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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS



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Incumbents among first to take out nomination papers

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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AGAWAM – Could Agawam see candidates running for more than one office?

In the wake of Mayor William Sapelli's announcement he is not seeking re-election, the first week of nomination papers being made available has come and gone.

So far, 10 of 11 incumbent Agawam City Councilors have taken out nomination papers for re-election. Those councilors are Paul Cavallo, George Bitzas, Gerald Smith, Robert Rossi, Dino Mercadante, Cecilia Calabrese, Thomas Hendrickson, Anthony Suffriti, Anthony Russo, and Rosemary Sandlin.

Town Clerk Vincent Gioscia also reported last week Sandlin, a former state representative and school committee member, has taken out papers for mayor.

Whether or not she would turn in one, the other, or both is not yet known.

But an opinion has sought from Gioscia and City Solicitor Stephen Buoniconti whether or not Sandlin could, in theory, run for both offices.

Neither has released a ruling on that as of press time, and the town charter is not clear if that is allowed, though it is pretty clear Sandlin could theoretically hold only one elected office.

Since the town went to a mayor form of government in 1990, no one has attempt to run for both mayor and city council.

No one has returned their papers yet to be certified for fall preliminary or general election ballots. Papers are not due until late this summer.

One challenger has emerged for the city council, as Ed Borgatti has pulled papers for city council.

With Sapelli not seeking re-election, it is likely more potential candidates will emerge for the open mayor's seat.

The mayor is also the chair of the school committee. Six school committee seats are also up for re-election.

Volunteers shine up Pyncheon Point



Volunteers work down by the river to pick up trash left behind there.

PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Area volunteers gathered at Pyncheon Point on Saturday, May 20 to pick up trash in the area.

Sheryl Becker, a board member of the Westfield River Watershed Association, and Nancy Bobskill co-organized this event as a way to work toward improving the environment in the area. They were joined by members of the Agawam Rotary Club and students from Hampden Charter School of Science and Agawam High.

At the end of the cleanup, the about 20 volunteers had collected around 30 bags of trash from around the river area. They were quite pleased with the success of the cleanup. This kind of trash cleanup is crucial to protecting the environment.

"Our river is so valuable to all species and our water and if we don't clean it nobody else will," Becker said. "It is so essential for us to do regular cleanup. Unfortunately, there is always tons of trash and we need to protect our valuable resource here. It's just a gem,



Pyncheon Point is unfortunately the target of lots of trash. Cleanups are held at least twice a year by the Westfield River Watershed Association.

we have to appreciate it."

This type of cleanup is organized by Becker and Bobskill at least twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall. The next scheduled cleanup is set for Oct. 14.

The residents who volunteered at the cleanup were happy to do their part in order to help protect their city environment.

"It's such an easy thing to pick up trash, I don't understand how people just leave it," resident Sue Boisvert said.

The residents collected trash from along the river bank, including countless bottles, fishing line, random papers, and even a child's toy

bike. Becker and Bobskill were grateful for all of their support and work throughout the day.

"Each individual just doing a little bit whenever they see trash helps in the long run," Bobskill said. "Sometimes people think they have to do this amazing amount of stuff. No, a little bit of trash when you see it."

Becker and Bobskill also hope to use this opportunity in order to promote the "Nip Bottle Bill," a bill which would encourage residents to properly dispose of their nip bottle by placing a five-cent deposit on them.

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Town in great shape for next leader

Mayor William Sapelli details his decision to not seek re-election

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Mayor William Sapelli announced Tuesday, May 16 that he decided not to run for a fourth term as mayor.

The mayor feels the town is in a good position for him to step down and retire.

"For 46 years now I've been working for the town," Sapelli said. "So it's probably time for someone else to take over and I can't think of a better time for somebody to take over when everything is in very good shape right now."

The mayor is quite proud of the environment that Agawam has.

"One of my proudest accomplishments is that I think Agawam is a place that is looked on positively throughout the community because we're a place where people work together," he said. "Agawam is a community where the mayor's office, the school committee, the city council get some things done. We don't always agree on things but we agree at times when we have to and get the job done."

Additionally, he takes pride in the infrastructure improvements he has been a part of creating. Agawam has been invited into the MSBA and they are working toward improving the schools in the district.

"We're in year two, it's a seven-year process, so that's well on its way. We're in the feasibility and design stage where they're going to get back to us and let us know if we need a brand-new school, a renovated school, or neither," Sapelli said.

Overall, the town is financially sound, there are projects that are funded and on the dockets, there

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William Sapelli



GFWC sponsors town-wide spelling bee

AGAWAM – The GFWC Agawam Junior Women’s Club sponsored its Annual Town-Wide Spelling Bee for fourth, fifth, and sixth graders. On Friday, May 5 at 6:30 p.m., in the auditorium of the Agawam Junior High School, students representing their grades competed within their grade level.

All final spellers were awarded certificates of participation. First place winners were awarded \$100 cash, a ribbon, and an Upwords game. Second place winners were awarded \$50 cash, a ribbon and an Upwords game. All cash prizes were generously donated by Westfield Bank: thank you to Mary Ann Ludtke, Agawam Branch Bank Manager. The Spelling Bee is available for viewing on Video On-Demand (From anywhere any time) <http://agawamvod.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/show/1962?site=1> or www.AgawamMedia.tv and scroll to Video On-Demand section.

AJWC member, Donna Shibley once again moderated the event. The pronouncer was Kathy Mouneimneh, retired Agawam High School English teacher and AJWC member. Judges were Linda Sasso, retired Agawam High School Spanish teacher, Maureen Quinn, retired AHS His-



Mary Ann Ludtke Westfield Bank, moderator Donna Shibley, judge Antonia Moore, student winners, judge Maureen Quinn, judge Linda Sasso, pronouncer Kathy Mouneimneh. SUBMITTED PHOTO

tory teacher, and Antonia Moore, graduate of AHS, English teacher at AJHS. We appreciate the time the judges donated to help with the Spelling Bee. Special thank you to Luisa Guidi, Eileen Semanie and Cele Schmaelzle, friends of the Agawam Juniors who also helped that evening. Shout out to Les Tingley, Agawam Media Manager and

Richard Danek, camera operator who assisted with the event. Agawam High School National Honor Society members also assisted: Gabriella Wood, Ava Fitzgerald, Jonathan Jung, Paree Patel, Autumn Vincke, Daniel Nguyen. We appreciated the time the judges and volunteers also gave to help with the Spelling Bee.

Winners were:

Fourth grade:

- First ~ Liam Gleason (Robinson Park Elementary room 15)
- Second ~ Alina Batteriwala (Robinson Park Elementary room 16)

Fifth grade

Roberta G. Doering School

- First ~ Khalid Fareed-Ibrahim (room 203)
- Second ~ Mark Sonich ~ room 212

Sixth grade

Roberta G. Doering School

- First ~ Aubrey Lamontagne (room 321)
 - Second ~ Maria Adeel (room 312)
- Congratulations to all those students who participated in the Spelling Bee this year.

The AJWC is a member of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts, Junior Membership. Please consider joining us at a meeting.

For more information visit www.agawamgfwc.com, or check us out on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/AgawamJuniorWomensClub/>.

