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# AGAWAM

## ADVERTISER NEWS

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# Honoring nature at Robinson State Park

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Robinson State Park Day was celebrated by the town on Saturday, June 21.

RSP Day happens every year on the third Saturday in June as a way to honor the beautiful park right in Agawam.

Conservation Ecologist Rod Parlee and Robinson State Park Volunteer Nancy Bobskill were proud to share the reasons why people should honor and care for this beautiful park.

"It offers so many resources to the people in this area, resources that are far flung from just trees," Parlee said. "Trees are important resources, but the recreation it offers, the clean air the trees provide, the wildlife...it's all important."

"I think it's important because this is a beautiful space that is open to everyone and it is also important to remember that living things provide what is called ecosystem services," Bobskill said.

Robinson State Park contains over 55 native species of trees and dozens of different bird species, not to men-



Arborist Matt Largess and Botanist Jared Lockwood led the tree walk into the woods at Robinson State Park.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA

tion the many other species of different flora and fauna. The ecosystem it offers is diverse, unique and crucial to keeping this area healthy and flourishing.

"I don't think I've encoun-

tered another forest in this area quite this diverse," Botanist Jared Lockwood said.

"This forest is always changing," Arborist Matt Largess said. "I call it the Yellowstone of the East."

Lockwood came out to enjoy RSP Day, and he even co-lead a tree walk with Largess.

During this tree walk, Lockwood gave a minimum measurement for two trees

in the park, a swamp white oak and a hickory, and found that they were likely the two tallest trees of their species in Massachusetts.

The swamp white oak measured to be at least 103

feet and the hickory to be a minimum of 110 ft tall. Both trees are likely even taller, as it was hard to see to the top of the tree due to the leaves

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Teens enjoy playing Pride trivia bingo at Agawam Public Library last week.

TURLEY PHOTO BY QUINN SUOMALA

## Agawam Public Library holds Pride Party

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The Agawam Public Library held a Pride party for teens to attend.

At this party teens were able to enjoy snacks, crafts, books with LGBTQIA+ representation and a game of Pride trivia bingo.

Children's Librarian Evan Delano came up with the Pride trivia bingo. The rules were that Delano would ask a Pride-related trivia question and participants had to find the answers on their bingo card.

If they got all the answers right and they lined up to make five in a row, then the person would win.

If an answer was wrong, they had to unmark the spot and try again.

Delano had fun coming up with the different questions for the trivia game. They hoped they would help people to learn a bit about Pride history while having fun.

Delano came up with all the activities as they wanted to ensure there were things for everyone to do.

"I wanted to have a mix of

things that were asynchronous activities so people could drop in and activities we could do together," Delano said. "I also always like to have something hands on for kids who are more tactile."

Delano also hoped that having the various activities would help the kids to feel more comfortable meeting new people and talking with them.

They wanted to have this event as a safe space for the teens to come in and feel welcomed.

"I think it's always im-

portant to have programming that affirms LGBTQ+ teens," Delano said.

Given the amount of anti-trans and anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric going around, Delano wanted to ensure that teens could find an environment where they felt safe and supported.

"It is important that we go out of our way to make sure that the LGBTQ+ youth knows that we support them and we want them to have access to queer books that they want to, the informa-

PRIDE | page 12

## City Council approves Safe Operation of Electric Bicycles

By Amanda Munson  
amunson@turley.com

AGAWAM - On June 16, the Agawam City Council approved the first reading and discussed the Safe Operation of Electric Bicycles resolution, sponsored by Dino R. Mercadante, previously covered by the Legislative Committee in a regular meeting. Mercadante talked about how the Legislative Committee voted unanimously to send the positive recommendation to the full council.

From the MassBike website, e-bikes have been regulated federally since 2002, but federal regulations are limited to product safety. "They do not specify where e-bikes may be ridden or what rules of the road govern their use. While the federal government can intervene in these matters in very rare situations, the rules of the road are generally a matter of state law. Other emerging technologies have followed the same path of creating new state traffic laws to address the use of these devices on our streets. This includes segways, autocycles, and commercial quadricycles. In regard to tampering e-bikes, if someone was to tamper with an e-bike and create a machine that can travel faster than any of the specified classifications of e-bikes, they would presumably be operating an unlicensed and unregistered vehicle and

would be subject to any applicable penalties."

