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AGAWAM

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Santaniello returns

TURLEY PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHTOS.COM

Hope Santaniello, a graduate of Agawam High School and standout in girls and women's soccer, returned to Western Massachusetts after pursuing playing opportunities both abroad and most recently in Tampa, FL. She is back with a familiar group, playing with the New England Mutiny, which regularly plays at Ludlow's Lusitano Stadium. More on the Mutiny is in this week's sports section.

With resident speakers divided, majority of council supports Voter ID legislation

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Agawam city council voted 7-4 to pass a resolution requesting the state require photo ID for voting.

This decision came amongst conflict from town residents, who were divided on the issue.

Many community members supported the resolution but many others raised concerns about the lack of specificity in the resolution.

The resolution does not specify what kind of photo ID would be considered acceptable. Therefore, a new law requiring photo ID to vote could negatively impact minority groups.

"Consideration should be given to those who risk facing disenfranchisement if such laws are adopted, particularly elderly voters who no longer drive, low income voters and people who have recently moved," Karen Sullivan said.

These residents mentioned that if the ID has to match a birth certificate, it could make it difficult for transgender individuals or

even married women to acquire a photo ID.

The community members who supported the resolution did so as they wanted secure elections. They believe these photo IDs could prevent voter fraud.

"My wife and I were voting and she observed our neighbors on the voter roll and they had been deceased for at least three years," Ronald Shein said. "It was highly alarming that anybody could have just walked in and made a vote in their names."

However, other residents countered that there is no evidence of election fraud in Agawam, nor is there evidence of election fraud impacting nationwide elections.

"It is more likely an American will be struck by lightning than that they will impersonate another voter at the polls," Nancy Stenberg said.

Many community members felt that these IDs would not dissuade any real election interference, and would only have a negative impact on voting citizens.

In contrast, other resi-

dents brought up that photo IDs are already required for many common activities, including driving, purchasing alcohol, donating blood and flying.

They also mentioned it is simple to acquire an ID, should someone not already have one.

"There is a one page form to fill out to register to vote," John Bach said. "There are many types of IDs in the range of \$5 to \$10, so it is not expensive and not difficult [to get one]."

To counter, other community members mentioned that these activities, while common, are not necessities. They are also not rights given in the constitution. Voting is.

They do not want to add any potential obstacle to voting, and felt this could be one.

Another community member argued that if this were to become law, Massachusetts is required to make IDs more accessible. Therefore, this would not be an added obstacle.

Residents also raised concerns that this was bringing partisan politics to Agawam, given the resolution's appar-

ent similarity to the SAVE American Act.

However, city councilors countered that this was a safety issue, not a political one.

"This is not democrat, this is not republican, this is America," City Councilor Dino Mercadante said. "You may think Agawam doesn't have a problem but the bottom line is quite frankly the country has a problem and we've got to start somewhere."

Mercadante also addressed concerns about the resolution not specifying what kinds of ID would count as valid.

"That's not really for us to decide, that's for the amendments upon amendments upon amendments in each legislature," he said.

City Councilor Tom Hendrickson was still hesitant due to the lack of specificity regarding ID type.

"We should at least have some specificity around what we're asking the state and the federal government to implement," he said.

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Library hosts Northeast House Historian Marian Pierre-Louis

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

AGAWAM – On June 17 at Agawam Public Library, Northeast House Historian Marian Pierre-Louis presented her program, "10 Steps to Researching the History of Your House in Agawam". Pierre-Louis's presentation included examples of documents that could come in handy for the process such as deeds, maps, marriage certificates, and birth certificates. She explained each step in detail.

Pierre-Louis believes making each presentation personal to the town she's presenting is so important.

"Because it really engages the audience," she said. "Because people who aren't necessarily into history, when you post things like census

records and other documents and they see names from in town that they're familiar with, they connect more directly with what I'm talking about when they see the local names. And it's just a way to really captivate them a little bit more. Because my main role is educator, like I do not take clients, so the more I learn about each town the more it helps my overall understanding of house history in Massachusetts and in New England. I find local history to be really fascinating. Each town has its kind of its own personality. Its own development from rural community to an industrial community to whatever.

Pierre-Louis says making history accessible to the public is especially important now.

"Especially right now," she

said. "I mean this is America 250, so a really significant time in our history. And this is the perfect time to try to motivate people to research their home. I wish that everybody was trying to contribute in their way. And this is one small way that they can do it, juts by researching the history of their house."

Agawam Public Library Adult Services Library Associate Kristen Frost provided some insight into the Agawam Historical Association and Commission's role in this program.

"The 10 Steps to Researching Your Home in Agawam Program was cosponsored by the Agawam Public Library, via the Agawam Center Library Association,"

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TURLEY PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

Marian Pierre-Louis, Kristen Frost, Joe Potter and David Cecchi at APL's presentation, "10 Steps to Researching the History of Your House in Agawam".

Feeding Hills residents raise concerns about possible zone change

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

AGAWAM – Many Agawam residents came to the June 15 city council meeting to discuss concerns about a zone change.

Chanda Care Inc. came before the city council to request a zone change of the property at 430 North West Street, Feeding Hills from Business B to Residence A-2.

Several Agawam community members shared their concerns for how this zone change would impact the neighborhood.

Rob Levesque came forward

on behalf of Chanda Care to explain why they were requesting the zone change.

Chanda Care wants to build three homes on the property that would have four bedrooms each. The goal of the homes would be to provide assisted living care for elderly individuals.

"If this is pursued under Residential they would be restricted to four bedrooms per house," Levesque said. "If this is pursued under the Business B it would be a commercial use and we would have to meet commercial parking requirements and stormwater."

Levesque explained that many of the surrounding properties already zone as Residence A-2, so they would be fitting in with the nearby area.

Additionally, he explained that this zone change would prevent future business from moving in and altering the area.

"Specifically the business B uses include a number of uses like hotels, drive-throughs, gas stations and other things that are really not appropriate to the neighborhood," Levesque said.

Chantal Barnard, CEO of Chanda Care, also came

forward to explain why she wanted to build the care center in Agawam.

"Western Mass, we're facing a shortage of 23,000 units," Barnard said. "Over the next decade the number of adults needing supported housing options will continue to rise[...]" My hope is that Agawam continues to be a community where people can age with dignity."

Many residents agreed that this could be an asset for Agawam. For that reason, they wanted to support the zone change to help the project come to fruition.

"I support this zone

change for two reasons: first, It will provide a service for elder care," Corrine Wingard said. "Secondly: as it is currently zoned for business, we could get something even less desirable in the neighborhood...I believe this will be a good thing for our town."

Community members agreed that there is a growing need for elder care, and that this could help many families in Agawam.

However, other residents were concerned that this zone change wouldn't be right for the community.

"This seems to be an attempt to do an illegal spot

zone where one parcel is being changed in zoning and it doesn't match the ones that are contiguous to it, because we have Business B across the street," Vitaliy Yusenko said.

Julie Brown was another resident who felt the zone change was unnecessary. She felt that as it will be a business facility, the zoning should reflect this.

"I'm not opposed to what you want to do, I'm opposed to the zoning change," she said. "She can do what she

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Agawam Public Library announces July activities for adults

AGAWAM – Celebrate the 250th anniversary of America at the Agawam Public Library! Join us for a Patriotic Craft Night on Thursday, July 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the Clini Community Room. Just in time for the Fourth of July, we'll be making adorable red, white and blue mini-flags! Not a fan of crafting but still looking to get in the patriotic spirit? Stop by on Monday, July 6 at 6:30 p.m. for Patriotic Music Bingo in the Clini Community Room! Experience music from many decades and genres that mentions America, the Fourth of July, various patriotic symbols, or pays tribute to the armed forces and various times in our country's tumultuous history. Prizes will be awarded to those with winning bingo cards! We're excited to welcome back Jon and Li Waterman of Sultana for an evening of live music and military history on Thursday, July 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the Clini Community Room. Their program Popular Music and Veterans consists of songs, history, and an accompanying slideshow pertaining to some of the experiences of veterans of World War I, World War II, the Civil War, and other conflicts alongside the history of popular music in America. Registration is required for all of these events.

Calling all history buffs and aspiring researchers! Learn the ins and outs of the history of the Revolutionary War and discover potential personal connections. Genealogist Dave Robison will

discuss Finding Your Revolutionary War Ancestors on Monday, July 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the Clini Community Room. Learn where to look for records, how to interpret historical documents, and how to get started connecting with your family history! Please register to attend this event. We've partnered with Ashland Public Library for two virtual events that you won't want to miss! On Monday, July 13 at 7 p.m. on Zoom, authors Loretta Chase and Susan Holloway Scott—collectively known as the Two Nerdy History Girls—will discuss Everyday Life in 1776. Learn about those who lived during the American Revolution and how war would have upended their lives. They will also discuss how they conduct their research, how much of it comes out of their visits to Colonial Williamsburg, and how they incorporate their knowledge into their writing. On Monday, July 20 at 7 p.m. on Zoom, author, independent scholar, and herstory Gracia Collins Rich will present The Black Experience of the Revolution. Gracia will discuss the extraordinary efforts of Black Americans whose invaluable contributions during the Revolutionary War helped bring about U.S. Independence. Space is limited for these virtual events, so be sure to register soon!

Get crafting! This month, we have two exciting adult take and makes that will spark your creativity. Our

Needle Felted Goose Adult Take & Make will be available beginning Monday, July 13 and is great for folks looking to try out fiber arts. Our Pressed Flower Collage Adult Take & Make will be available beginning Monday, July 27 and includes everything you'll need to create a beautiful floral collage to display in your home. Please note that these kits are for ages 18 and older and will be available at the Information Desk while supplies last. 1 kit per person, please!

If you've been needing a place to get away and read for a bit, look no further than our Silent Book Club! Join us on Thursday, July 23 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. in the Clini Community Room for an hour and a half of quiet reading, as a way to get away from the hectic outside world. 6 to 6:30 p.m. and 8 to 8:30 p.m. will be optional socialization time, and silent reading time will run from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Whether you'd like to join us to talk with others about your reading or just want to come in for the reading time, all are welcome! Registration is preferred for headcount but not required.

