



LOCAL
Feline friends fundraiser
 PAGE 2



LIBRARY
June activities announced
 PAGE 3



SPORTS
WMass playoffs abound
 PAGE 7

AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS



A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

June 1, 2023 | Vol. 45, No. 14 | \$1.00

www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com

Agawam celebrates

MEMORIAL DAY

AGAWAM – On Monday morning, townspeople lined Main St. to honor veterans and those who gave their lives for our freedom.

The Town of Agawam, led by its dedicated Veterans Council, held its Memorial Day parade

followed by a ceremony honoring veterans lost in the country's major conflicts.

The ceremony included the ringing of the bell as the names of Agawam residents lost in combats were read one-by-one.



A group of children look for the fire trucks to beep at them.



The parade makes its way down Main St. See more photos on page 12.

PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Skate Park under reconstruction thanks to CPA funding

By Quinn Suomala
 Staff Writer

AGAWAM – At Shea Park, the skate park is undergoing a full reconstruction and should be ready to re-open around mid-June. The old skatepark has been completely removed and construction is now working to replace it with an upgraded space. The upgraded park will have an entirely new asphalt surface as well as six new elements, including smaller elements that can be moved around and rails that will be permanently mounted into the service.

The park was originally made around 2001, and there have been smaller repairs done throughout the years, but recently it had reached a point where it was beyond repair.

"It got to the point where the

asphalt was cracking to the point where it was beyond repair and becoming a safety issue, so we decided to completely remove the park that was 20, plus, years old and start over with a brand-new park this year," Parks and Recreation Director Christopher Sparks, said.

The Parks and Rec department has used funds from multiple different surfaces in order to fund this \$240,000 project. Initially, they received \$130,700 in CPA funds, but as that initial request was based off of old estimates,

SKATE PARK | page 11



New ramps are constructed at the Agawam Skate Park. PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



CPA funds were used to reconstruct the skate park. The city council fully supported the funding.

Residents encouraged to take advantage of compost bin discount

By Quinn Suomala
 Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The town of Agawam is offering compost bins to residents for \$25, more than 40% off of retail price, in an effort to get more people to begin composting.

"Composting is a great way for the homeowners to reduce their garbage," Tracy DeMaio, Environmental Project Coordinator, said. "Also, it helps them add nutrients and enrich their own soil. It saves them money for disposal costs or saves them time. Instead of having to bring their yard clippings and materials to a yard waste drop-off center, they can just reuse it, essentially, and put the nutrients back into their own garden."

This program has been in place for many years now, since the town was given a grant through the Department of Environmental Protection. Not only did this grant help to start the program, it also helps the town to sell the bins to residents at a reduced price.

"It started through a grant from the Department of Environmental Protection," DeMaio explained. "A portion of the funds come from the grant and then the difference is paid

for by the residents. So, we just continue to offer it to the residents to help them with their composting programs in their homes."

Since 2019, there have been 150 bins sold, averaging around 30 a year. The bins have a long lifespan, with DeMaio rarely getting calls for replacements once residents have gotten a bin of their own.

"I get very few replacement orders," she said. "We haven't had any complaints about them. Once in a while we'll get a request for additional parts, but we don't really get any complaints that they don't last."

Those who want to learn more about composting can find information on how to layer compost available on the town website at <https://www.agawam.ma.us/539/Composting>. At this link, residents can find tips on how to compost and an instructional video for how to assemble their compost bin.

"There's a graphic there that helps residents with how they should layer their compost so they don't get odors," DeMaio said. "If you put too many wet ingredients in there, it won't

COMPOST BIN | page 5



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.

Feline Friends fundraiser this weekend at Smithland

AGAWAM – Feline Friends Inc. Cat Sanctuary of Feeding Hills, MA will be holding a food/supply drive at Smithland Pet & Garden Center on Saturday, June 3 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers will be accepting food, litter, treats & monetary donations for our kitties. Opened bags/boxes will also be accepted. Gift cards from various pet stores or Costco would be much appreciated.

We are so excited to announce that our kitties will benefit from E.B.’s wonderful Fundraising Program. Eat at E.B.’s at 385 Walnut Street Extension in Agawam on June 21 and 10% of the day’s total food sales will be used to care for our cats. Open to close. No coupon or flyer needed. Dine-in, take out or delivery. Alcohol sales excluded. (413) 789-3525. ebsrestaurants.com

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

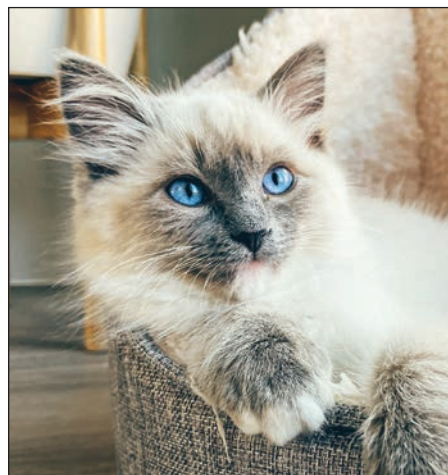
Smithland, a valued sponsor, is stocked with Friskies Pate or Shreds canned food (single flavored cases preferred), unscented cat litter and Temptations cat treats. All donations are gratefully accepted. Our donation bin is located near the cash registers.

Other Wish List items: Disinfecting

wipes, paper towels, puppy pee pads, dry cat food for strays and colonies.

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

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



STEM Beats performs for UMass music education class

HOLYOKE – Student STEM Beat musicians recently performed for an undergraduate music education class at UMass Amherst—which included teaching college students how to perform a section of one of their original musical arrangements.

“Not only did our students perform, they also spoke about our program, answered students’ and professors’ questions, and had a chance to ask the undergraduate students questions about being a music education major at UMass,” said Holyoke STEM music teacher Aaron Di Pilla. “The professors and students were blown away by their skills.”

While at UMass, the STEM Beats performers toured the campus and enjoyed

a meal in a UMass dining hall. “This was a win-win for all involved,” Mr. Di Pilla said. “Our students were able to picture themselves being college students, and they were humbled with compliments on their skills. It also gave us the opportunity to represent Holyoke and recruit future teachers. We already have a number of UMass students from the class reaching out to inquire about opportunities to do classroom observations and about potential student-teacher placements.”

The next STEM Beats concert is scheduled for 5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 7 at the Holyoke STEM Academy, 1045 Main Street. Students will be performing their classics, past and present. Admission is free.

Boy scouts hosting bottle/can drive

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

Founded in 1960, Troop 82 is Agawam’s longest running Boy Scout troop.

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

Scouts are also offering pick up of donations before June 3. Please email troop82agawam@gmail.com to make arrangements. Thank you for your support.

JOIN US FOR GUEST SPEAKER

Mitchell Clionsky, Ph.D. ABPP(CN)

JUNE 8th, 2023 at 7:00 pm

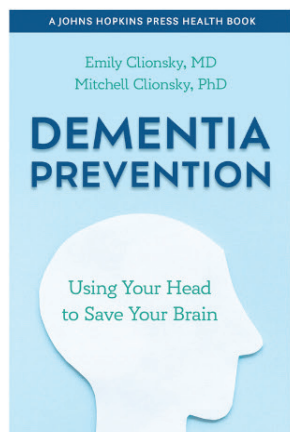
Light Refreshments Will be Served

The Arbors at Westfield Assisted Living Residential Community



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)



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE AUTHOR



PURCHASE A BOOK ON AMAZON



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

www.arborsassistedliving.com



THE Arbors
Assisted Living Residential Communities

At Westfield

40 Court Street
Westfield, MA

Summer fun scheduled this June at Agawam Library

AGAWAM – The Agawam Library is pleased to offer a new book club beginning in June. Join us for the first meeting of Read with Pride on Wednesday, June 7 at 7 p.m. This group will discuss books by LGBTQ+ authors and/or books that feature LGBTQ+ characters. For the first meeting, adult participants are invited to bring a book they would like to share with the group. Also at the first meeting, the book for our July meeting will be distributed. Members will be invited to vote on the reading list for the next couple of meetings. Regular meetings will be held for adults on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Clini Community Room. There will be a separate meeting time for Teens (14+) at 2 p.m.