ACAA holding workshop dedicated to Smith House

AGAWAM – The Agawam Community Artists and Artisans are hosting an art workshop depicting the Thomas Smith House standing at 251 North West Street, Feeding Hills.

The workshop will take place on Saturday June 10, 2023 at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Community Room of the Library.

Known to many as the “little red house” it has evaded significant alteration for more than 250 years. The home was occupied until the 1950’s without modern conveniences, such as central heating and running water. The house has retained much of its original hardware: the bake oven in the common room, wallpaper and raised panel walls.

The home was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2005. The funds generated by this workshop will be donated to the Thomas Smith House Preservation Fund.

The workshop will be hosted by Lo-

retta Mederios an award winning plein air painter and a member of the Agawam Community Artists and Artisans.

This will be an acrylic painting of the Thomas Smith House. To save time for the instruction on the methods of using and blending acrylic paints, the house will be pre-sketched by the instructor. She has taken photos of the home and will use these photos as inspiration for the art.

All materials will be supplied, the pre-sketched 8x10 canvas, acrylic paints and brushes. The cost of the workshop will be \$40 for ACAA members and \$50 for non-members, the public is invited.

The space is limited. Please make out check to ACAA and can be mailed to Ceil Rossi, P.O. Box 126, Agawam, MA 01001. You will receive a receipt for your donation to the Thomas Smith House Preservation Fund.

For further information: Please email Ceil Rossi at tocarefree2@hotmail.com or call (413) 207-1247.

Robotics teams registering students for 2023-2024 year

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

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

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

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

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

If you have any questions, please contact Wendy Rua (mwrwa02@gmail.com) or Dana Henry (dphenny58@comcast.net).

Democratic Committee to hold caucus

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School class of 1968 will be celebrating its 55th reunion this summer.

On July 8, Joanne (Demont) and husband Frank Locke will be hosting the event at their beautiful Main Street Deli.

This will be a casual summer affair, held outdoors rain or shine, from 6 to 9 p.m. Food, beer and wine will be available. To learn more, please visit the Deli’s website, where you can view the buf-

fet menu and pricing. Tickets must be purchased in advance and can only be bought online through the website.

Talk this up with classmates you may be in touch with. The more the merrier. There is always a good time to be had when old friends from the class of 1968 get together for a reunion.

If you have any questions, contact: Janice (Borgatti) DeFilipi at jdefilipi@gmail.com.

YouTube seminar at senior center

AGAWAM – YouTube is a free app, and is one of the most important apps you can have on your cell phone, tablet, or computer.

Your speaker, Raymond Rose, will discuss:

- how to download the YouTube app on your phone or tablet.
- how to use the app.
- how You Tube can save you lots of money.
- watching free TV or podcasts.
- setting up your own free YouTube channel.

- listening to free audio books.
- watching videos of your family and friends.

The seminar takes place on June 9 at 1 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street. Bring a friend; it will be fun.

If you’re not able to attend the seminar, visit RaymondRoseMedia.com and listen to all the info contained in the seminar.

Walk-ins are welcome - or reserve a seat by calling Kristina Lynch at the Senior Center at 413-821-0604 - or send her an email at KLynch@agawam.ma.us

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 1,381 calls for service from May 15 to May 21 and recorded the following arrests. No arrests in the public log have been omitted. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty.

Friday, May 19

Victor Manuel Santiago, 37, of 88 Maple St., Springfield, was arrested at 7:29 p.m. for operating a motor vehicle

with a suspended license, driving an unregistered motor vehicle, and failure to appear.

Saturday, May 20

Heriberto J. Rivera, 28, of 15 Watling St., Springfield, was arrested at 11:08 p.m. for operating under the influence of liquor, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, vandalizing property, and trespassing with a motor vehicle.

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

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

Local business receives national award

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Jim and Kelly Sullivan, owners of the Millennium Press, were honored to receive the award of Small Business Persons of the Year. This is an award given to one small business in each state across the country, and the Millennium Press was selected as the Massachusetts state winner. They were presented with the award at their business on Friday, May 19.

The Sullivans first started this business in a one-car garage in 1989. From there, they worked hard in order to grow their business into the well-known one-stop printing and mailing business it is today.

It was this work ethic that got them through the Great Recession of 2008 and the COVID Pandemic. It was also this work ethic which got them nominated and chosen for this award.

“Against all odds in 2008 and again in the pandemic, not only did they persevere but they made sure that their employees were covered, they made sure that this business would remain and their best days are ahead,” Congressman Richard Neal said.

During the pandemic, the Sullivans were forced to lay off 75% of their employees. Despite this struggle, they were able to hire all of their employees back and have now recovered from the difficulties of the pandemic.

“[The employees] did it willingly, knowing that we were bringing them all back. And we did, we brought everyone back,” Kelly Sullivan said. “Their support was the best.”

The Sullivans keep moving forward. The Millennium Press had its highest grossing year in company history in 2022 and now they have begun investing in solar energy in order to reduce their gas emissions. This is a company that does not stop pushing, and their efforts were well recognized through this award.

Mayor William Sapelli in particular wanted to congratulate the Sullivans on all of their hard work and to acknowledge their



U.S. Rep Richard Neal presents the Small Business Persons of the Year award to Millennium Press.



Jim Sullivan, owner of Millennium Press, talks with Congressman Richard Neal following a ceremony where Sullivan received Small Business Persons of the Year.

PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA

efforts in bringing the Millennium Press to where it is today.

“I couldn’t be prouder to be the mayor of Agawam and having a business like yours and having you two in our community. So, thank you,” Sapelli said.

The Sullivans themselves were highly honored to be receiving this award.

“The award is overwhelming,” Kelly said. “You never think you’re going to be the number one business in Massachusetts. So, I was very, very overwhelmed with that and I felt blessed.”

“This award is something that we never even dreamed of getting and to go to Washington D.C. to accept this award, to be in-

cluded in the White House to meet the president and vice president; we never even dreamed of something this spectacular,” Jim Sullivan said.

Jim Sullivan also left some words of advice for other people with their own small businesses.

“To be successful in small business you have to be prepared to fail at times and when you’re failing you have to learn from those failures and with learning from those failures you’ll be able to continue to grow,” he said. “It’s almost like anything in life. You have to fail or you’re never pushing forward, you’re only staying status quo, you’re going to be a small business doing okay, but if you

want to be a successful small business? You have to push the envelope, you have to be prepared for failures, you have to be able to address those failures, learn from those failures, and then move onto the next chapter.”

Finally, the Sullivans wanted to express their gratitude to their families, their customers, and their employees. To all of those who supported them as they began this business and have worked through all of the ups and downs over the years.

“Keep fighting with us because we’re here for the long haul,” Kelly said. “Until we retire, many years from now, we’re here for the long haul. So, stick by us and we’ll stick by you. We’re one happy family.”

Page One teaming up with the Majestic Theater

AGAWAM – Once again, Page One Productions will be bringing several shows to the 2023 summer concert series at the Majestic Theater with a couple of “firsts.”

It was in the early 1990’s that POP president Roberta Page and Danny Eaton sat in his Longmeadow kitchen.

“We began creating By-Laws for Danny’s concept of bringing the formerly-closed Majestic movie theater to become a theatrical venue,” Ms. Page remembered.

This season, POP will be bringing back the very popular Beach Boys tribute with not just one, but, two shows on July 27, one in the afternoon and another in the evening.