Join us for a botanical-themed Escape Room as part of our Summer Reading theme "Plant a Seed, Read"! Solve puzzles, break codes, and complete the challenge before time runs out! This event will take place on Wednesday, July 29 in the Peirce Conference Room and we'll have three time slots

that participants may register for: 2 to 3 p.m., 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., and 7 to 8 p.m. Sign up with a group during your preferred time slot or join on your own to make some new friends! This event is for patrons ages 18 and older.

Our Summer Reading Challenge has officially begun! Log your reading, complete activities, and contribute to our Community Reading Goal in exchange for raffle tickets that can be entered to win one of our grand prizes. To participate online, please visit agawamlibrary.beanstack.org. To participate in person using our paper packet, please visit the Agawam Library Information Desk. The last day of this challenge is Friday, Aug. 7.

Our regular programs are a great way for folks to pursue their interests or try out something new! Join us for weekly Chair Yoga at 9:05 a.m. on Wednesdays in the Clini Community Room. Led by yoga instructor Heidi Taberman, these drop-in classes are perfect for folks of all fitness levels. If you're a fan of board games and card games, then check out our drop-in Game Night on Wednesday, July 1 at 6:30 p.m. in the Clini Community Room! Tea & Trivia returns on Wednesday, July 15 at 2:30 p.m. and Tuesday, July 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the Clini Community Room. We'll have a couple of rounds of both Jeopardy and pub-style trivia, and prizes will be awarded to the winning teams. The questions are the

same for both sessions, so register for the time you prefer and join us for some fun! Are you a writer looking to connect with other writers? Join our Writers Group hosted by author Katherine Anderson on Thursday, July 16 at 6 p.m. in the Peirce Conference Room. There will be opportunities for peer and host feedback, learning the basics of self-publishing, finding opportunities for submission to magazines, literary journals, and presses, assembling a portfolio, and the basics of a query package for submissions and publications. Please register to attend!

If you're curious about eBooks or are seeking a free alternative to Audible, register for one of our Library Tech Classes: Learning About Libby! We'll show you the essentials on how to find and borrow new eBooks and audiobooks, along with some helpful hints and tips. We'll have an evening session on Wednesday, July 15 at 6:30 p.m. and a morning session on Monday, July 20 at 10 a.m. in the Clini Community Room. Registration is required.

This month's Virtual Author Talk Series kicks off on Tuesday, July 14 at 7 p.m. with a thrilling evening with acclaimed author Karin Slagter. We'll chat about her North Falls series, consisting of We Are All Guilty Here—in which two teenage girls vanish in rural Georgia—and her upcoming sequel, The Secrets We Hide. Join

us for a thought-provoking conversation with bestselling author Reyna Grande as she discusses her ambitious new memoir Migrant Heart: Essays About Things I Can't Forget. In this newest work, Grande illuminates the hidden cost of the American Dream and the complex journey of healing that follows survival. This event will take place on Thursday, July 16 at 2 p.m. How do we make and keep friends in an era of distraction, burnout, and chaos, especially in a society that often prizes romantic love at the expense of other relationships? Dr. Marisa G. Franco explores this question and others in her book Platonic: How the Science of Attachment Can Help You Make—And Keep—Friends. Don't miss out on this conversation with one of the world's leading experts in human connection! This event will take place on Tuesday, July 28 at 2 p.m. To register to attend any or all of these virtual talks, please call the library or visit libraryc.org/agawamlibrary.

Thank you to the Agawam Center Library Association and the Friends of the Agawam Library for sponsoring select library programs. Agawam Public Library welcomes visitors Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. We are closed Saturdays in the summer. Please note that the library will be closed on Friday, July 3rd in observance of Independence Day.

Pair opens new vintage store

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

AGAWAM – Karen Cabana and Kara Phadael opened a new vintage store in Agawam.

The store, called Karen & Kara's Vintage Vibes and Curiosities sells a wide variety of items including kitchen ware, glassware and jewelry.

Selling vintage items has been a dream of Cabana's for a long time. Prior to opening the store she had been looking to set up a stand at a local store. Then, the opportunity opened for her to purchase her own space.

"My first instinct was 'oh my gosh, no, that's too much,' but then I said 'well, don't be negative,'" Cabana said. "I thought about my friend Kara and I jumped up from my desk, ran over to where she sits, and I said to her, 'do you want to go into business with me?'"

Phadael had also long been interested in vintage items. She had already had some experience selling

pieces she had found, but she was interested in expanding further.

So, when Cabana asked, Phadael quickly agreed.

Three days later, they rented the space and started preparation for opening the shop. They have yet to regret the decision.

"It's a job that doesn't feel like a job," Phadael shared. "I can't wait until it takes over my life."

Both Phadael and Cabana are grateful for the welcome they have received from the people of Agawam.

"The community has been really welcoming, and it's pretty amazing," Cabana said.

Already they have several customers who they think will become regulars. They also make sure to always greet repeat customers with new items.

"We are constantly bringing in some new stuff, even if we have to take things out that didn't sell to make room for the new items," Phadael said. "So every time you walk



Karen & Kara's Vintage Vibes and Curiosities has opened in Agawam.

into our shop, you're going to see things you didn't see last time."

Phadael and Cabana think that their success is, at least in-part, due to their prices.

"We want to let people enjoy vintage items at affordable prices," Cabana said.

Additionally, they take a lot of pride in the environment of their store.

"We wanted Karen & Kara's

Vibes to be different from the stereotypical antique shop," Phadael said. "We want people to feel comfortable browsing, gathering inspiration, and enjoying the experience—not just shopping."

They also shared their gratitude to the employees at Cooper's Gifts. Cabana and Phadael share a building with Cooper's Gifts and all



Karen Cabana and Kara Phadael just opened their new vintage store in Agawam.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

wam as the months go by. They also hope to potentially expand to a second store in the future so they have more space to display their items.

Karen & Kara's Vintage Vibes is open on Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To keep up to date on the store, go to their website at <https://kkvintagevibes.com/>.

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Library announces 2026 Summer Reading Program

AGAWAM – The Agawam Public Library's Summer Reading Program is almost here! This year's theme is "Plant a Seed, Read" and we have lots of fun activities in the works that you won't want to miss. In the Children's Room, we'll have weekly events like: **Music Mondays** (sing a line or two from any song and get a special sticker!), **Trivia Tuesdays** (answer a trivia question and get a small prize!), **Weekly Scavenger Hunts & Riddles**, and a new **Take & Make Craft** every week! More program announcements are coming soon, so be sure to visit agawamlibrary.org or grab a paper calendar from the Children's Room to see what's in store.

Teens take note: We've got some great events on their way that we think you'll love. Dungeon Master Anna will

return for three sessions of dice-rolling, roleplaying, and imaginative adventuring in our new **Dungeons & Dragons** campaign. This is a beginner-friendly program for teens in grades 7-12 and no D&D experience is needed. Sessions will take place on Thursday, July 2, 9, and 16 from 6 to 8 p.m. Registration will open soon at agawamlibrary.org. Stop by the Teen Space this summer and participate in our three **Potato Scavenger Hunts** for the chance to win a potato-themed prize! The first hunt will run from June 29 to July 10 and is open to teens in grades 7-12. Project Waddleway—our fabulous rubber duck fashion show—will make its triumphant return for the third summer in a row, so keep an eye on our calendar to snag your spot.

Kids and teens of all ages are invited to take part in

our **Summer Reading Challenge**, which will run from Monday, June 29 to Friday, Aug. 7. Log your reading, write book reviews, contribute to our Community Reading Goal of 6,000 hours, and earn raffle tickets that can be entered to win an awesome prize! Registration for the challenge is now open for kids and teens, and brochures with full details are available in the Agawam Public Library Children's Room. Keep reading for a sneak peek on how you can get started.

How Do I Participate in the Summer Reading Challenge?

To sign up for this reading challenge, please visit agawamlibrary.beanstack.org or download the Beanstack app. Once you have created an account, you may register for this reading challenge and—starting June 29—begin

logging your reading, writing book reviews, earning raffle tickets, and more! Please note that our kids and teen Summer Reading Challenges are hosted only in Beanstack and there is no paper option.

How Do I Earn Raffle Tickets?

There are several different ways that kids and teens can earn raffle tickets! For this challenge, participants will earn 1 raffle ticket for every 30 minutes they read (up to 50 hours read). Once participants have read and logged 5 hours, they will automatically be entered to win our grand prize: a Kindle Fire! Any reading you log in Beanstack will be automatically counted towards our Community Reading Goal of 6,000 hours. We'll have a giant farm-themed reading tracker in the library, so be sure to stop by throughout the summer to see our

progress!

This year, participants will earn 1 ticket for every book review they write in Beanstack (up to 6 reviews). Tell us about what you read and what you thought about it.

We also have a Suggested Reading Challenge for both kids and teens that is a great way to broaden your reading horizons and earn more raffle tickets. Read a book for each of the suggested topics and receive 5 raffle tickets for each topic completed! The topics for kids are: America, Plants & Nature, Movement, People, Animals, and Art. The topics for teens are: America, Plants & Nature, Inventions, People, Food, and History. If you're looking for book suggestions for these topics, stop by the Agawam Public Library Children's Room.

How Do I Enter to Win Prizes?

Prizes are awarded weekly throughout the Summer Reading Challenge. Raffle tickets can be submitted in Beanstack until midnight on Sunday each week, and prize winners will be selected every Monday.

Once participants have read and logged 5 hours, they will automatically be entered to win our grand prize: a Kindle Fire. This prize will be awarded the week after the end of our Summer Reading Program.

To register for library programs, please call 413-789-1550 x3 or visit agawamlibrary.org. Agawam Public Library is located at 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA 01001 and welcomes visitors Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please note we are closed on Saturdays in the summer.

July Art Exhibit at the Agawam Public Library

AGAWAM – The Agawam Public Library is honored to host a selection of images painted by the late Lyle Pearsons (Dec. 8, 1947 – Jan. 1, 2026). After being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, Pearsons adapted to the loss of his fine motor skills by using a spatula and large palette knives to paint in a way that renewed his confidence and sense of control. Pearsons's daughter Jaime Connor states that he called this innovative technique, "Spatula-Art," and that he "found joy in the realization that his God-given creative talents remained strong and vibrant despite the challenges of Parkinson's." She views the collection as a tribute to determination, courage, and the enduring power of creativity, revealing how life's challenges can become opportunities for transformation and discovery. Spanning every stage of Pearsons's life, these works showcase a variety of mediums and offer a personal journey through his artistic expression.