Mercadante continued, "This is a long time coming. It's a public safety issue and it's an issue for our children riding these e-bikes. It lends another tool to the police department, with that being said, if we're so fortunate to pass it tonight and on the second reading, I'd like the ordinance to recite it at roll call to the police department and to the police officers. Just so they are well informed about this piece of legislation. It adds a little tooth to what the state has, there are fines involved with this and it regards people with e-bikes to wear helmets, to stay off the sidewalks, and to go with traffic. The ordinance is plain, but it's necessary."

Mercadante stated that the influx of e-bikes in town and the way people are manipulating them to make them go faster are some of the reasons why this article addition is necessary. Mercadante hopes to have everyone's support to be proactive in the safety of the city.

Councilor Gerald Smith added his support of this ordinance saying, "I'm glad that we are taking steps now before some catastrophe happens. We are doing the right thing moving this into the direction, I one hundred percent support Mercadante." Councilor Rob-

COUNCIL | page 10

## Agawam High School Class of 1975 to hold reunion

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School Class of 1975 will hold a reunion on Saturday,

Oct. 4 from 4:30 to 10 p.m. at the Polish American Club in Feeding Hills. Please email

conniebeaudette@yahoo.com for any questions. There is also a Facebook page dedicated to

the reunion, which can be accessed by searching "Agawam Class of 75 Reunion."



# Summer Reading for kids and teens at library

AGAWAM – The Summer Reading Challenge at the Agawam Library is a seven week span full of activities, reading, and prizes following the theme of Level Up at Your Library. That means we are embracing all things gaming.

The Summer Reading Challenge will begin on Monday, June 23 and end on Friday, Aug. 8. Each week, kids & teens can enter raffle tickets for prizes and work to secure a spot in the Grand Prize Raffle. This year the grand prize is a Kindle Fire 7.

The library is challenging the entire community to work towards logging a total of 5,000 hours of reading during the Summer Reading Challenge. You will be able to follow our progress by checking out the life-sized game board by the Circulation Desk. To log your reading go to the website [agawamlibrary.beanstack.org](http://agawamlibrary.beanstack.org).

We will also have lots of activities for kids and teens. All activities are free and open to public. Some events

require registration. Registration starts June 16. To register go to the website [agawamlibrary.org](http://agawamlibrary.org), or call 413-789-1550 ext 3.

The following events are happening June 26 to July 5. To view the full listing of Summer Reading events go to our website: [agawamlibrary.org](http://agawamlibrary.org)

## Thursday, June 26

Family Take and Make Craft – Summer Treat Magnet. Available all day while supplies last. Drop-in, no registration is required.

9:30 a.m. Baby Story Time – For ages birth – 18 months. Drop-in. We will read stories, sing songs, learn a little American Sign Language and play together.

6:30 p.m. Family Paint Night for grades 1-6. Registration is required. Join special guest Stephanie Gaboury for a family friendly paint night. This is an acrylic-paint program designed for families, but welcome to children and adults of all ages. Students

will learn about brush stroke, color mixing, gradient blending, and more as they receive step-by-step instructions to complete their paintings on canvas.

## Friday, June 27

Extra Fun Fridays – All Day. For kids of all ages. Kids of all ages can stop by the Children's Room anytime on Fridays and do special activities.

9:30 a.m. Grow, Play & Learn – For ages birth – 2 years old. Drop-in. Stories, songs and skill building, led by an Early Childhood Developmental trained staff member, guiding caregivers in strengthening interactions with their child. This program is provided by Pathways for Parents.

10:30 a.m. Grow, Play and Learn – For ages 3 years old – 5 years old. Drop-in. Stories, songs and skill building, led by an Early Childhood Developmental trained staff member, guiding caregivers in strengthening interac-

tions with their child. This program is provided by Pathways for Parents.