And a debut performance by West

Springfield native Joe Saimeri performing an Englebert Humperdinck and Tom Jones tribute will be exciting, revealed Ms. Page.

Joe will be coming in with live musicians on Thursday evening July 20.

Majestic Producing Director Eaton always wants live musical performances, of course. But, when I explained to Joe that a band was needed, he was apprehensive. It would be a first for Joe. But, he is excited and looking forward to being in the theater.

POP had brought him for his first theater performance at The Shea in Turners Falls, but it was with tracks, Ms. Page explained.

It’s always great to work with Danny.

The theater has come a long way since he first asked me to stop to see the original movie theater when it was closed for years. He got the key from the-then owner. I can recall asking him how we were supposed to see inside. Danny started laughing and said, “with this flashlight.” Of course, there was no electricity on.

Chairs were overturned, the movie screen was tumbling down across the floor, mice were running around and it was a mess, said Page.

The Majestic has come a long way since I used to see a movie there for \$.25 and another \$.25 bought popcorn (with butter), a five-cent candy bar, and a soda.

Call The Majestic Theater at 413-747-7797 for tickets

Memorial Day parade held this Monday

AGAWAM – Please join the Agawam Veteran’s Council in honoring our nation’s war dead at our Memorial Day Parade. On Monday, May 29 at 10 a.m. from the Agawam Town Hall to Veteran’s Memorial Green.





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Opinion

Guest Column



Dazed for dahlias

Do you ever get sidetracked? Well, last night I went into my mudroom to assess my dahlia collection in preparation for planting. Besides housing baskets and buckets of dahlia tubers, the mudroom contains a wood box, lots of coats and shoes, and when the temperatures dip into into the negative realm, it may house a chicken or two.

Our big, upright freezer is also in the mudroom. Why were the floorboards in front of the door wet?

Upon inspection, the freezer wasn't at temperature and the contents had partially thawed. Just what I needed on a Saturday night.

After the mess was cleaned up and what could be salvaged was, I rewarded myself with some alone-time with my dahlias.

I chuckle when I think that the last time I wrote about dahlias I had four varieties. I'm at 10 in two short years - oops, make that 11 after the tuber I purchased at the plant sale yesterday.

It's hard not to become a collector when they come in so very many flower types and sizes, from a mere couple of inches to the size of a dinner plate.

Read on for a refresher course on dahlia growing, and if you become inspired to purchase a tuber or two, rest easy with the cost; you'll be giving the offspring away before you know it!

Plant dahlias in full sun, in fertile soil amended sparingly with compost and organic fertilizers. Most tubers are planted about 3 inches deep and 1-3 feet away from one another, depending on plant size. Providing enough air circulation between plants will help keep diseases at bay.

Most gardeners install a stake at planting time and attach the dahlia to it as it grows, beginning when it is a foot tall. Subsequent ties are made every 18 inches or so depending on variety. Without the use of stakes, large flowers will likely topple in the wind and rain, sometimes taking a good portion of the plant with it.

Pinching dahlias is another good practice. When the plant has three sets of leaves gently remove its growth tip.

This will encourage more branching and inevitably more flowers. Once blooming starts it is important to cut away spent blooms on a regular basis; tubers will grow stronger because of it.

Dahlias thrive on sufficient moisture, especially since they are shallow rooted. Furnish them with one inch per week during active growth.

As the growing season draws to a close, hold back on water and any supplemental fertilization you have been providing. This will give the tubers a chance to harden off before they are removed from the ground.

Dig up dahlia tubers either just prior to or soon after frost hits. Leave a small portion of stem attached to the tubers - it is a great place to adhere a label.

Take it from me - it is easy to forget a name over the winter months!

Soil should be eased off the tubers with a spray of water before placing in storage. Choose a location to overwinter your tubers that maintain 40-50 degrees temps and 90% humidity.

These conditions will keep them dormant and healthy until it is time to replant. Many people have good luck using a cold basement or root cellar;



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Guest Column

The dialogue of democracy needs tending



Comments on CONGRESS

By Lee Hamilton

There are so many things I worry about these days. Are we going to default on our debts? Can we adapt to the accumulating impact of climate change? How are we going to handle the dangers posed by China and Russia?

But bigger than all of those is this: Can we as a nation confront those challenges by arriving, together, at reasonable solutions? Or to put it another way, do we even know any more how to carry on a public dialogue about the issues we face and how to resolve them?

Because I worry - a lot - that we're losing our ability to engage in the reasoned dialogue that democracy demands of us. The evidence surrounds us: the hot-tempered dogmatism that's rampant on social media, the take-no-prisoners rhetoric of cable commentators, the shallow political debate carried on by everyone from pundits trying to gin up an audience to politicians who should know

better, the widespread impatience with others' viewpoints, the shrill and even offensive language that permeates public debate - you know the problem as well as I do.

And it is a problem.

If Americans lose faith that our democracy is up to the task of addressing our challenges because we're incapable of holding a discussion that isn't distorted by spin, misleading studies, grassroots manipulation, untrustworthy media and political leaders who wouldn't publicly recognize a fact if it smacked them in the forehead, then the travails of the last few years will seem like a cakewalk.

So, I have some suggestions. Because in the end, if we want the quality of public dialogue to improve, then it's up to us to improve it - and then let our political leaders know that we expect more than political posturing that produces inadequate solutions to difficult problems.

Living in a democracy takes work, and that applies to all of us, from voters who cast their ballot every few years to neighbors who roll up their sleeves and try to improve their communities to elected officials whose job it is to decide the course of their town or state or country.

Here are basic principles we need to keep in mind:

CONGRESS | page 5

Senior concerned about Social Security solvency



Dear Rusty:

I retired at age 58. My husband and I worked 40 years of employment each. I had a 401K only...no other benefits. We saved, we invested through our financial advisor and have done okay watching our investments grow (except for the last three years). Neither my husband nor I have taken Social Security; we were both waiting until age 70 to get full benefits. Do you think this is still wise? I'm concerned there will not be any funds in five years when we both turn 70.

Signed: Concerned Senior

Dear Concerned Senior:

Your question relates to Social Security solvency, no doubt inspired by the recent spate of media discussion on this topic. Most articles I've read promote a "doomsday" scenario and, in fairness, Social Security's financial issues are serious. The latest report from the Trustees of Social Security warned Congress that the reserves now held in Social Security's Trust Fund, which enable full benefits to be paid, will be depleted as early as 2033. What you may not know is that this is not new news - the Trustees have sounded the same warning for decades to multiple Congresses, which have neglect-

ed to enact corrective measures. And, unfortunately, they are likely to continue to drag their feet for a while because the reform needed is not politically palatable and the impact is still a few years away.

Nevertheless, although Social Security's looming financial issues are serious, they are not fatal. Congress already knows how to fix Social Security's financial issues - they just currently lack the bipartisan spirit and political will needed to do so. The clock, however, is ticking and Congress will be forced to act soon, which we are confident will happen before the Trust Funds run dry. What motivates most politicians is getting reelected and allowing an across the board cut to all Social Security recipients, which would happen if the Trust Fund reserves were depleted, would be political suicide. Therefore, I'm confident that reform will occur in time, and I don't suggest changing your Social Security claiming strategy over worries about Social Security's solvency.