Summer is right around the corner and the librarians are preparing for the annual Summer Reading Program. To kick-off the Adult Summer Reading, the library is happy to bring back Read Local—a local author fair

showcasing authors from Agawam and surrounding areas. Read Local will take place on Monday, June 26 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Clini Community Room. Each author will have a table with books available for sale and signing. The author meet and greet will also feature a brief presentation from each author about their books and writing experiences. Refreshments will be served. This program is sponsored, in part, by the Agawam Center Library Association. Please register online. www.agawamlibrary.org or by calling the Information Desk (413) 789-1550 X4.

This year's Summer Reading Theme is "Find Your Voice". Throughout the summer, the library will feature programming that encourages participants to use their voice to share stories, express themselves, and spark change. A full list of summer crafts and programs will be released separately in early June.

In preparation for Summer Reading, our June Library Tech session will feature a demonstration of the Beanstack program. Erica LeFebvre will instruct participants on how to use Beanstack to complete reading challenges for prizes. Join Erica on Wednesday, June 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the Clini Community Room. Please register online www.agawamlibrary.org or by calling the Information Desk (413) 789-1550 X4.

The Agawam Improv Club will continue its meetings on Thursday, June 8 and Tuesday, June 27. Both meetings are at 6:30 and take place in the Clini Community Room. The Improv Club is led by Christian Boor. Please reach out to Christian at boorch01@gmail.com with any questions.

Library Game Night will take place in the Peirce Conference Room on Wednesday, June 14 at 6:30 p.m. Join us for a fun night of board games and refreshments. Tea & Trivia returns on Thursday, June

29 at 3 p.m. Test your knowledge and Find Your Voice this time around! Join us for a round or two of trivia exploring our summer theme! Celebrate summer with a nice, cold iced tea! Please register online www.agawamlibrary.org or by calling the Information Desk (413) 789-1550 X4.

The library is also pleased to announce that Yoga Flow will continue this summer. Mary Ellen will continue her Monday morning sessions at 9:30 a.m. All levels of fitness are welcome. There is no charge and no registration is necessary.

The Agawam Library would like to extend our Congratulations to the Agawam High School Class of 2023. Summer hours begin on June 17th. The library will be closed on Monday, June 19 in observance of Juneteenth. Visitors are welcome Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Our last Saturday will be June 10.

Sen. Velis works to get amendments in state budget

BOSTON – After considering over 1,000 amendments in a three-day-long debate, the Massachusetts State Senate today unanimously passed its final fiscal 2024 budget. During the debate, the Senate adopted 16 policy and funding amendments filed by State Sen. John Velis (D-Westfield) that allocated a total of \$3.76 million to policy initiatives and organizations across the Hampden and Hampshire District and the Commonwealth.

"This final Senate FY'24 budget makes transformative investments in so many important areas of our Commonwealth and I am grateful to my colleagues for adopting several of my amendments throughout the debate for veterans' ser-

vices, behavioral health supports, and so many other priorities in our district and state," said Senator Velis, who is Chairman of the Mental Health, Substance Use, and Recovery Committee and Chairman of the Veterans' & Federal Affairs Committee.

Veterans' Affairs Amendments

- Amendment 362: \$500,000 to the Massachusetts General Hospital Home Base Program to expand trauma services for Veterans across the state
- Amendment 490: \$200,000 to implement the recommendations of last session's Women Veterans Study, including expanding outreach to identify women veterans and services

- Amendment 372: Expanding eligibility for the MA Welcome Home Bonus to LGBTQ+ service members who were dishonorably discharged under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"

- Amendment 352: \$914,000 to Disabled American Veterans Department of Massachusetts Service Fund, Inc. to provide counseling and benefits assistance to disabled veterans and their families

- Amendment 584: \$100,000 to Vietnam Veterans of Massachusetts Inc to aid veterans in the commonwealth with filing claims for medical and financial benefits

Health Care Amendments

- Amendment 531: \$500,000 to estab-

lish a Behavioral Health School Pilot Program that will allow school counselors and administrators to call a specialist hotline to discuss behavioral health issues with students

- Amendment 378: Requires the Board of Nursing Home Administrators to report on nursing home closures and whether the closures were in compliance with state regulations

- Amendment 354: Ensures that Physicians are able to access mental health resources after being referred to Physician Health Services.

Another amendment from Velis,

AMMENDMENTS | page 11

Democratic Committee set to hold caucus June 10

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.

Class of 1968 celebrating 55th reunion this summer

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

buffet 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.

Public Auction

THURSDAY, JUNE 15TH at 3:00 P.M.

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
• WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS •

★ **UPSCALE NEIGHBORHOOD** ★
13 ROOM / 7 BEDROOM
2 STORY
COLONIAL STYLE HOME
WITH
IN-LAW UNIT & 4 CAR ATTACHED GARAGE
"IN-GROUND POOL & TENNIS COURT"

15 Brimfield Way WESTFIELD, MA
To be Sold on the Premises

Features:

- Two Story Colonial Style Home • ±3/4 Acre of Land •
- Total of (13) Rooms, (7) Bedrooms & (4) Bathrooms •
- ±4,942 S/F of Gross Living Area Above Grade •
- Gas FWA Heat • Central Air Conditioning •
- Full Basement • Vinyl & Brick Exterior •
- In-Law Unit • Hardwood & Carpeted Floors •
- Wood Deck • Covered Porch • Fireplace •
- Tennis Court • Public Water & Sewer •
- In-Ground Pool • 4-Car Attached Garage •
- Zoned: RES A (Residential) •

Sole Per Order of Mortgagee
Attorney Thomas J. Hamel
of the firm of Courtney, Lee & Hamel, P.C.
31 Wendell Avenue, Pittsfield, MA
Attorney for Mortgagee

Terms of Sale: \$20,000.00 Deposit Bank Treasurer's Check or Certified Funds.
Deposit to be increased to 10% of Purchase Price within 5 Business Days.
5% Buyer's Premium Applies.
Other Terms to be Announced at Time of Sale.

Aaron Posnik
AUCTIONEERS - APPRAISERS

West Springfield, MA • Philadelphia, PA
413-733-5238 • 610-853-6655
TOLL FREE 1-877-POSNIK-1 (767-6451)
MA Auc. Lic. #161 • PA Auc. Lic. #AY000241L

www.posnik.com • E-mail: info@posnik.com

V&F AUTO
AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE INC

AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE.

WARRANTY
3 Years / 36,000 Mile

From a basic oil change to complete car repair services, our professional staff can handle all of your needs!

AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR EXPERTS
WE FIX EVERYTHING!

MOTORCYCLE SERVICE.

We can handle all of your motorcycle's maintenance & tire needs, including MA State Inspections

*Inspections coming soon

AUTOMOTIVE SALES.

Preowned vehicles you can trust! Financing available.

Value & Friendly service is in our name!

443 Springfield St. - Agawam
Monday - Friday 7:30 - 5PM
413-789-2181
www.vfauto.com

FREE Wi-Fi • Shuttle Service • Financing Available • Rental Cars Available • State of the art equipment

Community Newspaper

ADVERTISING

Works!

Opinion

Guest Column

I'm approaching 65 should I claim Social Security?



Dear Rusty:

I am fast approaching 65 (in August) and plan to continue working full time. I would like to know the implications of that, and about drawing Social Security. Same question for my husband who is past his full retirement age (he will be 67 this year) and he continues to work full time.

Signed: Still Working

Dear Still Working:

Married couples should always coordinate their retirement strategy and you're very smart to do so. Born in 1958, your Full Retirement Age for Social Security purposes is 66 years and 8 months. Your FRA is the point at which your earnings from work no longer affect your Social Security benefits, but if you claim at age 65 and continue to work full time, you will be limited to how much you can earn before they take away some or perhaps all of your benefits. Here's what will happen if you claim Social Security to start in August when you are 65.

Your SS retirement benefit will be permanently reduced by 11% (you'll get 89% of your FRA entitlement). Your monthly amount will only change thereafter due to Cost of Living Adjustments.

If you start your benefits in August you will be subject to an earnings limit, either a monthly limit of \$1,770 for the remaining months of the year or the 2023 annual limit of \$21,240. If the monthly limit is exceeded you aren't entitled to benefits for that month, or if the annual limit is exceeded they will take back benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 over the annual limit. Social Security will use whichever method yields the smallest penalty.

Beginning in 2024, you will be subject only to Social Security's annual earnings limit, which will be something more than the 2023 annual limit of \$21,240. If you exceed the 2024 (or 2025) annual limit, Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit (half of what you exceed the limit by). The annual limit will be in effect until you reach your full retirement age of 66 years and 8 months in April 2026.