Patrons entering the library are also encouraged to look at the cases on the

main floor of the library, which will be housing summer reading prizes for youth summer reading. This year's theme is "Plant a Seed, Read" and patrons of all ages can sign up by contacting the library. Participants under 18 can find out more information by contacting the Children's Desk (413-789-1550 x3), and participants 18 and over can find out more information by contacting the Information Desk (413-789-1550 x4).

Visitors are welcomed to explore these art exhibits throughout July during the regular hours of the library. The Agawam Public Library is open 9 AM – 9 PM Mondays through Thursdays, and 9 AM – 5 PM Fridays. The library will be closed Friday, July 3 in honor of Independence Day. Any questions about the exhibits can be routed to the Information Desk at 413-789-1550 x4. Please contact Adult Services Library Associate, Erica LeFebvre at (413) 789-1550 x8858 or elefebvre@agawamlibrary.org if you are interested in displaying artwork at the library.



25th Continental Regiment members from left: Maureen Richard, Joseph Potter, Rob Keenan, and John Richard, will return to the historic Thomas Smith House in Feeding Hills on July 4 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. as part of the Agawam Historical Association's commemoration of the United States Semiquincentennial.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Historical Association hosting July 4 event

AGAWAM – The highlight of the Agawam Historical Association's yearlong commemoration of the United States Semiquincentennial will take place on Saturday, July 4 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the association's historic Thomas Smith House, 251 North West Street, Feeding Hills. The Smith house, built ca. 1757, and listed in the National Register of Historic Places, is one of the few surviving Agawam structures extant during America's fight for independence. Present on the Fourth will be the 25th Continental Regiment, who will model Revolutionary War military life and conduct musket drills throughout the day. Continuous demonstrations of blacksmithing, open fire cooking, tinsmithing, basket weaving, flax spinning, 18th century fashion and textiles by the 25th Continental Regiment and members

of the Green Valley Homestead living history group will also take place. Sheep, ducks, and rabbits will be present on the grounds, and younger visitors will be able to partake in 18th century children's activities. Other activities that day will be an archeological dig on the grounds, a display of artifacts marked for the association's America250 time capsule, a public reading of the Declaration of Independence, and a community bell ringing at 2:00 pm, continuing an 18th and 19th century tradition of ringing bells in celebration of freedom and patriotism that was made official in 1963 when President John F. Kennedy signed a congressional resolution designating Independence Day "National Bell Ringing Day." Attendees are encouraged to bring a bell of any sort to join in. Visitors are encouraged to provide letters to future

Agawam residents describing 21st century life for inclusion in the time capsule, which will be sealed later this year and not opened for another century. Those wishing to read a portion of the Declaration of Independence should contact the association by email at 1855@agawamhistory.org by July 1. The Thomas Smith House and Delmore Hawthorn Garage will be open for tours during this event, which is free, open to the public, and supported in part by a grant from the Agawam Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. The private, non-profit, all-volunteer Agawam Historical Association preserves and presents Agawam and Feeding Hills history at its two locations and provides educational opportunities at its quarterly meetings. The association archives and dis-

plays artifacts pertaining to the Town of Agawam and its Fire Department in the Marilyn P. Curry History Room and Chief Russell "Rusty" Jenks Apparatus Room of the Agawam Historical & Fire House Museum, located in the former Elm Street Fire Station at 35 Elm Street in Agawam Center. The association has preserved the ca. 1757 Thomas Smith House, at 251 North West Street in Feeding Hills, in largely original, unrestored condition; the property was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2005. The association also offers an annual scholarship to an Agawam senior pursuing higher education in a history-related field. For more information, please visit agawamhistory.org or follow the Agawam Historical Association on Instagram and Facebook. Volunteers and new members are always welcome.

Crafters wanted

LUDLOW—Crafters Wanted for the Rosary Sodality's St. Nicholas Craft Fair and Raffle on Saturday, Nov. 14, 2026, at Christ the King Church located at 41 Warsaw Avenue in Ludlow from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The cost is a non-refundable \$40. fee for an 8-ft

table, which will be provided by the church.

To reserve a table or for more information contact Debbie Martell at 413-547-8739 or Lorraine Bernier at 413-519-7658.

Light refreshments will be available.



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Opinion

Guest Column



Why don't they just create individual Social Security accounts?

Dear Rusty:

Regarding Social Security's financial issues, three people contributing to Social Security for every one beneficiary sounds to me like a surplus.

If they had given workers their own accounts, similar to a 401k, where they could manage their own money, it would have worked out more favorably for retirees. President George W Bush suggested these changes, but it was shot down by Congress.

The average worker now pays a 6.2% Social Security tax. If the government had bumped it up to say 7%, I don't believe that me or anyone else would have cried too hard.

There are ways of correcting this before the SS reserves are depleted and, hopefully, Congress will address Social Security's financing soon.

Signed: Skeptical Senior

Dear Skeptical:

Believe it or not, putting SS contributions from payroll taxes into separate individual accounts is not really a good idea.

For information, most people get back all payroll taxes they contributed to Social Security within about five years of receiving SS benefits. Even with decent public market returns, some individual separate accounts would eventually run out of money, causing some to lose Social Security benefits before they die, meaning they would likely live in poverty.

People are now collecting benefits on average for decades and the current SS format means that even those who contribute only a small amount will collect benefits no matter how long they live. Remember, the primary purpose of the SS program is to reduce poverty in America.

FYI, President Bush's plan had opposition in the 2005 Congress largely because of

the cost to transition to that plan and the fear that investments in the public markets subjected individual retirement savings to unacceptable risk.

In any case, few have since advocated investing Social Security funds in the public financial markets because of the risks and the political backlash. And adding a small amount to the FICA/SECA payroll tax rate only somewhat mitigates the problem; it doesn't completely solve it. I'm afraid that Social Security's financial issues are more complex than that and can't be fully solved by a small increase in SS payroll taxes.

You are right Congress can and, we are confident, will address this and hopefully soon. For its part, the Association of Mature American Citizens and the AMAC Foundation have been evaluating this issue for years and have developed a Social Security reform plan for Congress to consider.

And we are actively promoting our reform plan in Washington, D.C. Please know that we share your concerns about the future of Social Security and will continue to work hard to ensure the program is here for many generations.

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

This summer...



Kohlrabi- The first Garden Lady question of the summer

A reader of 'In the Garden' wrote in with this question for the Garden Lady: "Can you tell me why my kohlrabi did not make a bulb? I have grown them all my life and enjoyed them shredded like coleslaw or cooked with a white sauce. I also know I can use the leaves in stir fry. Thanks for any advice you might have."

While I am not highly experienced when it comes to kohlrabi culture, I applied a few basic gardening principles to come up with some ideas as to why you are having issues with bulb development, some within your control and others left up to Mother Nature.

Kohlrabi is a member of the cabbage family, a cruciferous vegetable. Think cabbage, broccoli, kale, Brussels's sprouts, etc.

The swollen stem is considered the "bulb" but it does not grow below ground. Picture the heart of cabbage or the stem of broccoli swollen to look like a flying saucer of sorts.

As our reader mentioned, they are great in coleslaw and they keep a long time. Like other members of this family, they are considered highly nutritious.

Let's start with fertility. For the biggest, bulbous stem, think less nitrogen and more potassium and phosphorus.

to bolt without ever forming a bulb.

Are your plants tall and spindly, or are they otherwise well developed? If you installed transplants, perhaps the trouble started even before the plants even made their way into your garden. Just another thought!

The second weather related issue is moisture. Mother Nature has not been generous in the rain department. Sometimes when droughty conditions are followed by bouts of deep soaking, the would-be bulbous stems can crack or get fibrous before actually bulbing up.

Since we have had less rain that what would be ideal, providing consistent moisture is key.

Although I am not 100% certain why you are having issues this year, I hope that you do give kohlrabi another try. Maybe it was just an off year.

Typically we gardeners are an optimistic lot and our motto is "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." That, I know we will.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



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Agawam Advertiser News

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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.

Care at home after the hospital

It's usually good news when the doctor says you or a loved one can come home from the hospital. Sometimes, though, it's a mixed blessing.

Hospital discharge sometimes means that further hospital care won't improve someone's health condition, and the hospital is eager to get someone else in that bed. People are discharged faster these days, often with significant lingering health issues that have to be seen to.

In the hospital, there's a staff of nurses, nurse aides, therapists and others to care for you or a loved one. When you get home, though, it's just you and maybe a spouse or other family member. That's why the home health industry is booming.

In 2020 (the most recent data available), approximately 3 million patients received home health care services in the U.S., often following a hospitalization or skilled nursing facility stay. They are being cared for by some

12,000 home health agencies, more than 80 percent of which are for-profit companies.

Home health is something patient advocates know a lot about – and there's a lot to know. Here are some of the things I've learned over my years as an RN and nurse advocate.

Prepare in advance if you can

A best-case scenario is that you know you'll need some help when you get home. For every day you spend in a hospital, you lose a month of muscle tone and mobility, so depending on how long you've been hospitalized, you may need considerable help.

Will you need a walker or wheelchair? Shower chair? A first-floor sleeping arrangement? A bedside commode? These are all things that can be planned for if you know they're coming. Very often, hospitals have social workers who help patients navigate

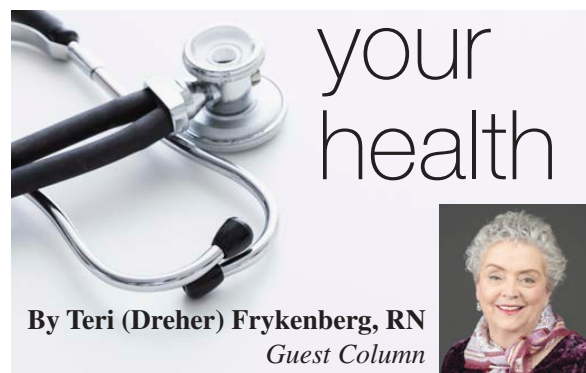
after-hospital care. Medicare has a thorough discharge planning guide on its website; search Medicare Publication No. 11376 in your browser.