Let me further allay your fears by explaining what would hypothetically happen in the worst case scenario, if Congress doesn't act and Trust Funds are depleted. If that were to occur, when the reserves are depleted in about 2033, everyone would face an across the board benefit cut. Social Security can't go bankrupt because there would still be about 175 million workers contributing to the program but, since Social Security by law can only pay benefits from revenue received, everyone's benefit would be reduced by about 23%,



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LEADER ■ from page 1

is full staffing, and the budget is presented for the next year.

"I think that's one of the reasons I feel comfortable stepping away," said the mayor. "I'm leaving [the city] in very good hands for the next person that is going to take over."

On top of his successes as a mayor, Sapelli also admitted to facing challenges, especially with guiding the city through COVID.

"One of the biggest challenges was schools. Do you open schools, do you close schools? Do you use masks, do you not use masks? Distance learning was a real concern, and getting kids back in front of teachers. When do you do that, how do you do that? That was something we were experimenting with, there was no playbook for that because it was the first time we'd had a pandemic of that nature," Sapelli said.

Sapelli described that finding the balance between ensuring the safety of students and staff in the schools and making sure the students were still receiving the education they needed was one of the most difficult parts of the pandemic. However, looking back he felt that Agawam handled it well.

"Looking back now, I think Agawam handled it better than most people, most communities did. We had children back in schools, in front of teachers, I think before anyone else did. Safely, but educationally sound. I felt we as a community, and as a school committee, council, and administration took on that challenge and rose to the occasion," Sapelli said.

Nomination forms for the next mayor opened Monday, May 15. Sapelli wishes his replacement the best of luck for when they take over his position.

"I wish the next person all the luck in the world. It's not an easy job. It is a job, not a position. You come in every day, you

work one of the most difficult jobs I've ever had," he said.

He also sends his best to all the people he has worked with over his years as mayor.

"One of the toughest decisions I've had to make here was when it was the right time [to step down] and mostly that difficulty was due to the fact that I will miss all of these hardworking people that we have here in the town," he said. "We have an excellent working relationship here in Agawam. Everyone pulls together, gets along... People help each other. They all have that team concept; everyone is rowing in the same direction."

As for Sapelli's plans for the future, he looks forward to being able to enjoy some time as a citizen of Agawam.

"I've been working for the town for 46 years, and on top of that working since I was 14 years old, so I've been working for quite some time now. So, it's time to relax a little bit," Sapelli said.

VOLUNTEERS ■ from page 1

"We need to urge people to speak out to their legislators. If there's a deposit fee on nip bottles, we won't see nearly as many, I don't think. I think it would do a lot to help this problem," Becker said.

Throughout this one day at Pynchon Point, there were 232 nip bottles collected. These bottles are particularly hazardous to the environment and to animals due to their small size making it easier for them to get caught on items in the environment.

"We find more nip bottles than any other bottle and that's very upsetting because nip bottles are so small they can easily be caught in things and they are harder to find," Becker said.

Becker and Bobskill hope that this event will help raise awareness of this issue and they are grateful for all of those who have spoken out in order to get this bill passed, including State Sen. John Velis, D-Westfield who has testified in support of the bill.

GARDEN ■ from page 4

small quantities of tubers can be stored in the crisper drawer of the refrigerator.

Placing tubers in damp peat moss, saw dust, shredded leaves, or even ventilated plastic bags will help to prevent shriveling. Be sure to check on your tubers every couple of weeks throughout the off-season.

Should you see shriveling, mist them with clean water and re-dampen the medium in which they were placed. If you

see mold, bring down the temperature and humidity level.

Some dahlias like to get a jump-start on the season by prestarting dahlias indoors.

We have done this occasionally at Old Sturbridge Village and I am always amazed at just how fast the plants grow, and how quickly they outgrow their pots and become leggy. If you attempt it, four weeks prior to the last spring frost would be soon enough.

It's my hope that you will venture into the land of dahlia growing and love it as much as I do!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



SECURITY ■ from page 4

according to the Trustees. Every beneficiary would still get benefits, but only to the extent available from income received. Which brings me to your specific question – whether it is still wise to wait until age 70 to claim or to claim your benefits now.

Ask yourself this question: which would result in a larger monthly payment, a 23% cut to your age 70 S.S. payment amount or a 23% cut to your current benefit amount? The answer, of course, is that your monthly payment would be more if you stay with your current strategy and wait until age 70 to claim a plan, which I assume you developed considering your current financial needs as well as your life expectancy, both of which are very important to that decision.

Again, I do not believe the worst case scenario will happen. Congress already knows how to restore Social Security to full solvency and they will almost certainly act in time to avoid an across the board

cut to everyone's benefit. The Association of Mature American Citizens has proposed legislation which would restore the Social Security program to full solvency for generations without raising payroll taxes, a summary of which people can review by visiting www.amac.us/social-security. AMAC has provided this proposal to various members of Congress for consideration.

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

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

CONGRESS ■ from page 4

Don't fear differences or dissent. They're inevitable, and they are vital to looking at challenges from all sides.

Advocacy and even conflict have their place in a democracy, but in the end, we resolve differences and break gridlock through discussion and deliberation.

Which means that the goal is not to highlight or inflame our political differences, but to resolve and reconcile them. The highest good should be to search for compromise, where everyone is at least a partial winner.

Remember that political differences may be stark, but that doesn't mean they're irreconcilable.

Focus on facts. They're the starting point for level headed debate and effective policy. As citizens, it's our job to find trustworthy sources of information, question our own biases, and discern when we're being misled; as politicians, to strive always to seek the truth about the facts.

View one another as neighbors, fellow community members or colleagues who all want the same thing: what's best for our

country and for where we live. Find common ground and build trust from there.

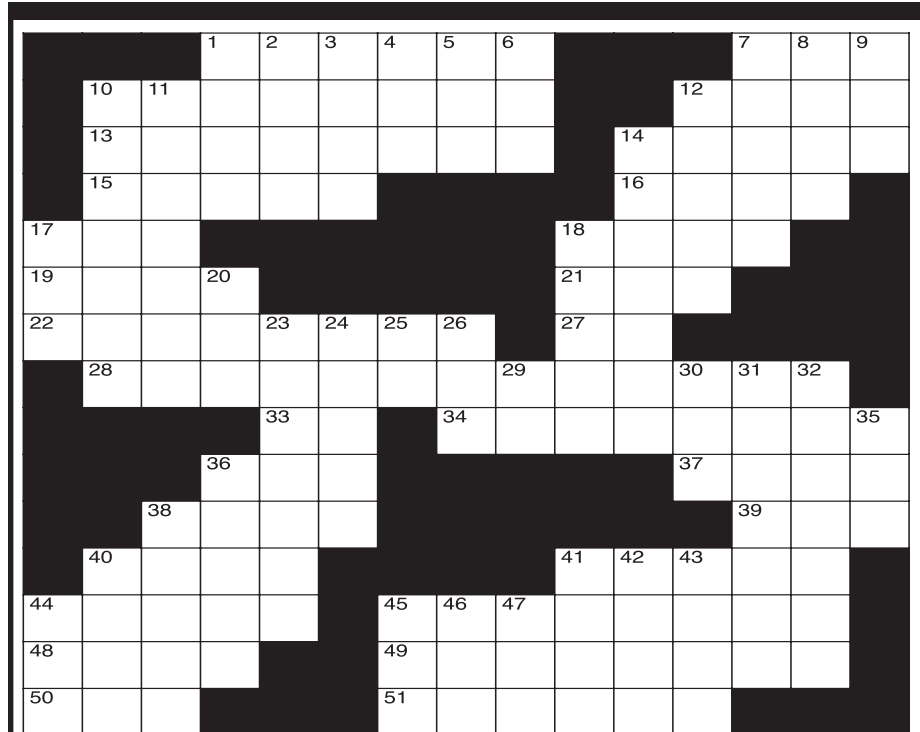
It is always worth the time to understand others' viewpoints – and to talk. You may not just find common ground, but ways to improve your own ideas. And when you do search for commonalities, talk about common concerns first and differences second.