Since your husband has already reached his FRA, working full time will not negatively affect his monthly Social Security benefits if he chooses to claim his SS benefits now. However, if he hasn't yet claimed your husband is already earning Delayed Retirement Credits, which will increase his benefit when he later claims. DRCs are earned monthly (.667% per month; 8% per year) and can be earned up to age 70 when maximum SS benefit is attained. For your husband, his age 70 benefit would be 29% more than he was entitled to at his FRA. Whether it is wise to wait longer to claim depends on life expectancy, but break even age is about 83 for those who wait until 70 to claim vs. claiming at FRA. FYI, average life expectancy for a man your hus-

band's current age is about 84; for you about 87.

Since you are both still working full time, be aware that depending on your combined income from all sources your Social Security benefits will become part of your taxable income. As a married couple both working full time, your combined income will likely be over the \$44,000 threshold after which income tax will be levied on up to 85% of your Social Security benefits received during the tax year using your normal IRS tax rate. I suggest you consider the income tax implications of claiming Social Security while you are still working full time.

You did not ask about Medicare, but if you and your husband now have "creditable" health-care coverage from your employer ("creditable" is a group plan with at least 20 participants) you can defer enrolling in Medicare Part B until your employer healthcare coverage ends, thus avoiding the Medicare Part B premium while you are working.

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.

Lots of blue options for the spring border



I got so excited the other day. I was walking around my backyard and came upon a flower I had never seen before. Where did it come from and what is it?

After a little bit of research, I found out that it is named Blue-eye Grass or Sisyrinchium. It is very diminutive, looking like a miniature purple-blue iris, with sword-like leaves and all.

Its size would make it perfect for a rock garden or alpine plant garden.

I promptly moved it out of the way of the weed whacker to join some other blue flowers that are in bloom in one of my gardens, taking their place in the front of the border. During late spring, blue flowers abound.

In fact, you could easily design a monochromatic scheme using just cool tones for a late spring symphony!

Here are some of my favorites: For the back of the border, try Amsonia tabernaemontana. This native plant is topped with clusters of pale blue flowers, each one opening to form a tiny star, hence its common name, blue star.

Growing to around three feet tall and not quite as wide, Amsonia almost qualifies for "specimen" status, although it is not as showy as other specimens like Peony or Dictamnus.

Only one plant is necessary per grouping in full sun or part shade. In my garden it self sows, but not so much to make itself a nuisance.

Sadly, the plant blooms for only a short while but makes a nice statement when it does. Make sure you choose your forever location wisely.

I need to move mine and with a crown two feet by two feet, it won't be easy.

Another plant best suited for the back row of the perennial garden is Baptisia australis, or false indigo.

Gray-green foliage is pretty in its own right, until you see the beautiful deep blue-purple pea-like flower spikes emerge in mid June. Easily four feet tall and three feet wide, Baptisia is a nice specimen perennial - one plant is certainly enough per grouping.

The size of the plant you purchase may lead you to think otherwise, though, since transplants are usually puny and take a couple of seasons to establish.

Site false indigo in full sun or part shade in rich soil. Refrain from moving the plant once it reaches full size or its deep tap root may be compromised.

Blackish seed pods are hardly decorative on the plant, but do look nice in autumn decorations.

One of my favorite blue flowers is Aquilegia vulgaris. Although there are many cultivars of garden columbine, we grow the species variety at Old Sturbridge Village.

It can be found in white, pink, maroon, purple, blue and almost black. Ours tend to be mostly blue in a hue hard to describe - perhaps more royal blue than purple-blue.

If the color is hard to describe, the flower shape is even more difficult - maybe something along the lines of nodding bells with reflexed sepals?

Lobed leaves are another attractive feature of this plant, although vigilance against the dreaded leaf miner is a must in order to keep it looking good. Here too, full sun or part shade will grow decent two foot to two-and-a-half foot wispy plants - a size perfect for the middle row of the border.

Mountain bluet, or perennial bachelor button, as it is sometimes called, is one of my most treasured perennials.

There is nothing rare about Centaurea montana, or even all that unique about it. I just plain like its oversized cornflowers and their lovely true blue shade.

At eighteen inches tall it is another plant best suited to the middle row of the garden. Plant in full sun or slight shade for best results. Cut back after it is done flowering for a chance at late season rebloom.

Jacob's ladder, Polemonium caeruleum, is another of my favorite blue perennials. Its pinnately compound leaves surely resemble a ladder, hence the Biblical reference, but it is best known for its pretty cup shaped, light blue flowers that hang from multi stems growing 18 inches to 2 feet tall and blooming in May in part shade locations.

Have fun playing with blue hues this spring. By high summer blue will be few and far between in the landscape.

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.



PHONE

413.283.8393
Fax: 413.283.7107
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL

Advertising Sales
Theresa Wegiel
twegiel@turley.com

Editor
Gregory Scibelli
aan@turley.com

Subscriptions
cgriswold@turley.com

\$35 per year pre-paid
(\$40 out of state)
Newsstand \$1.00

WEB

www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com

@Agawam Advertiser News

The Agawam Advertiser News is published by Turley Publications, Inc. • www.turley.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters. All letters are subject to editing for content and length. The deadline is Monday at noon. Please send letters to Agawam Advertiser News, care of Turley Publications Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, or e-mail aan@turley.com.

AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS TEAM



EDITOR/SPORTS
Greg Scibelli
aan@turley.com
sports@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Theresa Wegiel
twegiel@turley.com

The Agawam Advertiser News (USPS 001-170) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.



@AgawamAdvertiserNews

WEB

www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

DEANNA SLOAT
Graphics Manager

Turley Publications, Inc.

www.turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

When Kids move out to attend college...



When Kids move back in after graduation...



©DAVE GRANLUND.com

Opinion



I received an email from an Oakham resident last week, who had "three very raucous sandhill cranes" fly past his house, heading northeast.

He said he went to a web site to verify their call and he included the link in his email. To hear sandhill cranes visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYn-HI9MqkE0>.

The sandhill crane is a 45 inches tall heron like bird. It is gray with a dark red patch on its forehead and a black bill. Some feathers on the back and wings are rusty-colored, possibly due to staining while preening from iron rich mud on its bill. They feed by picking or probing with the bill and eating weeds, agricultural grains and small animals.

A pair of sandhill cranes have nested in Hardwick for several years and successfully raised young. The cranes the Oakham resident heard flying over might be those.

The sandhill crane makes a mound like nest of arch plants, grasses and weeds placed on the ground or in shallow water. The female lays one to three olive eggs with dark marks. Their call is a low pitched "karooooo, karooooo, karooooo." Courtship dis-



Sandhill crane

plays are often seen during migration and involve graceful jumps off the ground in a dance like manner.

Years ago, a Barre resident saw a pair doing their courtship antics while they were in a field in Barre. This was years before the nesting pair appeared in Hardwick, so I assume they were in route to their summer breeding grounds further north.

Sandhill cranes form huge flocks in winter and during migration. They are often seen in agricultural fields and roost at night in the center of shallow lakes or large shallow rivers.

Nesting bluebirds

An Oakham resident said she has nesting bluebirds again this year. She said usually the bluebirds and swallows squabble



Bluebird

over the nest box, but she has not seen the swallows this year. She was wondering if anyone else has seen swallows.

I have seen them in my hayfield and I also saw some flying over Long Pond in Rutland.

Nesting ospreys

I received another email this week about the nesting pair of ospreys in Wilbraham. He said the pair were on or near the nest. If the eggs hatched, the young were too small to be seen. He will make a return trip later.

In a previous column he said for anyone wanting to go see this nest the best place to view the nest is from the Wilbraham Senior



Osprey

Center parking lot and park on the side of the lot facing the playing fields. There are stick nests on three light poles.

Hummingbirds

An Oakham couple reported lots of hummingbirds at their feeder. They keep busy filling the nectar feeders. People may make their own nectar by adding 1/4 cup white sugar to 1 cup water and bring to a boil. I make extra nectar, which I keep in the refrigerator. It will keep up to a week, but I am refilling every two to three days so it never gets past the one week mark.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

Schools & Youth

Taylor DeGeorge recognized by Assumption University

WORCESTER - In recognition of their commitment to service, 21 members of the Class of 2023, including Taylor DeGeorge, of Feeding Hills, have been awarded the prestigious Crown and Shield Award, which honors students who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and service during their four years at Assumption. Students were honored during a ceremony on May 5, two days before the University held its 106th Commencement exercises at the DCU Center in downtown Worcester.