Other things to think about are trip hazards like small pets and throw rugs and having some ready-made or frozen meals on hand.

Arrange for help in advance, too

A spouse may be standing by, but they may need help themselves. Adult children, friends or neighbors may be able to pitch in. If there's no one you can call on for help – and more than 50 million Americans over 50 are aging on their own – it's time to contact a home health agency. A patient advocate, who is likely familiar with the home health landscape in your area, is a good resource and go-between.

The cardinal rule is: Ask for assistance when you need it to avoid further complications from falls, lack of nour-



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

ishment or lapses in personal care.

Understand what Medicare covers

Home health care spending grew at an annual rate of more than 10% in 2024, and shows no signs of slowing down. A significant chunk of the spending in 2023 – \$148 billion – was by Medicare. But Medicare doesn't cover everything, so you may have out-of-pocket expenses.

Medicare-covered home health services include skilled nursing care, physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech-language pathology services when ordered by a doctor. Part-time

or intermittent home health aide care is covered only if you're also getting those services at home.

Skilled nursing care can include wound care, injections, nutrition services and monitoring unstable health conditions. Medicare also covers durable medical equipment when prescribed by a doctor, such as beds, walkers, wheelchairs, pumps and oxygen.

Medicare doesn't pay for 24-hour a day care, meal delivery, homemaker services or personal care services that help with bathing, dressing, grooming, etc.

HCC Summer Youth Programs begin July 7

HOLYOKE — Registration is open for 2026 Summer Youth Programs at Holyoke Community College.

Starting July 7 and running through August 8, HCC will offer 16 week-long, in-person summer programs for youth aged 8 to 16.

For more than 40 years, HCC has offered fun, challenging summer education activities for youth, providing early opportunities for students to experience a college environment guided and encouraged by experienced professionals.

HCC's 2026 on-campus summer youth programs run Monday through Friday, some for a full day and others for a half day.

All in-person programs will be held on the main HCC campus, 303 Homestead Ave., except for cooking classes, which are held at the HCC

MGM Culinary Arts Institute, 164 Race St., Holyoke:

July 6-10: Cooking without Borders with Chef Marangelly Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16): In this lively hands-on camp, young chefs will team up to chop, stir, and create tasty dishes from around the world. Each day brings a new theme and a chance to discover fresh ingredients, cool cooking techniques, and the joy of working together in the kitchen. By week's end, they'll walk away with new cooking skills, delicious recipes to show off at home, and plenty of tasty memories. (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

Fun Bites with Chef Diana Swanigan (ages 9-16): Join us for an exciting week of hands-on culinary fun, where young chefs will discover the joy of cooking delicious, easy-to-prepare meals to share with

family and friends. Participants will work together to chop, season, cook, and taste a variety of recipes – all made from scratch. Each day introduces new menu themes, ingredients, and techniques designed to build confidence in the kitchen. (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

July 13-17: Cooking without Borders with Chef Marangelly Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

Fun Bites with Chef Diana Swanigan (ages 9-16, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

ROBLOX Coders (ages 8-10; 11-14): Discover the Lua coding language while designing experiences in ROBLOX, an online universe where you can create anything you dream of. New developers will learn to use ROBLOX's Studio software to reimagine the popular game

genres with their own custom code. Instructor Brittany Pietskowski. (9 a.m. to noon for ages 8-10; 1 to 4 p.m. for ages 11-14, \$199)

July 20-24: Around the World with Chef Diana Swanigan (ages 9-16): Cuisine around the world serves as a universal language that unites people across cultures through shared flavors, traditions, and stories. Learn to prepare full-course meals from Asia, Puerto Rico, Greece, Italy, and New Orleans. (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

Make Your First Video Game (ages 8-10; 11-14): Go beyond the limitations of traditional 2D game design classes and create an immersive 3D world. Students will learn the physics behind 3D games, explore beginner event scripting, level design, controlling the flow of game-

play, and storytelling. Instructor Brittany Pietskowski. (9 a.m. – noon for ages 8-10; 1 – 4 p.m. for ages 11-14, \$199)

Passport to Flavors with Chef Marangelly Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16): This hands-on cooking camp takes kids on a delicious journey across global cuisines, exploring flavors, techniques, and ingredients that make each culture unique. Dive into fun daily themes like diner classics, Mexican favorites, Mediterranean feasts, Filipino street bites, and southern comfort food, all while building confidence one tasty dish at a time. (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

July 27-31: Around the World with Chef Diana Swanigan (ages 9-16, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

Minecraft Designers (ages 8-10; 11-14): Learn how to create a custom map, design structures to share between

worlds, build with Redstone and Command blocks, and create custom textures for you to import at home or share with friends. Instructor Brittany Pietskowski. (9 a.m. – noon for ages 8-10; 1 – 4 p.m. for ages 11-14, \$199).

Passport to Flavors with Chef Marangelly Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

August 3-7: Python Programmers (ages 8-10; 11-14): Learn the world's fastest-growing programming language favored by Google, NASA, YouTube, and the CIA. Learn how to code with Python to create engaging apps and games. Instructor Brittany Pietskowski. (9 a.m. – noon for ages 8-10; 1 – 4 p.m. for ages 11-14, \$199).

To register for in person or online Summer Youth Program classes, please go to: hcc.edu/summer-youth.

Greater Holyoke Chamber invites businesses to 58th Annual Chamber Cup

HOLYOKE — The Greater Holyoke Chamber is inviting businesses, professionals, local leaders, and community partners from across Western Massachusetts to participate in the 58th Annual Chamber Cup on Friday, Sept. 25, at Westover Golf Course. Registration is now open for the annual event, which brings together the regional business community for a day of golf, networking, visibility, and relationship-building.

The Chamber Cup offers companies and organizations a valuable way to connect outside the traditional meeting setting. Participants can build business relationships, strengthen team connections, and engage with professionals from across

the region in a relaxed and welcoming environment. The event is open to Chamber members and non-members alike, making it a regional opportunity for businesses looking to expand their reach and community presence.

Businesses can participate in several ways, including registering a foursome, becoming an event sponsor, sponsoring a hole or meal, donating raffle prizes, or volunteering during the event. Each option offers a different path to visibility and engagement, whether a company wants to host clients, recognize employees, promote its brand, or support a signature community event.

The day will include golf at Westover Golf Course, breakfast, lunch, raffles, and opportunities to connect with business owners, executives, public officials, nonprofit leaders, and professionals from throughout Western Massachusetts. For sponsors and raffle donors, the event provides added exposure before and during the tournament, helping businesses stay visible among a broad and engaged audience.

The Greater Holyoke Chamber encourages businesses to register early, secure sponsorship opportunities, and plan now for participation in the 2026 Chamber Cup. Companies interested in playing, sponsoring, donating raffle prizes, or volunteering can visit holyokechamber.com or contact the Chamber for more information.

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Trinity United brings back summer concert series

SPRINGFIELD — After a several-year hiatus, the historic Summer Carillon Concert Series is returning to Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Avenue, Springfield, with concerts each Thursday evening in July at 7 p.m. The concerts are free and open to the public. "Following a hiatus due to the COVID pandemic, summer Carillon concerts at Trinity are resuming," said Dr. Bruce Glenn, Director of Music Ministries at Trinity United Methodist Church. "With bells weighing up to 8,000 pounds, our nearly 100-year-old carillon will again ring on each Thursday evening in July." Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets, a picnic dinner, and non-alcoholic beverages. Complimentary water and desserts will be provided by the church, and food trucks will be available beginning at 6 p.m. This year's concert series features an outstanding lineup of nationally and internationally recognized carillonners: Check out their de-

tails on our website: www.trintysprigfield.org

July 2 — Ellen Dickinson University Carillonneur at Yale University and Trinity College Hartford

July 9 — Margaret Angelini College Carillonneur at Wellesley College

July 16 — Jeremy Ng Recent Yale University graduate who studied carillon performance in Belgium

July 23 — Jennifer Hermann Boston-area attorney and freelance carillonneur performing regularly throughout New England.

July 30 — Paul Stelben Philadelphia-based freelance carillonneur and published arranger of music for the carillon.

Trinity's carillon has been an important musical and architectural landmark in Springfield for nearly a century. The instrument was given to the church and the Springfield community by prominent businessman Horace A. Moses. The Springfield Republican reported on April 27, 1927, that Moses announced plans for what was then described

as a 60-bell carillon weighing approximately 48,000 pounds. The article noted that Moses envisioned the bells as "a gift to the community as a whole rather than to Trinity church itself." The carillon was dedicated on September 11, 1928. Cast by the renowned British foundry Taylor, the instrument today consists of 48 bells and includes an identical practice console. In 2024, the carillon underwent a major restoration by Meeks, Watson & Company LLC. The 2026 concert season comes just two years after that restoration and serves as an early celebration leading toward the carillon's 100th anniversary in 2028. "The carillon has been part of Springfield's soundscape for nearly a century," said Dr. Glenn. "These concerts celebrate not only a remarkable musical instrument, but also the generosity of Horace A. Moses and the community that has preserved this treasure for future generations. We are delighted to once again share its music with the city."

HEALTH ■ from page 4

Questions to ask a home health agency

There are a zillion questions you could ask, but I think these are among the most important:

- How long has this agency been in business and is it licensed to perform home health care?
- Can you provide references, or can I speak with previous clients?
- Do you accept long-term care insurance, Medicare or Medicaid? If so, do you bill insurance, or do clients pay you and then file for reimbursement?
- How do you recruit and

select caregivers, and do you perform background checks?

- Are your caregivers employees or contractors? Are they bonded?
- Can I meet caregiver candidates and select the ones I want?
- What should I do if my caregiver doesn't show up as scheduled?
- How often is the care plan reviewed?
- How do I communicate concerns and questions to you?

Research has found that patients who recover at home have better outcomes, which is why the hospital-at-home movement is growing. So if you're going to be recuperat-

ing at your place, don't go it alone.