Focus on the common good. Do not speculate on rivals' motivations or demonize them. Focus on their ideas – and see them as just as human as you are.

Sometimes drama can be effective, but always maintain civility and convey respect for people who think differently from you.

Finally, always keep in mind that you may be wrong. The world is complicated and solutions to its challenges are never perfect or straightforward.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Wear away by friction
 - 7. Insecticide
 - 10. Elicited a secret vote
 - 12. Beef
 - 13. Disagreement
 - 14. ___ Crawford, supermodel
 - 15. Jeweled headdress
 - 16. Digits
 - 17. Trillion hertz
 - 18. Snap up
 - 19. Classical portico
 - 21. Residue after burning
 - 22. Large integers
 - 27. Free agent
 - 28. Where ballplayers work
 - 33. Blood type
 - 34. Scottish city
 - 36. Google certification (abbr.)
 - 37. Serbian monetary unit
 - 38. Make a sudden surprise attack on
 - 39. Wood or metal bolt
 - 40. Relaxing attire
 - 41. Famed neurologist
 - 44. Dullish brown fabrics
 - 45. Member of ancient Jewish sect
 - 48. Griffith, Rooney
 - 49. Lawmakers
 - 50. Government lawyers
 - 51. The arch of the foot
 - 4. Consumed
 - 5. The habitat of wild animals
 - 6. Sun up in New York
 - 7. Cygnus star
 - 8. Male parents
 - 9. Talk to you (abbr.)
 - 10. A place to clean oneself
 - 11. Southwestern US state
 - 12. South Korean idol singer
 - 14. Pirate
 - 17. Pituitary hormone (abbr.)
 - 18. Mistake
 - 20. Promotions
 - 23. Prepares
 - 24. Partner to flowed
 - 25. State lawyer
 - 26. Patti Hearst's captors
 - 29. Pound
 - 30. Electronic data processing
 - 31. Sports player
 - 32. Treats with contempt
 - 35. Apprehend
 - 36. Excessively talkative
 - 38. Highways
 - 40. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
 - 41. College organization for males
 - 42. Any customary observance or practice
 - 43. Employee stock ownership plan
 - 44. Male parent
 - 45. The 23rd letter of the Greek alphabet
 - 46. Female bird
 - 47. Autonomic nervous system

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Six-mile paddle cruise to be held on Westfield River

WESTFIELD – Paddlers on Saturday, June 3 will be treated to unique vistas of the Westfield River at the annual Westfield River Watershed Association Canoe and Kayak Cruise. This leisurely six-mile paddle from the Great River Bridge in Westfield to Robinson State Park in Agawam reveals a river so special that parts of it are designated Wild & Scenic by the US Congress. Members of the Association lead the group through the lower watershed past former industrial sites and restored riparian areas that are once again teaming with fish and wildlife. Bald eagles, blue herons, beavers, otters, red tailed hawks and snapping turtles are likely to be seen. The event begins at 9 a.m. at the corner of Meadow and Elm Streets in Westfield and concludes at approximately 2 p.m. in Robinson State Park in Agawam.



Participants from the Westfield River Watershed Association's Canoe and Kayak Cruise paddling six miles down the scenic Westfield River to Robinson State Park in Agawam. This year's family-friendly event begins with registration in the Meadow Street Parking Lot just below the Great Bridge at 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 3. SUBMITTED PHOTO

says Brian Conz, a WRWA Board member and professor of geography at Westfield State University. "Each year there is great excitement as people get a view of the river so removed from urban life yet inherently a part of it. The route takes paddlers through some of the riverine wilds hidden just out of sight from some main roads and neighborhoods, revealing the critical habitat for many of our local species."

"The story of the Westfield River Watershed is one of renewal," Conz continues. "The organization was founded in 1952 by a coalition of concerned citizens in Westfield and the Hilltowns. They were aware of the pollution from the mills, but as those factories shut down saw great promise from environmental restoration and recreation. We're proud of how early people in our area were stepping up to support river health. You have to remember that the sweeping and monumental Clean Water Act was not

PADDLE | page 12

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SPORTS



Nicholas Fitzgerald makes a throw back to the infield.



Mason Barcomb pitches for the Brownsies.

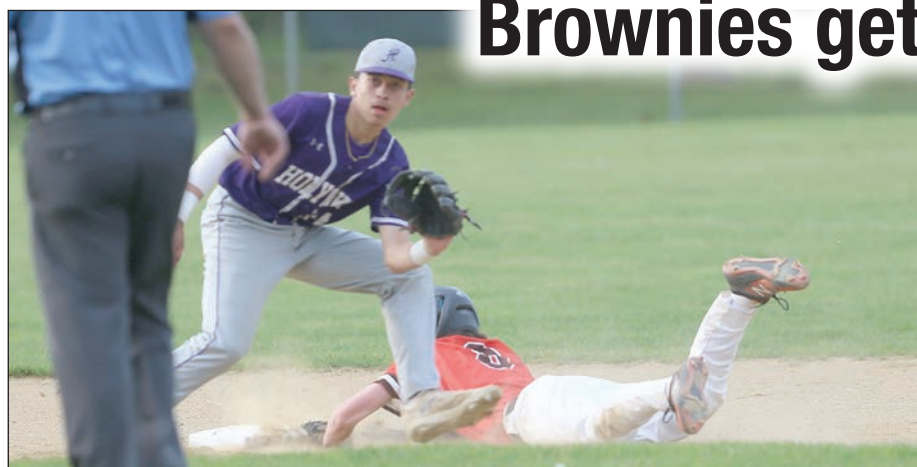


Ryan Maloney gets the low throw.

PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Vinny Catelotti fields a grounder.



Thomas Plakias slides into third.

Brownies get by Holyoke

AGAWAM – Last Monday afternoon, Agawam geared up for tournament with a narrow win over Holyoke on the road 7-5.

Mason Barcomb picked up the win for the Brownsies, going the distance allowing two earned runs on eight hits, striking out four and walking two. Gavin Schlosser had two hits and two RBI for the Brownsies. Vinny Catelotti also drove in two runs.

Agawam played Central in the Western Mass. quarterfinals earlier this week.



Isabel Lalancette eyeballs the loose ball into her net.

Regular season ends

AGAWAM – It was a good news-bad news scenario for Agawam last week as the Brownsies lost their regular season finale against Shrewsbury. Agawam finished with a disappointing 6-11 record. But a very difficult schedule netted Agawam the No. 24 seed in the state's power

rankings, likely meaning the Brownsies will head for the state tournament.