## Monday, June 30

Family Take and Make Craft – Hatching Dino Craft. For kids of all ages. Available all day while supplies last. Drop-in, no registration is required.

1 p.m. Pre-K Pals – For ages 2 years 9 m. – 5 years old. Drop-in. Come practice the skills you'll need for Kindergarten. This program is provided by Pathways for Parents

## Tuesday, July 1

11 a.m. Ready for Kindergarten – For ages 3-5. Registration is required. Come practice the skills you'll need for Kindergarten. This program is provided by Pathways for Parents.

3 to 4:30 p.m. – Dungeons & Dragons for grades 7-12. Registration is required. Create your own character and journey through a magical world full of beauty

and danger. Join Dungeon Master Evan for 7 sessions of dice-rolling, roleplaying, and imaginative adventuring. No D&D experience? No problem. This is a beginner-friendly program.

6 p.m. Cardboard Drive-In – For kids entering K-2nd grade. Registration is required. Come create your own custom cardboard race car while we watch the Super Mario Bros Movie!

## Wednesday, July 2

Joke Day – For all Ages. All Day. Tell a joke to a librarian in the Children's Room and get a small prize.

9:30 a.m. Grow, Play & Learn – For ages birth – 2 years old. Drop-in. Stories, songs and skill building, led by an Early Childhood Developmental trained staff member, guiding caregivers in strengthening interactions with their child. This program is provided by Pathways for Parents.

10:30 a.m. Grow, Play & Learn – For ages 3 years old

– 5 years old. Drop-in. Stories, songs and skill building, led by an Early Childhood Developmental trained staff member, guiding caregivers in strengthening interactions with their child. This program is provided by Pathways for Parents.

## Thursday, July 3

Family Take and Make Craft – Hatching Dino Craft. For all ages. Available all day while supplies last. Drop-in, no registration is required.

4:30 p.m. Younger LEGO building for kids entering K-2nd grade. Registration is required. We will have a contest to see who can build the tallest tower that can hold up 5 rubber duckies.

If you have questions about these programs or would like to know more about upcoming programs for kids & Teens at the Agawam Library please call 413-789-1550 ext. 3 or email Pamela Weingart at [pweingart@agawamlibrary.org](mailto:pweingart@agawamlibrary.org).

## Supplies running short, Feline Friends seeks donations

AGAWAM – To all of our valued friends and supporters: The Cat Sanctuary is running short of supplies this month. Could you help out with an extra boost by donating unscented clumping cat litter, Kirkland purple bag of dry cat food, cases of Friskies, gift cards to Costco or B.J.'s? For financial donations, checks can be mailed to P.O. Box 174, Feeding Hills 01030. PayPal: @FelineFriendsRaffle. Venmo: @FelineFriends. New drop off location: 532 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. \*Look for the Feline Friends sign on the side door. Please put donations inside the door.\*

Just a reminder that we have a donation bin at the Agawam Public Library.

Please include contact information with donations if you would like an acknowledgment. We are grateful for every donation. Local pick up is available by calling 786-5019.

We are thrilled to announce that were chosen by E.B.'s Restaurant for their Give Back Wednesday Program on June 18. E.B.'s, located at 385 Walnut Street Ext., will donate 10% of the day's total food sales to our sanctuary. It includes eat in or take out. Thanks to all who participated.

Thank you to everyone who donated goods or monetary donations in June. Your generosity is appreciated by the cats and their humans. Thanks to Katie H, Carl and Cheryl

K, Kim, Joanne L, Carolyn C, Terry and Bill, Kay and Tootsie, Joan E, Crystal M, Ken K and Irene F, Virginia R, Valerie S, Dawn S, Julie G, Christina and Pete, Abigail F, Daniel G, Eva S, Judith R, Judith C, Juanita E, Glen G and Linda K.

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

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

## MiraVista expands access with 24-Hour admissions for inpatients

*New direct admissions process enhances timely entry into treatment*

HOLYOKE – MiraVista Behavioral Health Center is proud to announce the expansion of its mental health services to include 24-hour admissions for individuals in need of inpatient psychiatric care.