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

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Nocturnal S. American rodent

5. Requesting

11. Give temporarily

12. Excitedness

16. Armed Forces branch

17. Actor Harris

18. Middle Eastern capital

19. Air hostesses

24. Partner to "Pa"

25. Percussion instrument

26. Popular computers

27. Reduce light

28. Asian mountain range

29. Every one of two or more

30. Absence of difficulty

31. A public announcement of a proposed marriage

33. Whittles

34. Impact

38. Serviceman

39. A French river

40. Prehistoric people

43. Messenger ribonucleic acid

44. ___ Clapton, musician

45. Ancient Greek sophist

49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)

50. Singer Hansard

51. A way to disentangle

53. Atomic #93

54. Manifesting approval

56. Indigo bush

58. Former AL MVP Vaughn

59. Off-Broadway theater award

60. Fencers

63. Small Eurasian deer (pl.)

64. Relating to passerine birds

65. Arrange systematically

CLUES DOWN

1. Colorless fluid

2. Of a main artery

3. Photographer's tool

4. Blues Traveler hit "But

5. Grew older

6. Not the leader

7. ___ Lang (country singer)

8. A driver's license is one

9. Nests of pheasants

10. Wildebeests

13. Equal to one quintillion bytes

14. Japanese three-stringed lute

15. Type of cat

20. It cools your home

21. The ancient Egyptian sun god

22. Pouches

23. German trigraph

27. Form of Persian

29. Measurement unit

30. Body part

31. Bridge building degree

32. Indicates position

33. Political action committee

34. Snack food

35. Front part of a quadruped

36. Locate

37. Pitching statistic

38. ___, myself and I

40. City in Utah

41. They play in the trenches

42. "Can't Touch This" rapper ___ Hammer

44. Type of tree

45. Performers

46. Slang for mistake

47. More open

48. Most slick

50. Needles

51. University of Dayton

52. Atomic #11

54. Large fish of the mackerel family

55. Not any

57. ___ and behold

61. Popular sports highlight show (abbr.)

62. "The Great Lakes State"

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE xx

Eversource introduces new tool for storm response

SPRINGFIELD – As severe weather events grow more frequent and electric systems become increasingly complex, Eversource will unveil its new Wareham Electric Training Center on Monday, a first-of-its-kind facility designed to improve storm response, enhance electric reliability and prepare the next generation of highly skilled electric workers.

Built inside a former movie theater and transformed into a 29,000-square-foot operations and training complex, the facility represents one of Eversource’s most significant investments in workforce readiness and emergency preparedness in Massachusetts. The center will serve as both the company’s premier electric training facility and a regional storm response hub where crews, equipment and restoration resources can be strategically staged before and after major weather events impacting Southeastern Massachusetts, the South Coast and Cape Cod.

“When customers see crews restoring power after a storm, they’re seeing the results of thousands of hours of preparation, training and planning that happen long before severe weather arrives,” said Eversource President of Massachusetts Electric Operations Doug Foley. “This facility was built with that mission in mind. It gives our employees a realistic environment to develop critical skills while strengthening our ability to stage resources and restore power safely and efficiently when our customers need us most.”

The Wareham center will also play an important role during major weather events. By serving as a storm response staging hub, the facility allows Eversource to strategically position crews, specialized equipment and restoration materials closer to areas expected to be impacted by severe weather, improving coordination and supporting faster restoration efforts once conditions are safe.

The facility brings together overhead, underground, substation, meter and transmission training in one centralized location, allowing employees to practice real-world scenarios in a controlled environment that mirrors conditions they encounter in the field. From new hires learning the fundamentals of electric operations to experienced crews sharpening storm restoration skills, the center provides year-round opportunities to strengthen operational readiness and reinforce Eversource’s commitment to safety.

“This facility is about much more than training,” Foley added. “It’s about making sure we’re ready for whatever comes next. Every skill practiced here, every scenario simulated and every lesson learned helps improve our response, improve safety and build a more resilient electric system for the communities we serve.”

The opening comes as Eversource continues to make year-round investments in electric reliability across Massachusetts through infrastructure upgrades, advanced technologies, vegetation management and emergency preparedness initiatives aimed at strengthening the electric grid and improving service for customers.

Youth Field hockey signups underway

AGAWAM – Girls in grades 1-8 (26-27 school year) will learn the fundamental skills, techniques, and strategies of Field Hockey while practicing and playing in this fun program. Girls will be broken into four different divisions based on grade.

New Player “Try It” day will be held on Thursday, June 18 at the AHS Stadium from 6 to 7 p.m. This is a great opportunity to try the sport and meet the coaches before registering.

Registration begins in person and online Wednesday, June 10 through July 12.

Effective Monday, July 13 all registrations must be done in person and fees will increase by \$25. No new player registrations will be accepted after July 20.

New players or players purchasing a new uniform will need to visit the Parks & Recreation office to be sized. To ensure we have enough time to order uniforms all players will need to be sized by Monday, July 20.

To access online payments and registrations log onto agawam.ma.us, then go to the Parks and Recreation Department page, then click on the “Online Payments & Registration” button, then click on agree. This will send you to the Unipay Gold site where you can select specific program registrations under transactions.

Coaches will contact players at the beginning of August. Girls will meet from mid August through October. Practices will be held in the early evenings and games will be played against neighboring communities.

Players need to supply their own stick, shin guards and mouth piece.

The costs for the programs are as follows: Grades 1 and 2: Returning \$100, New player \$125. Grade 3 and 4: Returning \$125, New player, \$150. Grades 5 to 8: Returning \$150, New player, \$200.

ACAA ‘Call for Art’ for festival

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

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

The ACAA is encouraging artists, artisans, and writers to submit their work for review. Among the artistic mediums included are watercolor, acrylic, oil, mixed media, sculpture, photography, ceramic, stained glass, wood, fashion, textile, and jewelry.

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

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

The Pioneer Valley Art Festival is highly promoted through local TV stations; Agawam Media Channel 15 and 1074HD; Agawam Cultural Council website; newspapers; town forums; Mailchimp; the ACAA website, www.agawamarts.com; and the ACAA Facebook page, that has over 850 followers.

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

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

HCC offering introductory golf lessons

HOLYOKE — Interested in learning to play golf but don’t know where to start? Holyoke Community College is offering weekly introductory golf lessons at Twin Hills Country Club in Longmeadow led by LPGA teaching pro Marissa Kulig Crow.

For flexibility and convenience, each five-week lesson series runs on either Wednesdays, Thursdays, or Saturdays, with different start dates and times.

Wednesday sessions meet from 10-11 a.m. June 17 through July 15.

Thursday sessions meet from 6-7 p.m. June 18 through July 16.

Saturday sessions meet from 10-11 a.m. June 20 through July 25 (no class on July 4).

Kulig Crow is an LPGA professional from Westfield and director of instruction at Twin Hills.

These introductory golf classes are designed for beginners. In five, one-hour long sessions, she will teach new golfers everything they need to know to play their first round of golf.

Classes will cover the basics of the golf swing, putting, short game techniques, rules and etiquette. Golf clubs will be provided at the course; and Kulig Crow will make equipment recommendations for players who want to buy their own.

The cost for each five-week series is \$199, which includes a golf workbook and reference guide.

Please note that in accordance with golf course etiquette, men should wear collared shirts, pants, or golf shorts. Cargo shorts, cutoff shorts, and jeans are not allowed.

Women should wear pants, skirts or golf shorts. Jeans, leggings, racer back or tube tops, short shorts, or short skirts are not allowed.

To register for a five-week introductory golf lesson series, please go to: hcc.edu/golf

Tykes Tuesday returns to mall July 7

HOLYOKE – Summer is just around the corner and that means Tykes Tuesday is back for free family fun at Holyoke Mall Tuesday mornings from July 7 through Aug. 18.

Tykes Tuesday features seven weeks of free family activities and exclusive discounts on Tuesdays starting at 11 a.m. on the lower level in Macy’s Court. The kids’ program is free, open to the public, and is best suited for children ages 12 and under.

Tykes Tuesday Schedule:

July 7: The Science of Suds with CT Science Center

July 14: Piti Theatre’s Story Wizards (3:00pm-4:00pm)

July 21: Celebrate Christmas in July with Mrs. Claus, Face Painting and More

July 27: Sing and Learn with Something Royal Party Co. & Pickleball 101 Class for Kids 7+ (at Pickleball Kingdom)

August 4: Wildlife on Wheels with Forest Park Zoo

August 11: Kimberly’s Pocket Circus

August 18: Nature Time with Mass Audubon and Face Painting with Clowntique

Please note the time change for the event on July 14. Families are encouraged to pre-register at <https://www.holyokemall.com/tykes-tuesday-2026/>. Registration is required for the Pickleball 101 class and is for children 7 and older. The event that week will be held inside and in the common area outside of Pickleball Kingdom, on the lower level, near JCPenney.

More information about Holyoke Mall stores, restaurants, and entertainment venues, can be found at Holyokemall.com. Follow and share your stories at the center on Facebook and Instagram.

VOC to host WIC celebration event

HOLYOKE – Valley Opportunity Council (VOC) will host a Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Day Celebration for families on Friday, June 26 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Holyoke Heritage State Park Visitor Center, 221 Appleton Street in Holyoke.

The event will feature free fun family activities; a reading corner and free books for children; a snack demonstration; face painting; resource tables; and fun on the Merry Go Round.

The VOC WIC Program provides healthy foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding support and referrals to healthcare and other services free of charge to qualified Massachusetts families. WIC serves low- to moderate-income people in critical stages of growth and development.

Those in attendance who would like a free ride on the Merry Go Round must check in at the Visitor Center. For more information about the event, contact Gail Domeracki at gdomeracki@valleyopp.com, or Flor Diaz at fdiaz@valleyopp.com.

VOC has four WIC locations in Chicopee at 254 McKinstry Avenue; in Ludlow at 14 Chestnut Place; in Holyoke at 300 High Street, 1st Floor; and in Westfield at 94 North Elm Street, Suite 207.

Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?

We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm to explore these topics and more.

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

Please contact **Pat James 413-726-8661.**

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.

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EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of July 4th, there will be an **EARLY AD, PUBLIC NOTICES & CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE**

To advertise, place your ad no later than **NOON Thursday, July 2**

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SPORTS

Gomarlo wins first modified race of career

WINCHESTER, NH - Eddie Gomarlo won his first career Modified victory on the high banks of Monadnock Speedway Saturday.