The Western Mass. tournament seeds were released after press time. Agawam will either participate in that tournament earlier this week, or have a non-playoff game.



Angelina Kozhenevsky fights around an opponent.



Isabella Spaulding turns and goes back after a ground ball.



Isabella Ugolini makes a pass.



Elizabeth Santore fights through defenders to shoot.

Sports

Western Mass. Pioneers open regular campaign with win

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – Alec Hughes scored ten goals for the UMass men's soccer team as a junior. The forward has netted almost half that many goals in the Western Mass. Pioneers first two regular season matches.

Hughes scored a pair of goals in the season opening shutout victory at the Boston Bolts on May 16. He added two more goals to his stat sheet in the home opener, as the Pioneers celebrated a 3-0 win over Pathfinder FC on a miserable, rainy night at Lusitano Stadium last Saturday.

"I had never played a match at this stadium before last week's friendly, so scoring two goals in the home opener is very special for me," said Hughes, who's from Glastonbury, Connecticut. "Despite the rain, we still had a very good crowd here tonight. I can't wait to see the atmosphere at this stadium on a nice night. I just want to do anything that I can to help me team win."

Ben Brewster, who's the associate head coach of the UMass men's soccer team, recommended Hughes to Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. Brewster, who's a former Pioneers player, also coaches the club's USL Academy boys' team.

"I was very impressed with Alec when I watched him play for UMass last year," Molinari said. "He's a key player for us, but we need everyone to contribute in order to have a successful team."

Hughes, who played for Hartford City a year ago, thinks playing for the Pioneers will help him prepare for his senior season at UMass.

"We have several players from several different countries on this team," Hughes added. "It's also a little bit higher level than the Hartford team that I played for last summer."

The Pioneers, who are looking to qualify for the USL League Two playoffs for the fourth time since 2019, had several scoring chances during the first 45 minutes, but the contest was still scoreless at halftime.

"It was a little bit frustrating not scoring any goals during the first half," said Hughes, one of the first-year players listed on the Pioneers roster. "We had some good scoring opportunities, but we finally scored in the second half."

A little more than ten minutes into the opening half, Western Mass. midfielder Khalid Rose sent a pass into the box from the right side. A shot attempt from Tomas Duben, who's also a forward, was deflected away by Pathfinder FC goalkeeper Eirik Elvestad, who made the diving save.

Hughes also had a couple of headers



Goalie Gianluca Cerosimo kicks the ball away.



Alec Hughes runs up for free kick.

during the first twenty minutes, but they either sailed wide or were saved by Elvestad, who finished the match with a total of five saves.

Pathfinder FC, who played their first match of the season, are from the Poughkeepsie, New York area.

Down at the other end of the field, first-year Western Mass. starting goalie Gianluca Cerosimo didn't see very much action on the rainy and windy night.

Cerosimo, who was a grad student on the L.I.U men's soccer team last fall, made a kick save late in the first half. It wound up being his only save of the match.

Cerosimo received plenty of support from his defense, which was led by Rodrigo Saraiva de Castro, Gabriel Pacheco, Jared Smith, and Nicholas Obberauch, who's the Pioneers captain.

Connor Hicks, who helped the Monson boys' varsity soccer team win two state titles and three Western Mass. titles during his memorable high school career, is another Pioneers defender. After sitting out the season opening match with an injury, Hicks entered last Saturday's contest during the second half.

Another Monson resident listed on the Pioneers roster is Jonathan Murphy, who'll be a junior on the Boston College men's soccer team in the fall. Frankie D'Agostino, who's also a former Pioneers player, is the Eagles associate head coach.

Ten minutes into the second half, a shot attempt from Pioneers forward Augustine Boadi deflected off the far post.

Another shot by Hughes was saved by Elvestad.

The home team finally gave their faithful supporters something to cheer about during the 67th minute. Rose was tripped



Nicholas Obberauch gets the throw-in.

PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Rodrigo Saraiva de Castro sends a quick touch away.

up in the box by a Pathfinder defender resulting in a penalty kick.

Hughes stepped up to the line and blasted a shot into the back of the net giving his team a 1-0 lead.

"I just booted the ball as hard as I could down the middle into the back of the net. It's always a good feeling whenever you score a goal and your teammates are happy for you," Hughes said. "I also made a P.K. at UMass last year at Central Connecticut."

The Pioneers took a 2-0 lead six minutes later.

After receiving a pass from Rose, Boadi fired a low shot that skipped on the wet turf into the right corner of the net.

Registration open for 2023 Bay State Games

WOBURN – Registration for the 41st annual Bay State Summer Games is now open. The 2023 Summer Games will include thirty sports with competitions from June 3 to July 29 at venues throughout eastern and central Massachusetts including Game On in Fitchburg, Boston Sports Institute in Wellesley, Union Point Sports Complex in Weymouth, and New England Sports Center in Marlborough. Bay State Games participants range in age from 5 to over age 75 and represent more than 300 Massachusetts communities as well as surrounding New England States in some sports. From grassroots participants to accomplished amateur athletes, the Bay State Games provide opportunities for the athlete in all of us.

Eight high school showcase sports will take place for a variety of sports, including baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball, and volleyball. Athletes currently in grade 8-11 who live or go to school in Massachusetts are eligible to attend regional tryouts during the month of June. These tryouts will determine teams rep-

resenting the various regions of the Commonwealth that will compete against each other in July. Check each sport page for specific eligibility requirements.

The Summer Games include a wide variety of individual sports including swimming, track & field, figure skating, pickleball, wrestling, weightlifting, archery, judo, badminton, and more. These sports are open to a wide range of ages and skill levels from youth participants to masters-aged athletes. Adaptive sport divisions in archery, swimming, and track & field are offered, as well. Bay State Games also organizes tournaments for pre-existing teams in girls lacrosse, rugby, and 6v6 field hockey.

The 2023 Summer Games will feature Game On in Fitchburg as the host venue for 8 sports. Bay State Games expects 1,500 athletes and their families to attend competitions at Game On during the second week of July. "We are excited to expand the roster of sports being held at Game On this year," said Kevin Cummings, Executive Director of the Bay State Games. "This state-of-the-art facil-

ity allows us to enhance the athlete and spectator experience and provide a true Olympic-style multi-sport atmosphere for our participants."

An additional feature in 2023 is that in over a dozen sports, athletes who win a gold, silver, or bronze medal at the 2023 Bay State Games will qualify to participate in the 2024 State Games of America in San Diego, California. The State Games of America feature more than 8,000 athletes from over 30 different state games programs nationwide. To see the list of qualifying sports, please visit www.stategamesofamerica.com.

In addition to sports programming, Bay State Games offer college scholarships, a sportsmanship initiative, college internship opportunities, and a High School Ambassador program.

For more information on all sports in the 2023 Summer Games, links to online registration, and information on other programs, go to www.baystategames.org.

For questions, email info@baystategames.org or call 781-932-6555.

Blue Sox in need of host families

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox is still searching for a few host families for the 2023 season.

To be a host family, all you need is a private room for the player to stay in, food options, and access to a kitchen.