"Crown and Shield recipients are the students who have exemplified the mis-

sion of Assumption University during their time on campus," said Laura Pena Pantano, Ph.D., Vice President for Student Affairs. "These students help to plan events, serve as ambassadors for Admissions and Orientation, build community in the residence halls, represent the student voice in SGA, tutor and support their peers, compete athletically, spread the mission of the University through Campus Ministry and much more. We are deeply grateful to our students for the role they play in creating a culture of service and for helping us build a strong community that inspires the students who will follow."

COMPOST BIN ■ from page 1

decompose. Or what happens if you add too much butter or dairy, things like that. It will give them an image of what to compost and what not to add so they don't get bugs and things like that."

For those interested in acquiring a bin, call DeMaio at 413-821-0624 for further instruction. The bins will be available until the current order sells out. Once all currently available are sold, names will go on a waitlist so they will be made priority when the next order comes in.

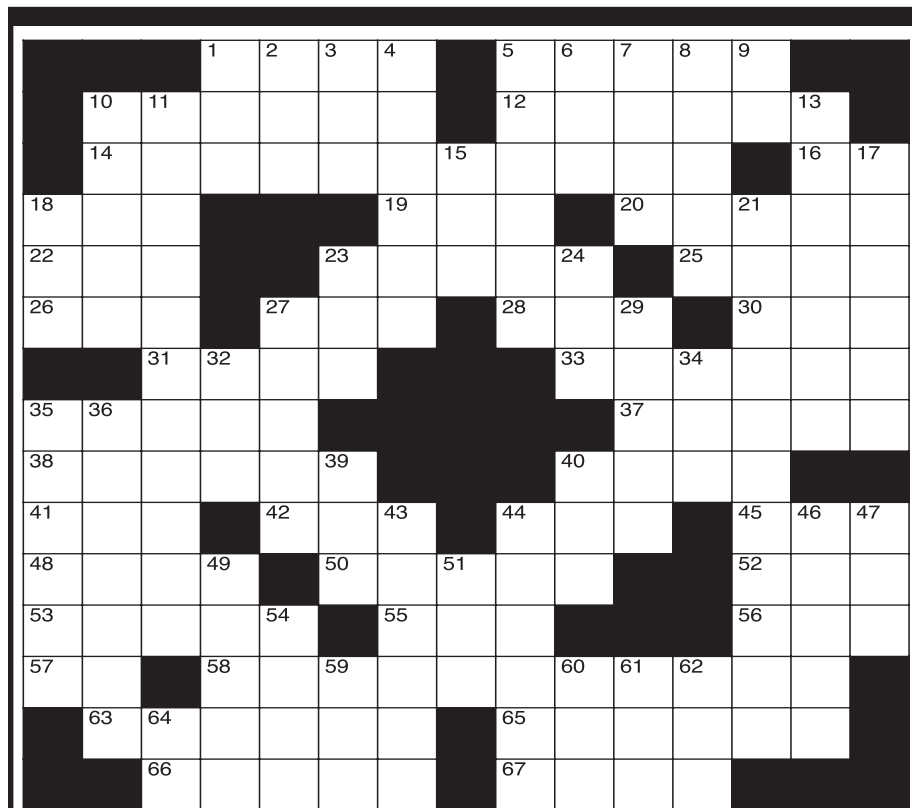
Subscribe online:
www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com

Open for the season!

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



E. Cecchi Farms 1131 SPRINGFIELD STREET
FEEDING HILLS, MASS. ☎ "Everything you'd grow if you had forty acres."



CLUES ACROSS

1. Sloping position
5. Descendant of a notable family
10. Following accepted norms
12. Root vegetable
14. Having a shape that reduces drag from air
16. Integrated circuit
18. Records electric currents of the heart
19. Used to anoint
20. Japanese city
22. After B
23. Muffles
25. Pass over
26. Vase
27. Soft touch
28. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
30. Patti Hearst's captors
31. Israeli politician
33. Degrade
35. Type of wrap
37. Polyurethane fabric
38. Avoids capture
40. Vegetarians avoid it
41. Decay
42. Soviet Socialist Republic
44. Vessel to bathe in
45. Inches per minute (abbr.)
48. Frosts
50. Dipped into
52. Controversial replay system in soccer
53. Comforts
55. Needed for yoga
56. Ands/___
57. South Dakota
58. Printing system
63. Dramatic works set to music
65. Highest points
66. Social division
67. Used to treat Parkinson's disease

CLUES DOWN

1. Hill or rocky peak
2. Initial public offering
3. Type of light
4. Test
5. Flaky coverings
6. Former NFLer Newton
7. Part of the eye
8. Roman god of the underworld
9. Negative
10. Indiana pro basketball player
11. Replaces lost tissue
13. Denotes one from whom title is taken
15. Historic college hoops tournament
17. Hut by a swimming pool
18. Defunct European monetary unit
21. Feeds on insects
23. Adult male
24. Melancholic
27. Sheets of glass
29. Slang for famous person
32. Not good
34. "Ghetto Superstar" singer
35. The "World" is one
36. Used to make guacamole
39. Midway between south and southwest
40. Wet dirt
43. Ancient Egyptian name
44. Set of four
46. Strips
47. Wife
49. More dried-up
51. Socially inept person
54. Clusters on fern fronds
59. Bar bill
60. Prefix indicating "away from"
61. Very important person
62. Fiddler crabs
64. Special therapy

Girl Scouts announced new board members

HOLYOKE/WORCESTER – Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts (GSCWM) elected ten new board members, including three girl members, and four new members to its Board Development Committee at its Annual Meeting May 21 at the La Salle Reception Center in Southbridge. They include:

Juliana Bregoli

Juliana is a freshman at Southwick Regional High School where she is active in drama, musical theatre and chorus. She has been cheerleading for basketball and football games for seven years. Juliana has been a Girl Scout for ten years and is a Girl Scout Senior presently.

Carla Carten

Carla Carten, Ph.D, is Executive Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Strategy for Mass General Brigham Health Care. Carla has a Ph.D in Organizational Behavior, a master's degree in organizational development and more than 25 years of experience as an organizational development and diversity management consultant, facilitator and educator.

Constance Currier

Constance is a freshman at Notre Dame Academy. They are passionate about theater and dance and very excited to have the opportunity to be part of the Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts Board of Directors and give back to the Girl Scout community. Constance has been a Girl Scout since kindergarten and is a Girl Scout Senior presently.

Neliana Ferraro de Mitchell

Neliana Ferraro de Mitchell is the Digital Project Coordinator for Baystate Health's marketing team. She manages projects, serves as an admin for the network's intranet, and helps maintain the external website. Before transitioning into marketing, Neliana was a reporter and producer at news stations in upstate New York and Vermont. She is Quinipiac University graduate with degrees in Broadcast Journalism and Economics.

Jennifer Hubert

Jennifer Hubert is Vice President-Marketing for Bay State Savings Bank. An active community leader, Jennifer volun-

teers and serves on many various boards and committees, including as Head Swim Coach and Program Coordinator for the Special Olympics Auburn Rocketeers, Co-chair for the Legendary Legacies Night of Legends Fundraising event, Committee-Member for the World Smile Day Foundation, Vice President of the Board of Directors for the New Hampshire Teen Institute, Committee-Member for the Reliant Foundation's Drive for a Cause Charity Golf Tournament, and Marketing Committee for the Women's Initiative. She is an alumni of Syracuse University.

Roberta McCulloch-Dews

Roberta McCulloch-Dews, is Vice President of Marketing for Greylack Federal Credit Union. She previously served as Director of Administrative Services within the Office of the Mayor and Public Information Officer for the City of Pittsfield. Roberta has a bachelor's degree in Print Journalism from New York University and a master's degree in Social and Public Policy and an Advanced Certificate in Project Management from SUNY Empire.

Christine A. Phillips

Christine A. Phillips is Senior Vice President and Human Resources Director for Westfield Bank. She received a master's degree in business administration from the Isenberg School of Management at the University of Massachusetts where she also completed her undergraduate degree. Christine was an elected official in South Hadley, recently completing a 7-year term on the School Committee and currently serves on the Capital Planning Committee. She is Co-Director of the St. Patrick's CYO Basketball league that supports 220 players in grades K-8.