Other winners on the first round of Monadnock's 2026 Triple Crown Series included Limited Late Model ace JD Stockwell, who won for the fourth time this season, Craig Smith, a first time winner in the Mini Stocks, and Michael Yeaton, who won a three-across thriller to stay perfect at three-for-three in the Pure Stocks.

Matt Robinson became the Pro V8 Sportsman's third different winner this summer, and Young Gun dynamo Dylan Stati scored his track-high sixth 2026 feature win.

Cole Littlewood and Kimmy Rivet sat on row one as the 50-lap Allstates Materials Group 604 Modified main event went green. Littlewood wasted no time in seizing the lead, with previous winner Andrew Brousseau charging up to second as Rivet got hung outside in the top groove.

Brousseau took charge on lap ten, opening some breathing room as Ty Leclerc and Gomarlo battled for second behind him. Gomarlo claimed the deuce spot for good on lap 23 and immediately set his sights on Brousseau.

Gomarlo rocketed to the front from the top groove on lap 26, holding strong the rest of the way to earn his first Monadnock Modified feature by three lengths, as a wild finish behind him saw Leclerc explode out of the final turn to edge Modified points leader Tyler Leary for second. Brousseau was fourth under the checkers, with Ben Byrne fifth. Colton Martin, who'd won his Monadnock first a week earlier, was sixth.

JD Stockwell, dominated the Twin State Truck Services Limited Late Models again Saturday, winning for the second week in a row and fourth time this season.

Michael Lashua and Wesley Stedt sat up front as the 40-lap LLM feature went green. Stedt, bringing previous winner Hillary Renaud with him, would lead the first 15 laps, as Stockwell, charging from row three, closed in.

Stockwell rocketed into the lead on lap 16, with Renaud still good for second, and Robert Hagar closing in. While Stockwell would blast off into another universe to win with ease, the best battle in this one was waged for second by Renaud and Hagar.

Hagar had taken the spot but Renaud, low along the backstretch, took it back on

lap 36 and held strong to score the runner-up finish. With Hagar third, Lashua and Stedt completed the top five.

In one of a handful of wild finishes Saturday on the high banks, Michael Yeaton won by a foot in a three-wide charge to the checkers in a Brattleboro Towing and Recovery Pure Stock thriller.

Rookies Linsey Wenzel and Josh Brigham started up front, with Wenzel setting a fast pace as Yeaton rocketed forward from row five. Yeaton took charge on lap nine, but Kyle Boniface was red hot too.

Boniface got up for second on lap 17, bringing Jimmy Zellman with him, and the stage was set for excitement. A stout whack in the side moved Yeaton up-track on lap 24, and Boniface to the front. Yeaton, though, would have none of it.

Going to work at the top of the track, sometimes finding it more than narrow up there, Yeaton refused to lose. He, Boniface, and Zellman hit the finish line three across, with Yeaton making it three wins in a row, Boniface second by less than a foot, and Zellman riding beside him to come home third and stay atop the points parade, Brigham and Dylan Zullo were fourth and fifth.

A pair of track champions, Jon Fultz the current and Louie Maher the former Keene Towing and Recovery Mini Stock speedway king, went head-to-head in their Triple Crown 30-lapper Saturday, but Craig Smith, in his maiden voyage aboard the Aiken Motorsports entry, had big plans of his own.

Smith made a furious last-lap charge to steal the show Saturday. Fultz was second in the blast to the checkers, with Maher in his shadow for third. A pair of Tims, Paquette and O'Shea, completed the top five.

Matt Robinson led all the way to score his first Beck's Automotive Pro V8 Sportsman victory Saturday on the high banks. Aaron Thompson, gunning for his second score of the summer, was less lucky.

Bouncing off the Stephen LaPlante ride on lap 19, Thompson went heavily into the turn four wall. Ron Burgess Jr., aboard his Bad Bumble Bee ride, was second on the night, and Stephen Dubois third.

Dylan Stati continued his mastery of the Doug's Auto Body Young Guns Saturday, soaring to his track-high sixth win of the season. Maeve Barry was second in the youth division 15-lapper.

just outside the top eight.

This is also the first year in many that Agawam has not fielded B squads. B teams for Agawam have typically consisted of JV players or incoming freshman to Agawam High School's programs. But both the boys and girls did not enter those teams in this year's PVSSL.

The A squads were back in action earlier this week with the Fourth of July holiday break coming up soon.



Avery Klingensmith tries to get control of the loose ball as the New England Mutiny takes on the Hudson Valley Crusaders.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Mutiny suffers loss to Crusaders

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Following three straight 2-1 road losses, the New England Mutiny were looking to celebrate a home victory versus the Hudson Valley Crusaders.

The Mutiny managed to take a 1-0 lead before the Crusaders responded with four unanswered goals leading to a 4-2 victory in a USL W League match held at Lusitano Stadium, last Saturday night.

"This is a very challenging league," said Avery Klingensmith, who was an outstanding soccer player at Belchertown High School. "We've had several games this season where we had taken an early lead and wound up losing, which is a little bit frustrating. Protecting a lead is something that we need to work on. We really wanted to win tonight's game."

The Mutiny (1-5-2) are first-year members of the USL W League. Their only victory came at home against AC Connecticut, 5-0, on May 30. They lost two close road matches against Hudson Valley, 2-0, and 2-1.

The Crusaders (5-2-2), along with Hartford Athletic and Vermont Green FC, are trying to finish the regular season in first place in the Northeast Division. Only the first place team earns a berth in the league playoffs.

Klingensmith, who wrapped up her collegiate soccer career at American University in Washington

D.C. last fall, is planning to join a professional soccer team in Greece at the end of the summer.

"I'm really looking forward to starting my professional soccer career in a different country," Klingensmith said. "It's going to be a different type of experience for me."

Hope Santiniello, who's from Agawam, has been a member of the Mutiny since 2019. She played in her first home match of the 2026 season against the Crusaders.

"The atmosphere at this stadium is always amazing," said Santiniello, who was a starting defender for the first time in last Saturday's match. "It's always been a pleasure playing for this team."

Just like Klingensmith, Santiniello is seeking an opportunity to play soccer at the professional level. She's hoping to join a women's team in Florida.

Another local player listed on the Mutiny roster is Tennessee Murphy, who began her high school soccer career at Monson High School before transferring to the Loomis Chaffee School in Connecticut. She'll be a freshman on the Bucknell University women's soccer team in the fall.

"Being a member of this soccer team is preparing me for the college level," Murphy said. "I'm counting down the days until I leave for college. I'm looking forward to the challenge."

Murphy is scheduled to leave for Pennsylvania on July 27.



Chloe Laizer corrals the ball.

The Mutiny took a 1-0 lead less than ten minutes into the opening half.

Hudson Valley goalie Brianna McDonald attempted to clear the ball, but it went directly to Mila Dillard, who put a shot into the open net for an unassisted goal.

Dillard, who lives in Chichester, is going to be a senior on the Pope Francis girls' varsity soccer team, which is

coached by her father, Brent. She has verbally committed to playing soccer at the University of Kentucky a year from now.

The Crusaders tied the score during the 18th minute of the opening half with Joy Okonye putting a header into the left corner of the net past Mutiny goalie Chloe Laizer.

MUTINY | page 9

Tough start for Agawam summer soccer squads

AGAWAM – Between the two A Division soccer teams in the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League, there is just one win to start the summer.

After two weeks of play, Agawam's A Division summer soccer team is out to a just a 1-3 and they well below the top eight in a very crowded A Division. This year's competition includes more than a dozen teams.

In the girls A, Agawam is just 0-3-1, though they are

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox (7-5-1) were unable to score a run against the Newport Gulls (7-7-1) on Saturday night, suffering a 10-0 loss. This was the second meeting of the season for these two teams, tying their first game 2-2 on Opening Day.

To start the ballgame, the Blue Sox went down 5-0 immediately, after a rough inning from Kaden Kimble in his first start of the summer. Gus Gandy and Devan Zirwas hit back-to-back singles, and Brandon Larson was walked, loading the bases for Newport.

The Gulls' first two tallies

came from Kimble consecutively walking Ryan Novak and Ryan Jaros, which forced in the runs that put Newport up 2-0. With the bases still loaded, Braxton Tramel singled to left field and sent Novak and Larson home to extend the lead to 4-0.

Newport's fifth and final run of the first inning was the result of Adam Broski hitting a RBI single to right field. The Blue Sox going down 5-0 so early on completely knocked the wind out of them as they remained hitless until the bottom of the eighth inning.

In the top of the sec-

ond, the Gulls had the bases loaded once again after Cade Brown and Novak were walked, and Jaros singled. The sixth run for Newport was scored on a fielder's choice play that stemmed from a Cole Johnson at-bat.

The Gull's offense continued to pile on Valley in the fifth as they scored five more runs, solidifying their win long before the final inning. Gandy and Zirwas quickly found themselves on base due to Gandy hitting a double and Zirwas getting walked.

Newport's runners were able to steal second and

third base, but an error from the Blue Sox allowed Gandy and Zirwas to advance, adding another run for the Gulls. Cade Brown then hit a single that sent Zirwas home, increasing the gap to 8-0.

The Gulls continued their hitting by getting two doubles in a row, one from Larson and the other from Novak, which allowed Cade Brown to score the ninth run of the game for Newport.

Ryan Jaros got the RBI single that had Novak scoring Newport's tenth run, slamming the door on any hope of a Valley comeback in just five innings of play.

Sports

Pioneers battle to draw with Boston Bolts

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW— After 21 days away from historic Lusitano Stadium, the Western Mass. Pioneers returned home last Friday night for an intra state showdown with the Boston Bolts.

The Pioneers faithful supporters had plenty to celebrate early in the match, as the home side stormed out to a 2-0 advantage in the 24th minute.

The Bolts responded with a goal late in the first half. They struck again 15 minutes into the second half and the USL League Two match-up ended in a 2-2 draw in front of a large crowd.

“We held a 2-1 halftime lead,” said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. “We didn’t play very well in the second half. This is a very disappointing result for us.”

Both teams entered the match with a total of 14 goals.

The Pioneers (5-1-2), who have allowed 10 goals, are currently sitting in third place in the Northeast Division table behind NEC and Vermont Green FC.

The top two finishers in the division will automatically qualify for the league playoffs.

The Pioneers, who went 2-0-1 in their previous three matches on the road, have qualified for the league play-offs each year since joining USL League Two in 2019.