In return, 2023 volunteer host families will receive:

- Free general admission to all Valley Blue Sox home and away games
- Food vouchers for every home game
- Transportation and ticket free to the Boston Red Sox game on June 12
- Free clinics for any household member ages 6-13
- Special Host Family recognition event
- 40% discount on all merchandise
- Season-long access to our live-game radio
- Access to our fan bus to an away game to be determined

If you are interested in being a host family, please contact matt@valleybluesox.com for more information.w

Sports

Bonsignore gets the checkered flag at Riverhead

RIVERHEAD, N.Y. – A classic short-track battle between two of the veterans of the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour ended with Justin Bonsignore's 10th career Riverhead Raceway win on Sunday afternoon in the Buzz Chew 200. Bonsignore started from the top spot after scoring his 25th career pole in qualifying and ran second for much of the race, but was able to roll the outside lane by Ron Silk on a late restart to get back to Victory Lane.

Silk led much of the race – but a caution late stacked the field up and gave Bonsignore another shot. The two battled side-by-side, beating and banging during a short-track battle in New York. Off turn four, Bonsignore was sideways on the outside lane, but a caution flew for a multiple-car accident and Bonsignore was out front, holding the advantage for the final restart of the 200-lap race.

Bonsignore drove off turn four to the checkered flag. The victory places Bonsignore just one short of the Whelen Modified Tour wins record at Riverhead – 11 – held by Mike Ewanitsko. Bonsignore will have a chance to tie when the series returns to Riverhead on June 24.

The win was also Bonsignore's 36th ca-



Justin Bonsignore scored a modified win at Riverhead Raceway last weekend.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

reer – giving him sole possession of fourth place on the all-time wins list on the Whelen Modified Tour. He now sits just seven wins short of Ted Christopher for the top-three.

“Ron and I have been beating the heck out of each other all year,” Bonsignore said. “The caution towards the end was good for us. You just have to keep yourself in these races and it fell our way today. It’s unbelievable to get number 10 at Riverhead. I can’t thank everyone on this team enough. It’s a cool way to get to Victory Lane. All of these are special. Tying Mike has been a goal of ours for a long time and to get this close to the record is special. These races never get any easier to win.”

In just six days, Justin Bonsignore will return to the track with the next race on the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour schedule – the Granite State Derby at Lee USA Speedway – on Saturday, May 27. For more information and tickets for the race, visit JDVProductions.com.

For more information on Justin Bonsignore and the Kenneth Massa Motorsports team, visit JustinBonsignore.com and follow his Athlete page on Facebook for the latest news and updates.

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

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

ending at Rice Fruit Farm across the street from the start. Pre-registration fee for runners and walkers is \$20, while day-of-race registration is \$25. Ages 18 and under registration is \$15 including day-of registration. The first 150 registered runners by May 20 will receive our famous race t-shirt featur-

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

Race day registration will be open from 7:30 a.m. until 8:45 a.m.

On-line registration now available at RunSignUp.com, and paper registration forms can be downloaded at the Minnechaug Land Trust website www.minnechauglandtrust.org.

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Grandparents
& Friends
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We are so
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College.



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Public Notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD19P2234EA
Estate of:
Helen Beane
Date of Death: 01/20/2017
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT**

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by **John J Ferriter** of Holyoke, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition

from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/13/2023.

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 09, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
05/25/2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD22P1576EA
Estate of:
Evelina Conti
Date of Death: 05/06/2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT**

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by **Joseph Conti** of Agawam, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, a determination of testacy and heirs at law and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to

obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/13/2023.

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 09, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
05/25/2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23P0855EA
Estate of:
Geraldine Kacoyannakis
Also known as:
Geri Kacoyannakis
Date of Death: 03/08/2023
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Debra A. Foley of Chicopee, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Debra A. Foley of Chicopee, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/12/2023.

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 15, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
05/25/2023

LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL					
The Agawam City Council will conduct a Public Hearing on Monday, June 5, 2023, at 7:00 pm , at a Regular Meeting of the Agawam City Council to be held at the Agawam Senior Center Veterans Hall, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA on the proposed Annual Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2024, as submitted to the City Council by Mayor William Sapelli on May 11, 2023. The Annual Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2024 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 or contact the Clerk's Office.					
BY ORDER OF: Christopher C. Johnson City Council President					
CHART OF APPROPRIATIONS FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET					
DEPARTMENT	Personnel Services	Purchased Services	Supplies	Capital Outlay	TOTAL
GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET					
Council	\$171,537	\$12,600	\$500		\$184,637
Mayor	\$416,390	\$113,775			\$530,165
Procurement	\$34,446	\$225			\$34,671
Law Department	\$119,388	\$107,000			\$226,388
Auditor	\$184,666	\$910			\$185,576
Clerk/Elections	\$286,110	\$5,735			\$291,845
Assessor	\$201,607	\$137,500			\$339,107
IT Department	\$207,928	\$301,643	\$20,000		\$529,571
Treasurer-Collector	\$313,726	\$27,060	\$4,800		\$345,586
Police Department	\$6,167,764	\$406,919	\$95,107	\$285,100	\$6,954,890
Fire Department	\$4,466,246	\$110,560	\$65,250		\$4,642,056
Inspection Services	\$347,148	\$11,600	\$0		\$358,748
Health Department	\$915,802	\$8,000	\$4,200		\$928,002
Community Development	\$197,182	\$1,200			\$198,382
Agawam Public Library	\$1,099,273	\$6,625	\$124,122		\$1,230,020
Parks & Recreation	\$221,690	\$17,575	\$38,405		\$277,670
Council on Aging	\$389,682	\$24,290	\$1,000		\$414,972
Public Works Administration	\$148,355	\$3,800	\$50		\$152,205
Highway & Grounds	\$1,749,949	\$463,900	\$495,760		\$2,709,609
Motor Vehicle Maintenance	\$164,696	\$66,595	\$537,120		\$768,411
Engineering	\$156,665	\$43,292	\$1,200		\$201,157
Building Maintenance	\$2,807,585	\$2,068,561	\$155,522		\$5,031,668
Agawam Public Schools					\$49,960,427
Emergency Management	\$27,300	\$16,500			\$43,800
Line Items		\$31,170,121			\$31,170,121
TOTAL - GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET					\$107,709,682
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET					\$ 2,787,577 \$2,787,577
TOTAL GENERAL FUND					\$20,795,134 \$3,955,865 \$1,543,036 \$285,100 \$110,497,259
SELF SUSTAINING DEPARTMENTS					
Agawam Municipal Golf Course	\$480,025	\$295,746	\$217,500		\$993,271
Agawam Municipal Golf Course Equipment				\$15,000	\$15,000
Agawam Municipal Golf Course Total					\$1,008,271
Water Department	\$1,178,547.51	\$4,773,936	\$763,523		\$6,716,006.51
Water Capital Improvement Budget		\$209,415		\$165,000	\$374,415
Water Total					\$7,090,422
Wastewater Department	\$712,660	\$3,726,940	\$102,539		\$4,542,139
Wastewater Capital Improvement Budget		\$347,890		\$47,174	\$395,064
Wastewater Total					\$4,937,203
TOTAL - SELF SUSTAINING DEPARTMENTS					\$13,035,895
TOTAL - GENERAL FUND AND SELF SUSTAINING DEPARTMENTS					\$123,533,155
05/18, 05/25/2023					

Legal Notice of Private Sale
Notice is hereby given by USA Towing, 71 Garden St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030, sale of a motor vehicle pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, that on May 29, 2023 at 8:00 a.m., at USA Towing, said motor vehicle will be sold at a private sale to satisfy the garage keeper's lien for towing, storage and costs of sale.