Elizabeth Rotunno

Elizabeth is a Hopkins Academy freshman where she serves as class vice president and recently competed in Le Grand Concours, the National French Contest. She has been a proud Girl Scout for 10 years. She recently completed her Silver Award, which focused on improving plant and pollinator biodiversity in her school community. She looks forward to beginning work on her Gold Award. She loves volunteering with Girl Scouts to make her community a better place and

is excited to give back to her fellow Girl Scouts as a girl member of the Board of Directors.

Katie Rozenas-Hanson

Katie Rozenas-Hanson is the Agricultural Education Coordinator, Agritourism/Culinary Tourism Coordinator and the Massachusetts Dairy Promotion Coordinator at the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR). Katie received her B.S. in Geography/Environmental & Global Studies from Worcester State University and her M.S. in Professional Communications from Clark University. A proud Gold Award Girl Scout, Katie is very involved in her community and currently serves as Secretary for the Dudley Agricultural Advisory Commission.

Carolyn Sailer

Carolyn Sailer is part of the leadership team at the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts where she is responsible for all Human Resources functions. She is a certified Professional in Human Resources. Carolyn is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker with clinical experience in healthcare and non-profit settings and received a bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University and a master's degree from the Smith College School for Social Work.

Board Development Committee:

Lisa Hall Blackmer

Lisa Hall Blackmer is serving her seventh term as a North Adams City Councilor, where she has chaired the Finance, Public Safety and Community Development committees and presently serves as Council President. She serves on the board of the Massachusetts Municipal Association and works as a School Business Administrator. She is a certified Treasurer, a certified Municipal Public Procurement Officer and a Licensed School Business Administrator. She holds a Bachelor of Science and a master's in business administration from MCLA, a master's Certificate in Municipal Administration and Leadership from Suffolk University.

Amelia J. Holstrom

Amelia J. Holstrom, Esq. is a Partner at Skoler, Abbott, and Presser, P.C. in Springfield where she exclusively rep-

resents management in labor and employment matters. Amelia was a member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee for the Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts for a number of years and previously served on the Board Development Committee. Currently, Amelia is the Clerk of the Board for Clinical and Support Options, Inc. and a Member of the Board for the East of the River Chamber of Commerce (ERC5) as well as an ad-hoc Member of the Personnel Committee for the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. Amelia also serves on two Town Committees/Boards in Wilbraham: The Commission on Disabilities and the Personnel Board.

Bonnie J. Walker

Bonnie J. Walker is Principal Diversity & Inclusion Officer, at MIT Lincoln Labs, where she collaborates with her team and colleagues across divisions and departments, the Business Transformation Office, MIT Campus, ERGs and other Lab stakeholders and leaders to execute strategies, develop programs and practices that support and advance MIT Lincoln Laboratory's continued commitment to diversity and inclusion (D&I). Most recently, Bonnie completed the Next Generation Executive (NGE) Program, with The Partnership. She was recognized in the Worcester Business Journal (WBJ) Forty Under Forty, Class of 2018, and in 2019 started a column, Outside the Box, for the WBJ. In 2020 and 2021 she received third place in the New England Better Newspaper Competition, for Serious Columnist. She received her B.A., magna cum laude, in Sociology, and M.A. in Scientific Communications. Bonnie has served on the GSCWM Board of Directors since 2018 and as 2nd Vice President since 2020.

Karen Wall

Karen Wall is Senior Vice President of Human Resources at Fresenius Medical Care, Inc. a publicly traded company. She is an advisor to Fresenius' Global Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee, as well as an executive sponsor to the company's Female Leadership Consortium. She has served as Girl Scout Troop Leader, cookie mom, and was a prior board member and board development committee member with GSCWM.

BONAVITA LAW OFFICE

Defense Attorney
(413) 213-3087

Visit us at
 www.turley.com

CENTER STREET AUTO PARTS OF CHICOPEE, INC.

 We will pay you top dollar for your car AND we will pick it up! Call us for a price!
 • Top-Of-The-Line Auto Salvaging Services
 • First-Rate Used Auto Parts
 • Top-Grade Auto Body Parts
 • Sell Your Old or Used Car to Us
 "Serving all of Western Mass."
 \$\$\$ Money on the Spot for All Vehicles
centerstreetautoparts.com
 651 Center St., Chicopee 413-733-2778

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET! **INFLATION** **PRICE BUSTERS** **PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!**

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN ASSORTED PORK LOIN CHOPS \$2²⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF RIB EYE CUT FREE \$9⁴⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP SIRLOIN STEAKS \$5⁴⁹ lb
USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SHOULDER PICNIC.. \$1⁴⁸ lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF CHUCK STEAKS \$4³⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG \$1⁷⁹ lb
USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SPARE RIBS \$2²² lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN BONE-IN CHICKEN THIGHS 59^c lb	USDA INSP. FRESH LAMB RIB CHOPS \$9⁹⁹ lb
USDA INSP. SLICED IN DELI TURKEY BREAST \$3⁹⁹ lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN RAW PEELED SHRIMP 31/40 CT 2 LB BAG \$7⁹⁹ ea	
GREAT ON THE GRILL	USDA INSP. STORE MADE BONELESS KOREAN BBQ MARINATED PORK BUTTS..... \$2⁹⁹ lb	
USDA INSP. STORE MADE BONELESS CAROLINA GOLD MARINATED CHICKEN THIGHS \$2⁹⁹ lb		
USDA INSP. FROZEN PORK BABY BACK RIBS... \$2⁹⁹ lb		

90 Meat Outlet
 90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288
 www.90meat.com
 We reserve the right to limit quantities.
 HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4
 Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3
 SALE DATES: 6/1/23-6/7/23 BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

VITALIY PANCHENKO ELECTRICAL LLC

413-454-3346
Panchenkopower@gmail.com
8 Bluemer Rd. Southamptn, MA

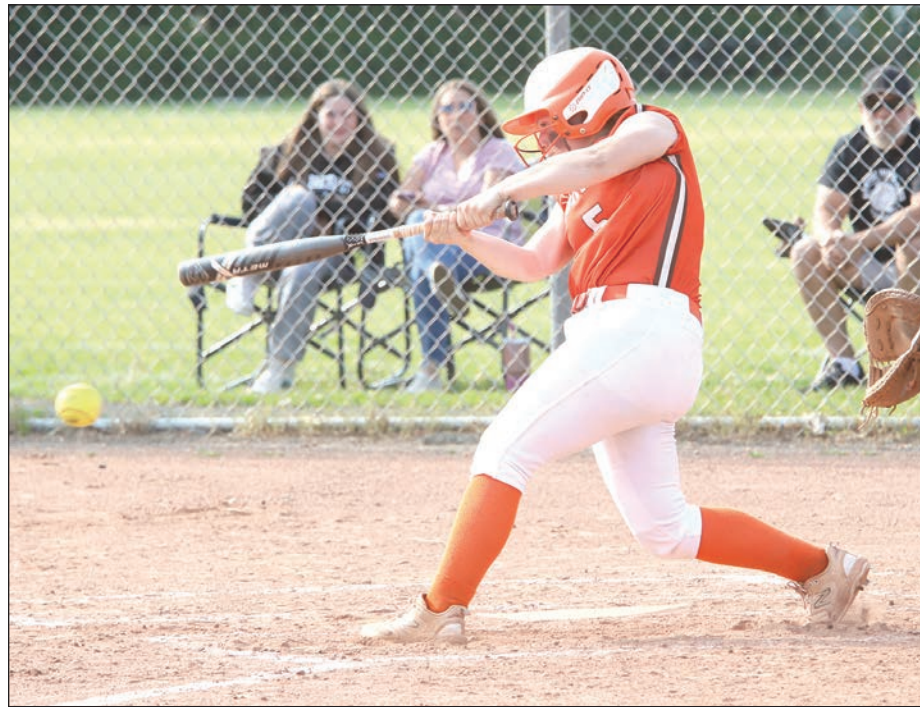
SPORTS

Agawam mercies way to finals

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School softball team took advantage of poor defense in one game, and an explosive offense in the second as they pitched a pair of shutouts in the Western Mass. Class Tournament. Agawam defeated Amherst in the quarterfinals and East Longmeadow in the semifinals, both by 12-0 scores. Agawam was scheduled to face Westfield in the Western Mass. finals earlier this week before beginning the state tournament.



Madison Pajak makes solid contact.