The Western Mass. squad will most likely need to win their remaining five regular season matches and get a little bit of help along the way to keep the playoff streak alive.

“It’s very disappointing letting a two goal lead slip away, especially in front of our fans,” said Felipe De Andrade, who scored the Pioneers second goal. “We’re going to continue to improve and keep fighting the rest of the season.”

De Andrade, who’s from Westborough, played for the Bolts, which only won three matches a year ago.

“Western Mass has always been a very strong team,” he said. “I just wanted a new challenge this year. The atmosphere here is amazing and it’s a privilege to be a member of this squad. I wouldn’t change anything.”

De Andrade, who was a member of the New England Revolution Academy soccer team in high school, began his collegiate career at UMass Boston. He’ll be joining the men’s soccer team at Bryant University, which competes at the Division 1 level, this fall.

The Pioneers had a couple of scoring chances during the first ten minutes of the contest.

Bolts goalie William Synnvestvedt made his first save



Above: Alfred Baafi dribbles up the field.



Right: Santiago Blasco fights to keep the ball.

Below: Yigit Kilic looks to play the ball off his body.



Above: Thomas Wadas clears the ball away.

Right: Jaiden Williams makes a quick pass to his left.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

utes, but the score didn’t change on the scoreboard.

Western Mass. defender Riley Priddy was given a straight red card from referee Luis Reis after pulling down a Bolts player just outside the top of the box in stoppage time. The free kick taken from Rainer Osselmann-Chai deflected off a Western Mass. defender and the home team salvaged a tie.

A tie is better than a loss, but it wasn’t what the Pioneers fans were hoping for.

The Pioneers are scheduled to face the Bolts for the second time this season at Brandeis University on June 30.



T-Birds raise \$185,000 for ‘Together We Can’ charity

SPRINGFIELD - The 2025-26 season once again showcased the Thunderbirds’ commitment to the Springfield community. Through the organization’s “Together We Can” Community Partnership with M&T Bank, players and mascot Boomer made more than 400 community appearances throughout the year, while the Springfield Thunderbirds Foundation raised over \$185,000 in support of numerous local charities and nonprofit organizations.

“Our commitment to being a true champion for the Western Massachusetts community remains at the heart

of everything we do,” said Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. “Every year, we’re humbled by the opportunity to connect with so many individuals, families, schools, and organizations throughout the Pioneer Valley, and we’re grateful for partners like M&T Bank who share our passion for making a meaningful difference. The generosity and community spirit that define the 413 continue to inspire us, and we’re proud to use our platform to help strengthen and support the region we proudly call home.”

As has become the norm for the T-Birds, just about

every day featured a tangible community presence, with an average of more than one appearance daily by team staff, players, and mascot Boomer. Community visits range from youth hockey program practices with their favorite T-Birds stars to charitable presences in Western Mass and corporate partner events.

“At M&T Bank, we are proud to support initiatives that bring people together and create meaningful impact across our communities,” said Maureen Picknally, Senior Vice President Business Banking Team Leader for M&T Bank. “The Thun-

derbirds continue to raise the bar, both on the ice and through innovative community initiatives. We’re deeply committed to strengthening Springfield and Western Massachusetts and honored to work alongside an organization equally dedicated to supporting the community.”

Before players ever arrived in Massachusetts for the regular season, the T-Birds were already making an impact in the community. The summer of 2025 began with the return of the Community Caravan, presented with support from MassMutual. The program made stops in Springfield,

Enfield, Conn., and Westfield, with each visit benefiting a different local nonprofit organization. The Gray House in Springfield accepted donations of baby food, diapers, wipes, school supplies, and food items, while the Enfield Food Shelf and Westfield Food Pantry also collected food donations, giving T-Birds fans the opportunity to show their generosity and support.

A unique community partnership debuted in October when T-Birds forward Matt Luff approached the team with a desire to support a local animal shelter. A life-

long dog lover, Luff and the T-Birds connected with the Foundation for TJO Animals to launch Luff’s Pups. Even after being traded in February, Luff honored his commitment by donating \$50 per point scored throughout his season, culminating in a \$2,600 donation at season’s end.

As winter approached in November, the T-Birds once again partnered with Springfield Public Schools for the annual T-Birds School Day Game, providing a special ed-

Sports



MUTINY ■ from page 7

About six minutes later, a goal from Emmanuella Frimpomaa gave the visiting team the lead for first time.

The Crusaders were then given a penalty kick following a foul in the box.

Okonye took the shot, which deflected off the right post.

With five minutes remaining in the first half, Laizer made an outstanding save on a breakaway shot from Frimpomaa, which kept the score at 2-1 a little bit longer.

The Crusaders did take a 3-1 lead when Marta Carras-

co Mesa headed the ball into the net following a corner kick.

Frimpomaa scored her second goal of the match 30 seconds into the second half, which pretty much sealed the Crusaders victory.

At the end of regulation, Trinity Clark scored a goal for the home team.

The Mutiny were scheduled to play a road match against AC Connecticut on Tuesday night before wrapping up the season against Vermont Green at Lusitano Stadium at 6pm on Saturday night.



Clockwise from top left:

Monson's Tennessee Murphy advances up the field.

Kayleigh Lukasik heads up the field for the Mutiny.

Maeve Staunton overtakes an opponent.

Hope Santaniello, of Agawam, sends a long kick away.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



CHARITY ■ from page 8

ucational experience for local students. More than 6,000 students attended the game and received an educational workbook that helped connect the hockey rink with the classroom, creating a meaningful and fun atmosphere for all in attendance.

With Thanksgiving on the horizon, the T-Birds and Rock 102 once again teamed up to make a major contribution to the Mayflower Marathon. T-Birds fans answered the call, donating a TD Bank Mobile's worth of non-perishable food items to support those facing food insecurity in Western Massachusetts. Thanks to the contributions of both organizations and their supporters, a new record of more than \$260,000 in food and monetary donations was raised to directly benefit the cause, with the T-Birds contributing \$5,000 toward that output.

Throughout the season, the T-Birds remained committed to supporting cancer research and awareness efforts across the Springfield community. Hockey Fights Cancer Night once again served as a powerful reminder that, regardless of the competition on the ice, everyone comes together off of it in the fight against this devastating disease.

Through a variety of fundraising initiatives during the season, more than \$27,000 was raised to benefit local cancer-focused charities.

For a tenth consecutive year, the T-Birds brought thousands of smiles to the community through their annual Teddy Bear Toss game in December. More than 8,000 stuffed animals rained onto the ice following a T-Birds goal, with each one ultimately finding its way into the hands of children in need as a meaningful holiday gift. Benefiting organizations included the Boys & Girls Club of Springfield, Boys & Girls Club Family Center, CHD, MLK Family Services, and several other local charities.

To close out the 2025 calendar year, the Thunderdome welcomed another celebration of inclusion on Dec. 28 with the 6th annual Sensory Friendly Sunday presented by CHD. The event is designed to create a more comfortable game-day experience for fans with sensitivities to light and sound, featuring no goal horns, no strobing lights, and reduced volume levels throughout the arena. Students and faculty from Springfield College's Occupational Therapy program were also on hand, gaining valuable real-world experience while helping

support fans who needed a break from the game at designated sensory-friendly cool-down stations outside the main seating bowl.

Perhaps no single event better exemplifies the T-Birds' commitment to the community than the annual Pink in the Rink game benefiting the Rays of Hope. Through the continued partnership between the T-Birds and Baystate Health, the ninth annual event drew a ninth consecutive sell-out crowd and generated a \$28,000 donation for Rays of Hope through the postgame jersey auction.

In addition to the T-Birds' signature events and long-standing community initiatives, the organization continued to develop new ways to make an impact. In partnership with the Hampden County Sheriff's Office and YWCA of Western Massachusetts, the T-Birds launched their first-ever Domestic Violence Awareness Night on April 4, highlighted by a specialty warmup jersey worn prior to the game. Through the auction of those jerseys, the organization raised more than \$5,700 to support local domestic violence awareness and survivor services.

The Thunderbirds' impact extended well beyond game nights. The Stick to Reading

program, presented by Mass-Mutual, enjoyed another successful year, engaging 58 local schools and encouraging students to develop a lifelong love of reading. Participants who met their reading goals earned tickets to a Thunderbirds game as a reward for their achievement. Meanwhile, the Thunderbirds once again partnered with the Springfield City Library system for Boomer's Reading Club, hosting six read-aloud sessions at library branches throughout the city. Each event featured visits from Thunderbirds players and mascot Boomer, helping bring stories to life for young readers while fostering a connection between literacy and community.

Local students also benefited from the T-Birds' community efforts throughout the year. Through a renewed partnership with All States Materials Group, the T-Birds Floor Hockey Program provided select Springfield Public Schools with complete floor hockey equipment packages, including sticks, balls, nets, and Thunderbirds-branded pinnies, giving physical education teachers lasting resources to incorporate hockey into their curriculum. In total, more than \$1,500 worth of equipment was donated during the school year.

Public Notices

Agawam Housing Authority
Window Replacement Project
#005160

**Section 00 11 13
ADVERTISEMENT TO BID
MGL c.149 Over \$150K**

The **AGAWAM HOUSING AUTHORITY**, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Window Replacement at State Aided Development:

J.J. Brady Village (200-1)
775 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills-1, Agawam, MA 01001

J.J. Brady Village (200-2)
775 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills-2, Agawam, MA 01001

in accordance with the documents prepared by **KMA DESIGN STUDIO**.

The Project consists of but not limited to:

Replacement of siding, windows and exterior doors at occupied family apartment units. Includes continuous exterior insulation and basement ceiling insulation, replacement of exterior light fixtures, and coordination with existing to remain electrical equipment.

The work is estimated to cost **\$787,000.00**.

All bidding Requests for Information (RFIs) shall be submitted online by 07/08/2026 at 2:00PM EDT for filed sub-bids and by 07/08/2026 at 2:00PM EDT for general bids.

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

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

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

General Bids will be received until **23 July 2026 at 2:00PM EDT** and publicly opened online, forthwith.

Filed Sub-bids for the trades listed below will be received until **16 July 2026 at 2:00PM EDT** and publicly opened online, forthwith.

