T-Birds will now take on the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins in the Atlantic Division Finals, beginning on Tuesday, May 12 at Casey Plaza for a 7:05 p.m. puck drop. Tickets for Game 3 (Tuesday, May 19) and Game 4 if necessary (Thursday, May 21) at the MassMutual Center are available now at [www.SpringfieldThunderbirds.com](http://www.SpringfieldThunderbirds.com).

Public Notices

PUBLIC AUCTION

The Salt Lake County Constable's Office will sell to the highest qualified bidder in public, the property described below, on **6/2/2026 at 10:00 am (Mountain)** at the following location: The courthouse front steps of the Third District Court, 8080 S Redwood Road, West Jordan, UT 84088. The opening bid, by the Lender / Secured Party, will be \$1,000.00 or such other amount Lender / Secured Party deems sufficient and appropriate. Winning bidder must pay non-refundable deposit of \$5,000.00 in the form of certified funds (bank cashier's check/money order), payable to Lender: DHM Industries, Inc., with remainder of sale proceeds paid by electronic funds transfer (EFT) or wire on or before 6/3/2026 at 2:00 pm (Mountain). Upon such sale, you will no longer have any right to the property sold and the proceeds from such sale will be used to reduce the obligations owed to the lender and secured creditor DHM Industries, Inc. until such obligations have been satisfied in full. You may request information or accounting by calling or sending an email to Spencer Macdonald, 801-709-1824, [spencer@do-hardmoney.com](mailto:spencer@do-hardmoney.com), attorney for the Lender. The property to be sold

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

is: All rights, titles and interests in and to the limited liability company membership interests in: 171 OAK STREET INDUSTRIES, LLC, held by debtor and all proceeds therefrom. The limited liability company 171 OAK STREET INDUSTRIES, LLC, owns the real property located at: 171 OAK STREET, EAST HARTFORD, CT 06118. 05/14, 05/21/2026

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Town of Agawam is requesting sealed bids for Cooper, Rowley & Suffield St. Intersection. IFB Packages will be available at 10AM 5/13. Pre-bid 5/20. Packages are available via email at [bids@agawam.ma.us](mailto:bids@agawam.ma.us). Due by 6/4/26 @ 2:30 PM. 05/14/2026

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Town of Agawam is requesting sealed bids for Road, Sidewalk, Driveway Parking Lot Maintenance. IFB Packages will be available at 10AM 5/13. Pre-bid 5/19. Packages are available via email at [bids@agawam.ma.us](mailto:bids@agawam.ma.us). Due by 5/28/26 @ 2:30 PM. 05/14/2026

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 2020-2021 school year will be destroyed after July 6, 2026. Any person(s) who have graduated, aged out, moved out of Agawam or has been dismissed from Special Education Services

Newest inductees honored at WMass Baseball Hall

HOLYOKE – The Western Massachusetts Baseball Hall of Fame Committee proudly announces members of its 2026 induction class. This year's inductees include: • Chad Paronto – Former UMass Amherst, and Major League pitcher with 177 MLB appearances. • Bill L'Heureux – Honored for his legendary umpiring career spanning decades in Western Massachusetts and across America. • Bob Bohl – A longtime figure in the baseball community in Ludlow and across

the region, recognized for his influence and service to the sport. • 2010 Amherst High School State Championship Team – Celebrated for their remarkable Division 1 State Championship season. • Steve McKelvey – MLB agent and UMass Amherst Professor, honored for his longtime service to the baseball community and contribution to the sports management profession. • Howard Herman (Gary Brown Award for Sports Media)– A respected voice in sports journalism in Western

Massachusetts, whose coverage has elevated local baseball for decades. Follow Valley Blue Sox on social media for more class of 2026 announcements and more information on each of the 2026 inductees in the coming weeks. The induction banquet will take place on Friday, June 5 at Wyckoff Country Club in Holyoke, beginning at 6 p.m. The evening will feature dinner, recognition ceremonies, and reflections on the careers and accomplishments of this year's honorees. The evening is presented

by the Valley Blue Sox and its presenting sponsor Westfield Bank. Tickets for the event are available now and can be purchased online at [www.valley-bluesox.com](http://www.valley-bluesox.com). The Western Massachusetts Baseball Hall of Fame continues its mission to preserve and celebrate the rich baseball heritage of the region by honoring those who have made significant contributions both on and off the field. For additional information, please visit the ticket website or contact [info@valleybluesox.com](mailto:info@valleybluesox.com).

LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL

The Agawam City Council will conduct a Public Hearing on Monday, **June 1, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.**, at a Regular Meeting of the Agawam City Council to be held at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA on the proposed Annual Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2027, as submitted to the City Council by Mayor Christopher Johnson. The Annual Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 is available for public inspection at the City Clerk's Office, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA between the hours of 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday. It is also available at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA and the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA. For an online version, please visit the town website at [www.agawam.ma.us](http://www.agawam.ma.us) or contact the Clerk's Office.