Alexina Lentes swings and connects on a base hit.

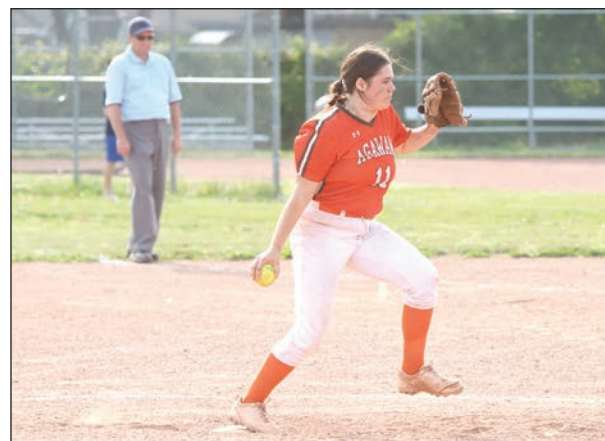
PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Lauren Champigny rounds third and heads home.



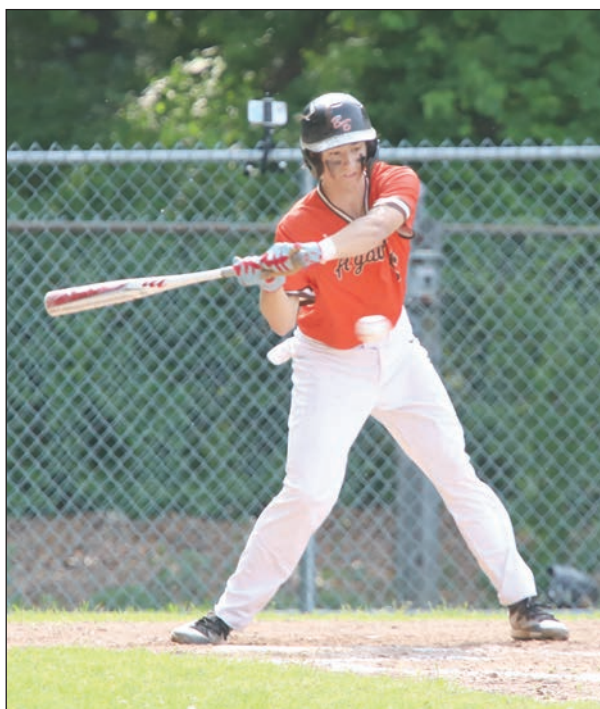
Mia Laudato makes a throw to first.



Kylie Circosta begins her windup.



Ryan Maloney attempts a tough catch.



Gavin Schlosser takes a swing.

Brownies ousted from tournament

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School baseball team was defeated at Central 11-1 in the quarterfinals of the Western Massachusetts Class A Tournament last Thursday.

The Brownies would get just one run on an RBI hit from Ryan Maloney in the second inning. The Brownies would go on to defeat Longmeadow in a non-play-off game later in the week.

Agawam heads for the state tournament, which begins late this week.



Vinny Cateletti fires over to first.



Brett Eggleston takes his lead off third.



Thomas Plakias cleanly fields a grounder to short.



Michael Plakias fires to first for an out.

Sports

Hirschman dominates to win at Derby

LEE, N.H. – In the inaugural Granite State Derby at Lee USA Speedway, Matt Hirschman dominated early but came up short in the stretch. This time around, Hirschman would not be denied.

“Big Money Matt” took charge on the third lap and never looked back en route to his first NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour win of the year and his first at “New Hampshire’s Center of Speed.”

“We just finally closed one,” Hirschman said in victory lane. “These races are tough to win, and I think we should have had five or six of them in recent years.”

The Northampton, Penn., veteran started third and only needed a couple laps to get alongside polesitter and defending

race winner Doug Coby. Once at the front, Hirschman checked out, maintaining a modest advantage over Coby, Sam Rameau and Jon McKennedy as the leaders plotted their tire strategy.

Patient and clean racing through the pack was paused on lap 69 when Max Zachem spun down the frontstretch, opening the pit strategy window. Hirschman led the entire field down pit road for tires, then beat Coby and McKennedy back to the track to lead the field back to green.

Coby stumbled on the restart with clutch problems, sliding back through the pack as McKennedy and Austin Beers settled into second and third. Beers snuck past the reigning series champion and into the run-

ner-up spot, but Hirschman was setting a steady pace at the front that the sophomore could not outmatch. The leaders prepared for one last pit stop, all the while managing their tires to go the distance if necessary.

McKennedy slipped back around Beers with 25 laps to go, carving time off Hirschman’s advantage as the leader dispatched slower traffic. But the caution McKennedy needed to erase that advantage never came.

Hirschman, ever disciplined at conserving equipment, crossed the line 1.120 seconds ahead of McKennedy to win his sixth career NWMT race and his first since the 2021 season opener.

“We deserve better than what the re-

sults have been, and a lot of that is on me,” Hirschman said. “I take the most responsibility for that. But today, we delivered.”

Beers held on for third place, with Rameau and Ron Silk rounding out the top five. Coby raced his way back to sixth at the finish.

Hirschman’s win is a small step toward repeating last year’s Whelen Granite State Short Track Cup championship for car owner Roy Hall’s Pee Dee Motorsports. Coby won the first leg of the triple-race program, the Duel at the Dog 200 at Monadnock Speedway.

In addition to the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour, six more feature races kept fans on the edge of their seats with a mix of local and regional star power. Supermodified wunderkind Jeffrey Battle passed his uncle Eddie Witkum with the white flag in sight to claim victory in the 350 Supermodifieds. Tom Harwood prevailed in a three-way battle to win the 25-lap New England Dwarf Car Series showdown. The New England Pro 4 Modifieds staged their inaugural Dan Meserve, Sr. Memorial Race, with Brayden Meserve taking an emotional win for the family.

Massachusetts’ Ryan Kuhn topped Lee’s best Pro Stock racers, leading wire-to-wire in a commanding performance in the 80-lap Pro Stock open. Wade Gelinas turned in a similar performance with the NHSTRA Late Models. And setting the stage for the night’s main event, Kyle Valeri took his first-ever win with the NEMA Lites.

The next scheduled event for JDV Productions is the inaugural Winchester Open Modified 100 at Monadnock Speedway in Winchester, N.H., where the JDV Open Modifieds will make their debut at “Mad Dog” Saturday, June 3. More information on this special event will be released later this week.

For more information on JDV Productions, visit JDVProductions.com and follow on social media for the latest updates throughout the season, including updates from the track on race day with feature winner posts.



Matt Hirschman gets the win in the Granite State Derby.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Basketball Hall of Fame adds new lighting display

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced a recent addition to the museum’s iconic exterior, a state-of-the-art LED projection lighting display. The dome, one of the city’s most prominent structures, will be lit up every night and will display an array of festive colors and patterns for holidays and events throughout the year.

“We’ve completed a major renovation on the inside of the Hall, and adding this dynamic lighting package to the building’s exterior demonstrates our ongoing commitment to beautifying the property and enhancing the riverfront area,” said

John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. “We couldn’t be more pleased with the result and to be able to help light Springfield’s night sky.”

In an effort to honor those who have sacrificed everything in service to the nation, the dome and building will be lit red, white, and blue this Memorial Day Weekend, May 25-29.

This summer, the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame will light the night to celebrate the winner of the NBA Finals, Independence Day, Enshrinement Weekend, and more.

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 mattd@valleybluesox.com for more information.

Family Owned Since 1985

T.J. BARK MULCH INC.

Visit TJBarkMulch.com for Coupons

18 Different All Organic Double Ground Premium Mulches
 Pine • Spruce • Hemlock • Cedar • Red, Black & Brown
 Playground • Forest Blend • Topsoil • Seasoned Firewood

NOW CARRYING DECORATIVE STONE

We are a mulch manufacturer, not a reseller of other people’s products. This means no middleman, and you save on the best product around. Come visit us on the web for great deals!

413-569-2400 | 25 Sam West Road, Southwick, MA | 860-654-1975

MODERN MODULAR HOMES LLC

COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

413-977-1278 or 413-454-3346

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.