Filed sub-bidders must be DCAMM certified for the trades listed below and bidders must include a current DCAMM Sub-Bidder Certificate of Eligibility and a signed DCAMM Sub-Bidder's Update Statement.

TRADES

Waterproofing / Dampproofing / Caulking
Electrical Work

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

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

General bidders must agree to contract with minority, women and veteran-owned business enterprises as certified by the Supplier Diversity Office (SDO). The participation benchmark reserved for such enterprises shall not be less than 10% MBE, 9.9% WBE and 3% VBE for all state and state-assisted construction projects over \$150,000. **Request for waivers must be sent to EOHLC (Chad.Howard@mass.gov) 5 calendar days prior to the General Bid date. NO WAIVERS WILL BE GRANTED AFTER THE GENERAL BIDS ARE OPENED.**

The Contractor and all subcontractors (collectively referred to as "the Contractor") agree to strive to achieve minority and women workforce participation. The Workforce Participation benchmark is set at **6.9% for women and 15.3% for minorities**. The Workforce participation percentages are a statutory requirement under MGL c. 149 § 44A(2)(G).

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT: Scheduled
Date and Time: 07/01/2026 at 11:00AM EDT
Address: 775 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA 01030
Instructions: Please gather at center quad near flag pole and main property sign.

The hard copy Contract Documents may be seen at:
Nashoba Blue Inc.
433 Main Street
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HOUSE ■ from page 1

Frost said. “And the Agawam Historical Association and Agawam Historical Commission. It was wonderful to collaborate with the Historical Association & Commission on this program, as they selected the house that Marian researched and presented. We hope to work on more collaborations in the future, as each of our agencies reaches slightly different audiences, and it will help us both stretch our event budgets. Marian is a terrific presenter to work with. She’s professional and on top of her correspondence. The research she presented to us at the program was fascinating and so well done. I’d highly recommend her to other organizations looking to host this kind of event. Similarly, the Agawam Historical Association is a pleasure to work with. David Cecchi is so responsive, and I am grateful that he was willing to work with us on this worthwhile program.”

Frost then shared why she believes a program like this one, allowing community members to delve into the history of the town is so important.

“In any community, history is an important part of appreciating what we have and remembering those who came before us. I hope that



TURLEY PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

APL Hosts “10 Steps to Researching the History of Your House in Agawam” with Marian Pierre-Louis.

the Researching Your Home program inspires the attendees to explore the historical records of their own homes and discover the people who lived there previously. I think when individual residents take the time to delve into this kind of research, it builds a personal connection to the history of the town and its predecessors. I loved Marian’s suggestion to begin your house research by walking through the oldest cemetery near your home to look at the names on the stones. Taking the time to do that really makes you think about the

lives of the people who lived here many years ago and the struggles they faced. Maybe having a stronger personal connection to the local area would inspire folks to be more involved in improving the community on a local level.”

Agawam Public Library’s Summer Reading Program begins on June 29 and is open to all ages. The goal for this year’s program is to reach a collective of 6,000 hours of reading. Participants can earn raffle tickets for a chance to win prizes as they journey through the program.

ZONE ■ from page 1

wants to do, but she can leave it business. Yes, you’ll have to put in sprinklers, yes you’ll have to put in ramps, yes you would have to put in parking for employees or visitors, but that is what a facility like this should have to do.”

Additionally, others worried about how this would impact taxes and the peace of the area.

Levesque assured residents that it would not be a non-profit, so it would not be taken off the tax roll and that Barnard was more than willing to pay taxes even if she was exempt.

People also worried about how this would impact storm water and sewage in the area. Levesque replied that it was possible they would trigger storm water depending on

the amount of parking needed and that the septic systems would be Title Five.

Many community members did not appear to want Barnard to build in the area at all.

“I bought my house a little over a year ago and I spent thousands of dollars making it fit the neighborhood,” Madison O’Connel said. “That’s just not what I want next to me where I put all of my effort, blood, sweat, and tears.”

O’Connel and others were concerned that this property would lead to traffic, ambulances coming at all times of day and night, and to medical waste in the area.

They did not want this facility disrupting their quiet neighborhood.

“You can claim there won’t be ambulances...but

when someone is sick, it’s unpredictable,” Yelena Yussenko said. “Can you imagine buying your home, you invest so much into it, only to find out a property like this is going to be there?”

Councilor Anthony Suffriti explained that the property can be built either way, approving or disproving the zone change does not change Barnard’s ability to build.

“As I listen to speak, the way you are speaking it is if you think a yes vote or no vote is whether or not she can build there,” he said. “This is just a zone change. She can still build this facility either way.”

The city council decided to table the decision until a future meeting to give residents more time to get their questions answered.

Planning for Quabbin Days underway

BELCHERTOWN – The Friends of Quabbin are encouraging municipalities, historical societies, museums, libraries, conservation organizations, arts groups, farms, businesses, and community organizations throughout the Quabbin Region to begin planning for Quabbin Days 2026 scheduled for Oct. 9 to 12 (www.QuabbinDays.org).

Quabbin Days is a regional initiative, coordinated by the Friends, to encourage residents and visitors to explore the twelve communities of the Quabbin Region through a variety of local events, programs, exhibits, tours, performances, outdoor activities, and community gatherings.

“We know that many organizations begin planning their fall schedules months in advance,” said Ed Co-meau of the Friends of Quabbin. “We want to give everyone enough lead time to consider how they would like to participate and to explore opportunities to work together.”

The inaugural Quabbin Days celebration in 2025 brought together organizations from across the region and demonstrated the value of a shared regional effort through historical programs, museum exhibits, art shows, living-history demonstrations, and much more.

Participation can take many forms. Organizations may create new programs

specifically for Quabbin Days or designate existing activities taking place during the October holiday weekend as part of the celebration. Event information will be added to the Quabbin Days website as plans are finalized, and events can be submitted for the calendar at www.Quabbin-Days.org/contact.

A key component of the initiative is the Quabbin Trail, a self-guided route connecting the twelve watershed communities. By linking attractions, historic sites, museums, natural areas, farms, and local businesses, the trail encourages visitors to explore the region while supporting individual communities and organizations.

Registration open for Run Stanley 5K

WESTFIELD – Stanley Park is excited to announce that registration is now open for the 14th Annual Run Stanley 5K, taking place on Sunday, October 4, 2026. Participants and volunteers can sign up online at <https://runsignup.com/Race/MA/Westfield/Run-Stanley>.

Run Stanley is a beloved community tradition that brings together runners, walkers, families, students, and their four-legged companions for a morning of fitness, fun, and support for Stanley Park. The event welcomes participants of all ages and abilities through a variety of race divisions, including the 5K

Trail Run/Walk, K9 Division, 1-Mile Stroll & Roll, and the ¾-Mile Munchkin Run for elementary school students.

Elementary schools are also encouraged to participate in the School Spirit Challenge. The elementary school with the most registered participants will take home the coveted Run Stanley School Spirit Trophy.

In addition to participants, Stanley Park is seeking volunteers to help make the event a success. Volunteers are needed for a variety of roles, including registration, course marshaling, water stations, finish line support, and event setup

and cleanup. Community members, service groups, students, and local organizations are encouraged to get involved.

As a private nonprofit organization, Stanley Park relies on the support of events like Run Stanley to help maintain its nearly 300 acres of gardens, trails, wildlife sanctuary, and recreational spaces, which are enjoyed by more than 400,000 visitors annually. The park remains free and open to the public year-round.

To register for the race or sign up to volunteer, visit: <https://runsignup.com/Race/MA/Westfield/Run-Stanley>

VOTER ■ from page 1

Councilor Robert Rossi was also against the resolution. He felt this would only create more problems for Agawam, rather than solve them.

“I think my job here is to make life a lot easier,” he said. “Is this resolution going to help [residents] in any way? I don’t think so.”

Council President An-

thony Russo understood his colleagues’ concerns with the resolution, but also agreed with the security concerns his fellow councilors and Agawam residents had raised.

He hopes that the resolution will go through to support legislation that will be fair to everyone. He believes that the state should provide free IDs to all, making

voter ID more feasible.

In the end, the council voted 7-4 to pass the resolution. Councilors Edward Borgatti, Cecilia Calabrese, Peter McNair, Mercadante, Russo, Anthony Suffriti and George Bitzas voted in favor of the resolution.

Councilors Hendrickson, Christine Rickmon, Rossi and Rosemary Sandlin voted against it.

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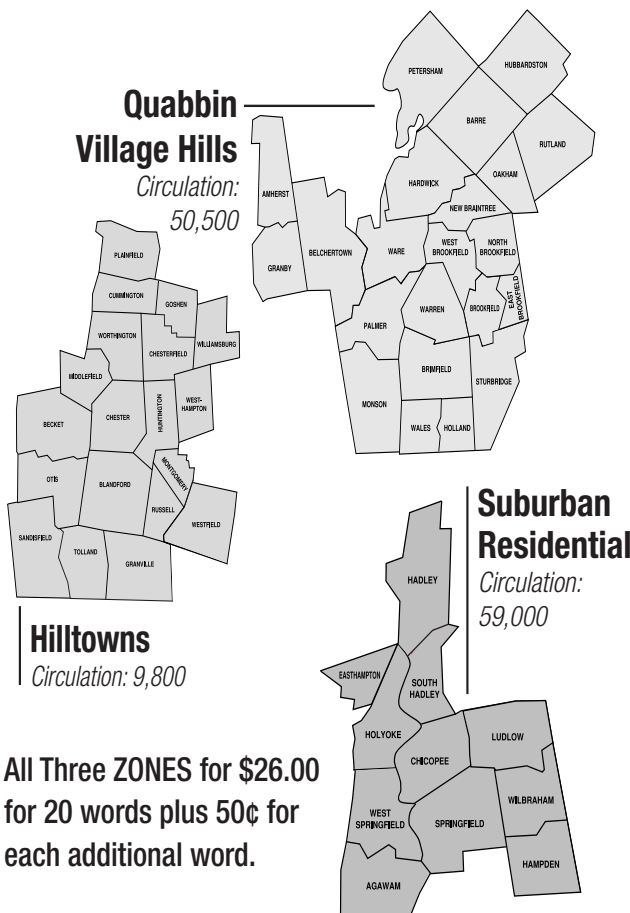
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