BY ORDER OF: Anthony J. Russo City Council President

FISCAL YEAR 2027 GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET

|                             |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Council                     | \$136,650    |
| Mayor                       | \$262,539    |
| Procurement                 | \$69,916     |
| Human Resources             | \$194,574    |
| Law Department              | \$224,529    |
| Auditor                     | \$164,706    |
| Clerk/Elections             | \$314,972    |
| Assessor                    | \$318,378    |
| IT Department               | \$612,403    |
| Treasurer-Collector         | \$345,309    |
| Police Department           | \$7,734,702  |
| Fire Department             | \$5,226,111  |
| Building & Planning         | \$547,769    |
| Health Department           | \$1,043,285  |
| Agawam Public Library       | \$1,305,114  |
| Parks & Recreation          | \$295,242    |
| Council on Aging            | \$436,368    |
| Public Works Administration | \$162,682    |
| Highway & Grounds           | \$2,914,522  |
| Motor Vehicle Maintenance   | \$770,150    |
| Engineering                 | \$195,765    |
| Stormwater Department       | \$686,868    |
| Building Maintenance        | \$7,004,414  |
| Agawam Public Schools       | \$55,105,348 |
| Emergency Management        | \$44,899     |
| Line Items                  | \$35,283,760 |

|                                         |                      |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>TOTAL - GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET</b> | <b>\$121,400,975</b> |
| <b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET</b>       | <b>\$1,929,000</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND</b>               | <b>\$123,329,975</b> |

|                                          |                     |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>SELF-SUSTAINING DEPARTMENTS</b>       |                     |
| Water Department                         | \$8,708,005         |
| Wastewater Department                    | \$5,365,607         |
| Agawam Municipal Golf Course             | \$1,244,912         |
| <b>TOTAL SELF-SUSTAINING DEPARTMENTS</b> | <b>\$15,318,524</b> |

|                                                          |                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND AND SELF-SUSTAININGDEPARTMENTS</b> | <b>\$138,648,499</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|

05/14/2026

Canvases for Mosaic due back May 15

AGAWAM – The New England Mosaic project, sponsored by Agawam Community Artists and Artisans, is about to conclude the first part of the project where people throughout Western Massachusetts can create art on a 6x6" canvas. Canvases are due back by Friday,

May 15. Be sure to fill out the Artist Statement and include your email so we can personally invite you to the New England Mosaic Unveiling on Wednesday, August 5 at the Agawam Municipal Golf Course, 128 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills.

GOLF ■ from page 1

Course Superintendent indicates that the equipment package provided is a tremendous start to the resurgence of maintenance for the Agawam Municipal Golf Course. Items within this package will satisfy many deficiencies of the maintenance operations. "With these tools, the maintenance operation will

be safer, more efficient, and productive. With proper maintenance and oversight, this equipment package will be a great service to the future of Agawam Municipal Golf Course and allow course conditions to continue to improve." Agawam purchase the golf course during the 1990's during Johnson's first tenure as mayor. About a decade ago, the golf was having tre-

mendous financial difficulty and the course's management came under fire with the taxpayers constantly having to subsidize the golf course's budget. The golf course is typically funded by an enterprise account that is supposed to come from revenue collected through golf course operations. The budget for the course on a year-to-year basis is based off previously

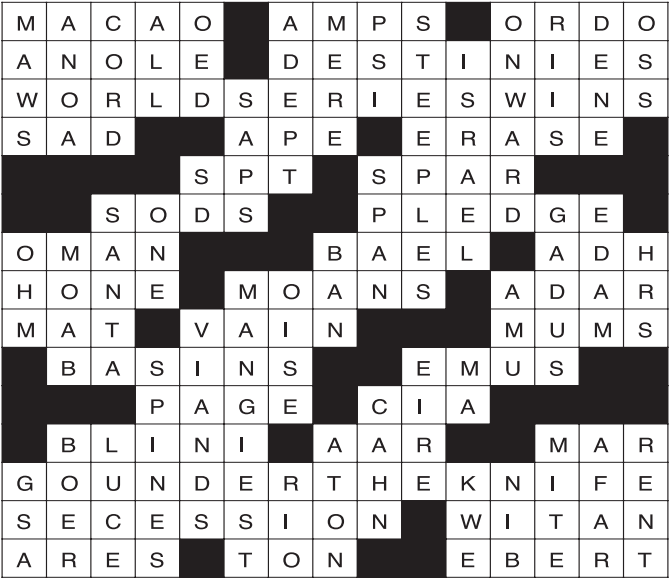
collected revenue. Changes in management years back changed the direction of the course and the town-owned course has been finishing in the black for the past several years, helping the course to save some of its retained earnings for improvements to the operations, and like this most recent request, upgrades to their existing equipment.

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

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

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



SHELTER ■ from page 1

all animals that are brought into its facility. While an animal owner is charged with the care expenses for any animal taken to the facility, if an owner is not located or does not apply, the Town of Agawam is liable for all expenses, such as vaccinations required during an animal's stay. The agreement is just one of several intermunicipal agreements between the two communities. The two

towns provide mutual aid in many capacities, and have also assisted one another in many different types of emergencies. The animal control agreement has been a successful one for both communities as Southwick's facility runs on many donations on top of a small contribution from the town's taxpayers. Agawam's contribution to the facility is a big help to keeping the facility operating for the area.