Public Notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD21P2297PM
In the matter of:
Evelyn H Cote
of Ludlow, MA
Protected Person/Disabled Person/Respondent
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the **Conservator's First and Final account** of **Diane J Hajdamowicz** of Agawam, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **06/21/2023**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 17, 2023

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/01/2023

**LEGAL NOTICE
PUBLIC HEARING**
The Agawam City Council Administrative Sub-Committee will conduct a Public Hearing on **TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023 at 6:30pm**, at the Agawam Senior Center Veterans Hall, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA, on an Eversource petition for permission to perform work on Pine and South Westfield Streets in Feeding Hills, MA which could include installation of a new pole(s), manholes, wires, cables and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protect fixtures along and across the property. This petition is available by contacting the City Council Office, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA between the hours of 9:00am to 2:30pm, Monday through Friday or by emailing bbard@agawam.ma.us.

Robert E. Rossi, Chair
Administrative Sub-Committee
06/01, 06/08/2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD21P2119PM
In the interests of:
Janice A Fortunato
Of: Agawam, MA
RESPONDENT
Incapacitated Person/
Protected Person
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF PETITION
TO EXPAND THE
POWERS OF
A CONSERVATOR**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Gilbert J Fortunato** of Feeding Hills, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court:

Expand the powers of a Conservator of the Respondent.

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian and/or Conservator should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **06/19/2023**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appear-

ance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 22, 2023

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/01/2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23C0155CA
In the matter of:
Shahzaib Shahzad Rana
CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME
A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by **Shahzaib Shahzad Rana** of Agawam, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Varun OM Gupta
IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/26/2023.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 25, 2023

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/01/2023

**AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT
SILVER LAKE**
On **Tuesday, June 6, 2023**, The Pond and Lake Connection will be conducting an aquatic plant management program at Silver Lake in Agawam, MA.

The use of the lake's water will be restricted as follows:

Swimming, fishing, and boating - Restricted until completion of the treatment on June 6, 2023.

Direct Drinking - Restricted for 3 days.

Livestock Watering - Restricted for 1 day.

Irrigation - Restricted for 5 days.

If you need additional information, please contact Silver Lake Corporation or The Pond and Lake Connection, 203-885-0184.
06/01/2023

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL AD

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on **Thursday, June 8, 2023 at 6:00PM** at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Stockbridge Construction on property at South Westfield St (Parcel ID E4 1/3)

By Order of
Henry A. Kozloski,
Chairman
AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
06/01/2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD22P2542GD
In the matter of:
Jean Carlos Vega
Of: Agawam, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**

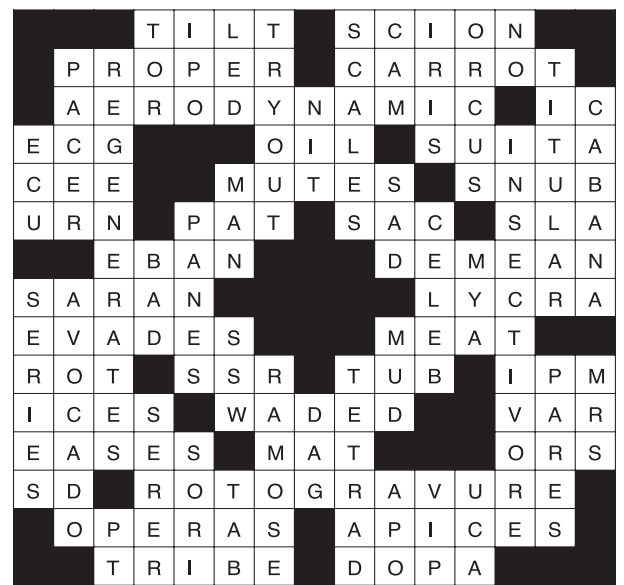
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Kimberly Tenorio of Agawam, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Jean Carlos Vega** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Kimberly Tenorio of Agawam, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to

object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **06/16/2023**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE



JOB OPENINGS

STAFF WRITER

Turley Publications, based in Palmer, is seeking a storyteller who is curious about everything, and who understands how town government works to join our team of weekly reporters.

Experience in covering town government is a huge plus, and any experience in community journalism is as well. Staff writers cover all aspects of communities from features to municipal meetings to crimes and fires. Successful candidates must have people skills, plenty of curiosity and able to tell a story.

If you're a self-starter who enjoys community journalism and who can envision themselves connecting with our communities, we encourage you to apply for this position. Not a remote position.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
- A determination to get the story, whatever it might be
- Equally comfortable writing hard news, features and event coverage
- Ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style

newspaper correspondent

Turley Publications seeks **Experienced Writers/Journalists** to produce news and/or feature stories of local interest for various towns and cities.

- **Must be dependable, professional and able to meet strict deadlines**
- **Salary based on a flat rate by story and photo**

Please tell us in a cover letter why you would be a good fit for this position and send it along with a resume and three writing samples to

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

Turley Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

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

Agawam Advertiser News

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD

Fresh cut & split \$180.00
Seasoned cut & split \$270.00
All hardwood.
Tree length available

*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!** New England Forest Products **(413)477-0083**

!!!!FRESH CUT!!!! Over a cord guaranteed. Cut, Split, Prompt delivery. Call D & D Cordwood **(413)348-4326**.

MORE HEAT LESS WOOD. Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. 26% Tax Credit. Call **(508)882-0178**

TAG SALE

JUNE 3RD 58 ORCHARD STREET BELCHERTOWN. Christmas tree, snowboards, electric piano. 10:00-4:00 **Rain date: June 10**

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 onald Roy **(860)874-8396**

SERVICES



A & B Hauling and Removal Service

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

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

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

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

CLEANING SERVICES

RELIABLE HOUSE CLEANING 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE CLEANING AND ORGANIZING. EXCELLENT REFERENCES AVAILABLE CALL (413) 455-9633

ELECTRICIAN

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

SERVICES

HOME IMPROVEMENT

HOME IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST Decks, Porches, Doors, Windows, Repairs, Cement repairs, asphalt repairs, mulch, stone and screened loam BBB approved Vinyl Fence Tim **(413)563-2229**

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

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

LANDSCAPING

A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE

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

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

SERVICES

MATT GUERTIN LANDSCAPING

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

S&S LANDSCAPING

Residential and Commercial
Yard clean ups, lawn mowing, lawn repair, fertilizing, mulch, stone, hedge trimming, planting.
Free estimates,
Fully licensed and insured.
You'll like us mower
413-240-1992

LAWN & GARDEN

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

MASONRY

STOP WET BASEMENTS ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING

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

SERVICES

PLUMBING

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

RUBBISH REMOVAL

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

STUMP GRINDING

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



SAW STUMP GRINDING
Call for a Free Estimate,
Veteran Owned, Fully Insured
413-213-5470

SERVICES

TUNE-UPS

SNOWBLOWER & LAWNMOWER TUNE UP & REPAIR

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

AUTO

CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS
FREE TOWING FAST SERVICE CASH PAID AS IS CALL OR TEXT 413-219-6839

HELP WANTED

NEIGHBORLY CLEANING & CARE 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**

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

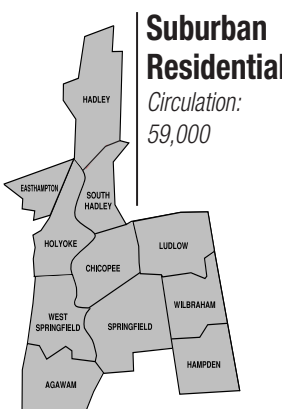
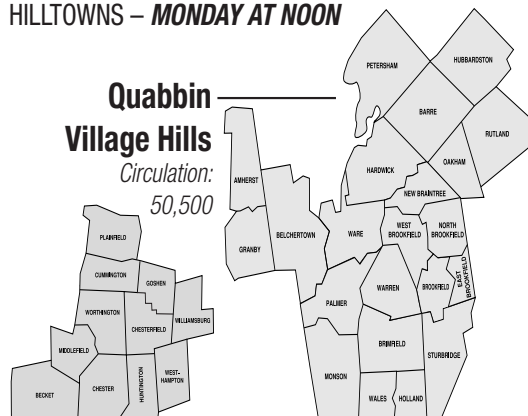
ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation,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

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

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

DEADLINES: QUABBIN & SUBURBAN – FRIDAY AT NOON
HILLTOWNS – MONDAY AT NOON

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



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

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

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

Run my ad in the following ZONE(s):
 Quabbin
 Suburban
 Hilltowns

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

Turley Publications, Inc.
www.newspapers.turley.com

AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS

BARRE GAZETTE
COUNTRY JOURNAL
CHICOPEE REGISTER
THE JOURNAL REGISTER
THE LUDLOW REGISTER
QUABOAG CURRENT
THE SENTINEL
THE SUN
WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN TIMES
TOWN REMINDER
WARE RIVER NEWS

turleynews
TurleyPublications

HCC lands grant to create free internship program

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College has landed a \$1.28 million grant to launch a free new certificate and internship program intended to help address a shortage of workers in the human services industry.