2017 Appalachia Trailer
VIN: 541FC3433HM000739
NO PLATES ON TRAILER
Last known reg. owner:
Cruz Fontanez
19 Yale St., Springfield, MA 01109

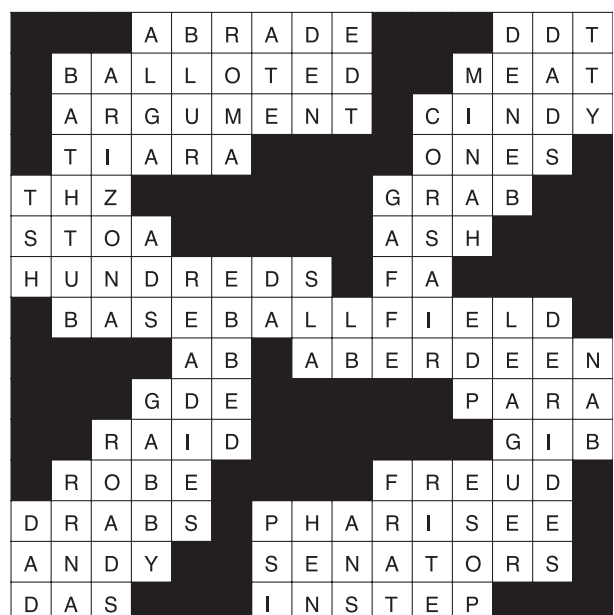
2009 Subaru Forester
VIN: JF2SH63619H775637
Plate#: 1RTK39 - MA
Last known reg. owner:
Maureen Sheehan,
438 Springfield St., Apt. 15
Agawam MA 01001
05/11, 05/18, 05/25/2023

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to 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



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MISCELLANEOUS

LEATHER ADJUSTABLE HEIGHT ARTIST PIANO BENCH EBONY \$90.00;

Bogen professional 3001 tripod \$75.00; Real wicker 2 chairs 1 loveseat \$125.00; Cuisinart insta-pot electric pressure cooker used once \$75.00; Husqvarna Viking Daisy sewing machine never used \$85.00 **(413) 256-1670**

TAG SALE

325 THREE RIVERS ROAD, WILBRAHAM MAY 27 9:00-6:00 NO EARLY BIRDS. Multi-family, sewing machine, decorative items, beautiful clothing, stereo equip. So much more.

WANTED

OLD CARPENTER TOOLS wanted. Planes, chisels, axes, etc. Vintage hunting, camping, cast iron cookware, advertising, motorcycles, clothing. Call Ken **(413)433-2195.**

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY

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

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

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

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is looking for mature, responsible adults with own transportation, experience and references for a house-keeping position. Hours 7:30- 2:30. Call Nancy today **(413)267-4297.**

PART TIME SECRETARY FOR SMALL AGAWAM OFFICE.

Need to be organized with attention to detail reply to **babco321@comcast.net**

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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.
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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Democratic Committee announce upcoming caucus

AGAWAM – The Agawam Democratic Committee will be holding the 2023 Democratic Caucus at the Agawam Senior Center on Saturday, June 10 at 10 a.m.

If you are interested in being elected as a delegate for the 2023 Massachusetts Democratic Convention, please attend the caucus. You must arrive prior to 10 a.m. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. and doors will close at 10 a.m.

The only requirement is that you have to be a registered voter, resident of the

Town of Agawam, and a Democrat in order to participate in the 2023 caucus.

On Saturday, Sept. 23, delegates will gather at the Tsongas Center in Lowell to adopt a party agenda and/or platform by a majority vote of Convention delegates present and voting based upon the recommendation, subject to amendments, of the Party Agenda or Platform Committee.

Resolutions may be developed through a process beginning with caucuses of local Democrats.

Annual Plant sale set for June 3

Agawam Garden Club is planning its annual plant sale for Saturday, June 3. This year's event will be held at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church 21 North Westfield St., Feeding Hills and will run from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The sale will include many perennials and shrubs all from members gardens and all a bargain. Because the plants are all grown locally in members gardens they are

well acclimated to the area. Also featured this year will be Agawam and Feeding Hills hand painted pots as well as chair planters painted and decorated by club members. Proceeds from the sale go towards funding the club's scholarship and providing gardening programs for the year. Please check the club's website for further information. agawamgardenclub.com.

PADDLE ■ from page 6

passed until 1972."

The Westfield River Watershed Canoe & Kayak Cruise is suitable for novice paddlers who welcome the added support of navigating the river in a group. Children under 14 are welcome if they are paddling with an adult. Unlike the Westfield River Wildwater Races, which the organization is the presenting sponsor of, there is no whitewater.

Participants need to bring their own canoe or kayak, paddles and personal flotation devices, as well as sunscreen and drinking water. Organizers recommend that participants have some experience paddling, given that river conditions may be unpredictable. Children under 18 must be supervised by a parent or guardian. Children under 14 must paddle in the same boat as an adult. Other suggestions

for what to bring include a picnic for a late lunch once you reach Robinson State Park and snacks for munching along the way. A shuttle will carry paddlers to the start so that they can leave their vehicles at the finish.

The participation fee of \$15 per person (\$10 for members) helps cover shuttle service, insurance and light refreshments. Registration begins at 9 a.m. in the municipal parking lot off Meadow Street near the Great River Bridge in Westfield. Participants will register, unload boats and gear, drive their vehicles to Robinson State Park and return by shuttle to the launch area. Staggered Cruise departures will begin around 10 a.m.

Low or high water conditions or severe weather may require cancellation of the event. Please like our Facebook page and check it for notifications or visit www.westfieldriver.org.



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NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

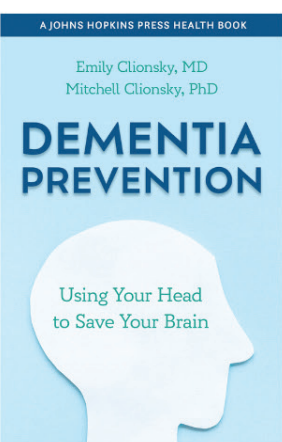
JOIN US FOR GUEST SPEAKER
Mitchell Clionsky, Ph.D. ABPP(CN)
JUNE 8th, 2023 at 7:00 pm
 Light Refreshments Will be Served
 The Arbors at Westfield Assisted Living Residential Community



THE Arbors
 Assisted Living Residential Communities
 At Westfield
 40 Court Street
 Westfield, MA


Worried About Memory Loss and Dementia Risk?

Join us for a special presentation by Mitchell Clionsky to discuss his new book **DEMENTIA PREVENTION: Using Your Head to Save Your Brain** (John Hopkins Press)
 Dr. Clionsky will present an overview of dementia and the various elements that go into dementia risk, but rather than just a lecture, he will be focusing on answering YOUR questions!!!



DONT WAIT, RSVP TODAY


Call (413) 562-0001
 or
 Email (scan QR code)



First 10 RSVPS's will receive a signed copy of the book "Dementia Prevention"

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LEARN MORE ABOUT THE AUTHOR



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