# Classifieds

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## TAG SALE

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1240 Park Street - in the same plaza as Acropolis Pizza and China House. Pelican and other plastic storage case and flashlight Dealer. Varying sizes of cases and lights overstocked and must go. Prices 50+ percent off across the board for over-stock items!!!!

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## FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

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| 31        | Base Price \$31.50 | 32 | Base Price \$32.00 |
| 33        | Base Price \$32.50 | 34 | Base Price \$33.00 |
| 35        | Base Price \$33.50 | 36 | Base Price \$34.00 |
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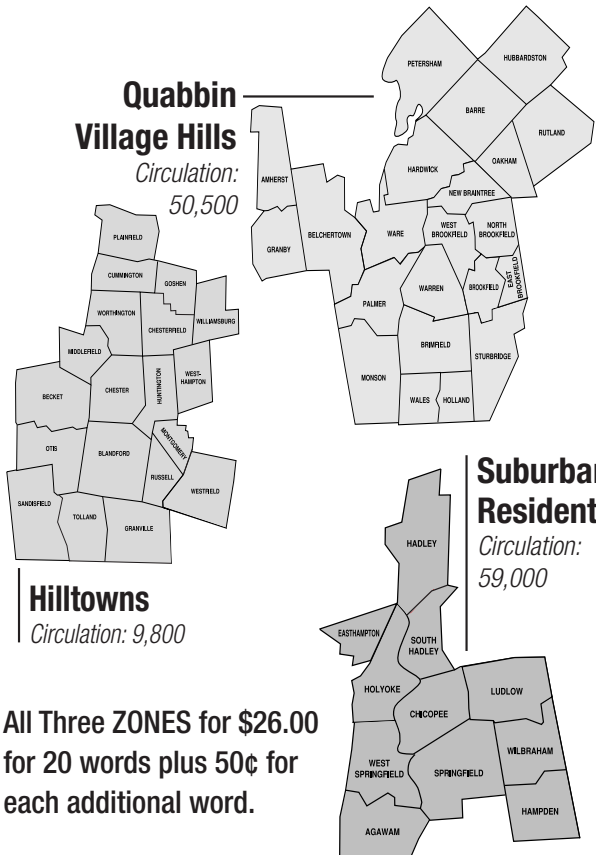
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Member of St. Martha's Guild, Mary, selling the Homemade Italian Cookies at The Mother's Day Bake and Tag Sale.



Donated baked goods for bake sale.



Members of St. Martha's Guild, Jim Hayes and Kathy Carvill selling donated baked goods.

MOTHER'S ■ from page 1

perfect gift for Mother's Day. Cappuccilli shared the process of how St. Martha's Guild and Sacred Heart Parish as a whole works together to organize this fantastic event each year. "We've been doing our Mother's Day sale, in honor of our blessed mother. It's grown. We get so many donations, that's how it's growing. They just keep coming in, which is really wonderful. All the proceeds, all our profits, we put into the scholarship funds." Cappuccilli said the St. Martha's Guild spent all day Thursday baking the homemade Italian cookies. "We made 120 boxes, each box has a half a dozen, and we've never gone upon the price. We've kept it at five dollars. You know, I just want people to enjoy it. The plants are local; they come from Decaro's.

They are practitioners of our church." Cappuccilli says each member of St. Martha's Guild has their own skills and the group works together to make each event into a reality. "We all have our areas that make it all blend." At the event were members of the Agawam Knights of Columbus, Dan Pisano and John Goodfellow. They donated all the money from the Tootsie Roll Drive to charity. "Sacred Heart is very good to us. Whenever they have an event like this, they always ask us. They're very helpful to us," says Pisano. Outside, Bob, Sue and Mary Ellen, all members of St. Martha's Guild sold vibrant flowers from Decaro's. When asked why they think donating their time to being a part of St. Martha's Guild is so important, Bob answered, "Support the Parish, and the Parish Center."

Gina, a member of St. Martha's Guild, recently started a Diabetes Support Group at Agawam Senior Center. Their next meeting is June 3 at 12 noon. Additionally Gina and Sue, another St. Martha's Guild member, run a walking group at Sacred Heart Parish that meets Wednesdays and Thursday's at 9 a.m. This shows that members of St. Martha's Guild don't just simply organize events but also create new ways for members of the community to gather and make connections and form friendships. It's clear each member of St. Martha's Guild of Sacred Heart Parish truly cares about their church and the town of Agawam as a whole. Events like their Mother's Day Bake and Tag Sale are important to create a sense of community within the town. A lot of planning and organizing went into this beloved event, and it paid off.



Agawam Knights of Columbus Members, John Goodfellow, Dan Pisano, and President of St. Martha's Guild, Joanne Cappuccilli.

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