The grant, from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health & Human Services, will cover the full cost of tuition, fees, books, and supplies for students who want to earn a certificate in human services coupled with a paid internship at one of four local social service agencies.

Partnering with HCC on the grant are the Gandara Center, ServiceNet, Mental Health Association, and Jewish Family Services.

“This program is really meant to accelerate a student’s entry into the workforce,” said Donna Rowe, chair of HCC’s Human Services program. “It’s wonderful that these four agencies have made this agreement with us. They’re looking for workers, and we have students looking to get into the field.”

The two-semester Social Service Internship Program will begin in the 2023-2024

academic year, with up to 30 students starting this fall and another 30 next spring. Recruiting for those two classes is now underway.

The human services industry presents a wide variety of career options for people who are interested in providing care to children, seniors, adolescents, the homeless, or individuals dealing with substance abuse or mental health issues.

“This is a great opportunity for students to get into this field, get their academic and their learning experiences with us and then have a placement with a community agency that could end up as a full-time paid position after their internship,” Rowe said. “Plus, their tuition and books and everything else is paid for. That’s huge.”

The total savings on attendance is estimated to be \$5,384 per semester for full-time students. During their second-semester internship, students will receive a stipend of \$2,500, which equates to roughly \$20 an hour for 10 hours a week.

A 2018 report from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission detailed a gap of

some 600 social/human service workers in western Massachusetts, a deficit that has only widened due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“There is definitely a big shortage of human service workers,” said Amy Brandt, HCC dean of Health Sciences, “and it’s a challenge for agencies who have a variety of workers at different levels. They don’t have a lot of additional resources to develop that talent pool. They really are on shoestring budgets trying to provide services to the community. When you look at this grant, it’s a huge investment that can really help fill their needs.”

The HCC Social Service Internship Program is modeled after other successful, grant-funded certificate/internship programs HCC has developed in the areas of community health and engineering.

Additionally, the grant provides for the creation of two new full-time positions, a human services certificate coordinator to focus on recruiting, planning, and academic support, and a social-services coordinator to coordinate the internships and help

students with any non-academic issues that might interfere with their education.

“A lot of community college students have complicated lives that impact their success in school, for instance they might be at risk of having their power turned off or they are facing housing insecurity or childcare issues,” said Brandt. “The social services coordinator is there to be somewhat of a case manager, to help students find the resources at the college or in the community they need so they can remain successful in the program.”

The 24-credit human services certificate students earn can also be “stacked” or applied toward an associate degree in human services, which could then lead to a bachelor’s degree in social work.

“The program really has the potential to set students up for lifelong learning and career advancement,” said Brandt. “and it’s also helping these social service agencies meet their needs.”

For more information or to complete a general interest form, please go to: hcc.edu/hsv-grant.



The Skate Park has been a popular attraction at Shea Park over the past several years.

PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

SKATE PARK | from page 1

they went back to the CPA and requested an additional \$39,096.

“We were working off of old estimates and, unfortunately, when the cost came in, I had to go back to CPA and ask for another \$39,000, which was approved by the CPA and the city council,” Spark said.

On top of the CPA funds, they also plan to spend \$10,000 out of revolving accounts, \$42,150 from the town’s capital improvement budget, and \$20,000 from the Park and Recreation gift account.

Sparks knows how important this project is to the people of Agawam and appreciates the patience and excitement people have had while waiting for the project to be complete.

“The skaters have really been patient looking forward to the new park,” Sparks said. “We’ve had no problem with that. Even the people who use Shea Field regularly are glad to see that the skatepark is being rebuilt and not removed. Both the skaters and the non-skaters alike, because it’s turned into a fixture at Shea Field.”

The park is a staple of the town, with

many people using it each day.

“The park is used constantly by skaters and bikers. People are there daily, unless there is snow or rain,” Sparks said.

Due to the importance of this project, Sparks was grateful to the work of Adam Clarke, the contractor building for this project, as Clarke is a skater himself.

“The contractor building is Adam Clarke, from Adam Clarke Construction out in Westfield, and Adam and one of his construction workers are former skaters, and still current skaters,” Sparks said. “So we were able to go with a licensed contractor who has both a construction background on how to build ramps properly and who also has a skating background and knows how to build ramps so the users will enjoy them.”

The goal is for the project to be complete by mid-June.

“Next week, I’m hoping the town will go back in and clean up all around the site and sort of do some landscaping and grass work. Then, the week of June 5 we’re going to have it sealed and painted, and then hopefully have it re-open by mid-June with a brand-new park,” Sparks said.

AMMENDMENTS | from page 3

amendment 351, increases funding for the Massachusetts Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs by \$800,000, from \$2.2M to \$3M. That funding will support Boys & Girls Clubs across the Commonwealth in the next operating year.

In addition to these statewide amendments, Velis secured \$750,000 in local funding, with amendments for all 9 municipalities in the district. Funding includes \$250,000 to the Greater Holyoke Chamber of Commerce to promote building restorations and business upgrades throughout the City of Holyoke, \$50,000 to Bay State Noble Hospital’s opioid treatment and overdose prevention community grant program, and \$50,000 to the West Springfield Council on Aging for renovations to their fitness center.

“It’s my job as Senator to go down

to Beacon Hill and zealously advocate for our district however I can,” said Velis. “Over the past several months, my team and I have been meeting with local leaders and organizations throughout the district to learn about their needs and priorities. I am thrilled that I secured this important funding in the Senate’s budget to support our communities and some of the many incredible groups who do so much for our residents.”

Senator Velis represents his hometown of Westfield, Agawam, parts of Chicopee, Easthampton, Holyoke, Montgomery, Russell, Southampton, and West Springfield.

With these amendments now adopted into the Senate’s budget, it will now be considered in a conference committee with the House of Representatives.

Our advertisers make this publication possible.
Let them know you saw their ad in the **Agawam Advertiser**

SEPTIC PUMPING CALL

Latour Wilson
SEPTIC PUMPING & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Under New Ownership • Family Owned and Operated

Serving Belchertown, Granby and Surrounding Communities for Over 30 Years.
185 West State Street, Granby • 413-323-4569
www.latourwilsonseptic.com

HIRING DRIVERS

We are looking for caring individuals to provide safe and efficient transportation on our team of School Bus Drivers serving the communities of Agawam, East Longmeadow, Granville, Hampden, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Southwick, Tolland, West Springfield and Wilbraham.

Paid CDL Training

BENEFITS

- Health Insurance
- Paid Personal and Sick Time
- State Retirement
- Medical flexible spending account health care & dependent care

REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum 21 years of age
- Valid driver’s license for at least 3 years

TRAINING PROGRAMS START IMMEDIATELY

Apply online at LPVEC.org
Call 413-789-3291
In Person at 384 Shoemaker Lane, Agawam

LPVEC

think **OUTSIDE** of the **BIG BOX** SUPPORT COMMUNITY BUSINESSES

Go Ductless!
Let us design a system that works for your environment.

Looking for an AC solution for your home or office? Turn to the experts

Carrier

AC Tune-Ups & New Installations

STATE LINE
PROPANE • OIL
SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATIONS

OIL • HVAC
413-998-0090

PROPANE
413-998-0080

StateLinePropaneOil.com
Lic. ST: 303179 • PI: 204150 • HOD: 737 • 478

500•514 Salmon Brook St.
Granby, CT

Agawam celebrates MEMORIAL DAY



Bailey Preston, 4, Keegan Burke, 1, and Avery Burke, 4, all of Agawam, wave their flags as the Memorial Day Parade begins.



American Legion members make their way down the parade route.

PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Mayor William Sapelli waves to the crowd.



Veterans Council members march.



Agawam Little League was well represented at the parade.



The marching band plays along the parade route.



Members of the Agawam Police Department, led by Chief Eric Gillis, march.



The Agawam High School twirlers perform.



Mayor William Sapelli gives his remarks.



Veterans Council Chairman Aldo Mancini speaks at the Memorial Day ceremony.



Agawam is host to one of two veterans' cemeteries in the state.