Coupled with the recent launch of MiraVista's Direct Admissions process, this important advancement ensures more timely, compassionate, and seamless access to lifesaving treatment for those facing urgent mental health challenges.

"At MiraVista, we understand that mental health crises don't adhere to a schedule – and neither should the care available in response," said MiraVista Hospital Administrator, Shelley Zimmerman. "Our 24-hour admissions capability, combined with our Direct Admissions process, reflects a commitment to providing immediate support, minimizing barriers to care, and restoring hope for individuals and families across our community, the Commonwealth, and New England."

The new Direct Admissions option allows designated referral sources – including outpatient providers, crisis teams, and primary care physicians

– to connect individuals directly to MiraVista without the need for an emergency department evaluation, when clinically appropriate. This streamlined pathway reduces delays and ensures that individuals receive the right level of support, at the right time, in the right setting.

"MiraVista's enhanced admissions process is an essential step forward for behavioral health in our region," said Zimmerman. "By offering 24-hour access and eliminating unnecessary hurdles, we are truly meeting people where they are and making it easier to receive the care they urgently need."

Patrick Connon, Director of Intake at MiraVista, emphasized the readiness and dedication of his team. "When someone is ready to seek treatment, that moment matters," Connon said. "Our intake team is prepared around the clock to respond quickly, compassionately, and professionally. We are committed to being there when individuals make that critical decision to reach out for help – because when they're ready, we are ready."

Key benefits of MiraVista's 24-Hour Admissions and Di-

rect Admissions Process include:

- Around-the-clock acceptance for psychiatric inpatient admissions, seven days a week.

- Streamlined direct referrals from providers, supporting faster transitions into care.

- Increased capacity to respond to urgent mental health needs without unnecessary delays.

- Compassionate, expert care delivered in a safe and supportive environment.

Individuals, families, and healthcare providers seeking inpatient psychiatric care can now reach MiraVista's Intake Department 24 hours a day at 413-264-0819.

Connon added, "We believe that every moment matters when it comes to mental health. Expanding access is more than a service enhancement – it's an affirmation of MiraVista's mission to deliver hope and healing whenever it's needed most."

For more information on MiraVista Behavioral Health Center's services, including Direct Admissions criteria, please visit [www.miravistabhcare.com](http://www.miravistabhcare.com), care or connect with Kim Lee at [klee@miravistabhcare.com](mailto:klee@miravistabhcare.com) or 413-264-3042.



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# Senior Center announces more activities for June

AGAWAM – The Agawam Senior Center will be holding the following activities and events in the coming weeks:

**Continuing Sessions with Glenn Olsen**  
Friday, June 27 at 1 p.m. in the Conference Room

A little about me, I was a long term successful Physical Science Special Educator. In January of 2010 I had a severely disabling stroke. For the past 15 years I have focused on rehabilitation from my injuries with both traditional and non-traditional methods. We have discussed topics essential to living a healthy life style such as foods, nutrition, and vitamins. We will continue to talk about fascinating topics such as muscle testing, energy levels, orbs, the significance of color and more. I look forward to having you a

part of our discussion.

**CAREGIVERS CONNECT DEMENTIA CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP**

Tuesday, July 1 and Tuesday, Aug. 6 from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Garden Room

Laurie Cecchi, OT, OTR, CAPS (Certified Aging in Place Specialist), CDCS (Certified Dementia Care Specialist) is a highly respected dementia specialist with 35 years of experience in clinical practice. With a strong passion for improving the quality of life for individuals affected by dementia. Join us to feel heard, supported, and uplifted as you navigate the complexities of caregiving and celebrate the moments of joy and connection with your loved ones. Caregivers Connect will meet the first Tuesday of the month from 6-7 p.m. Mini ham salad

sandwiches from Waniewski Farms in the coffee shop available before the group.

**Monthly Ballroom Dance**

Wednesday, July 2 and Wednesday, Aug. 6 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Join Richie Mitnick for an afternoon of great tunes, dancing and snacks. Our monthly ballroom dance takes place in the Veteran's Hall of the Senior Center from 2 to 4 p.m. We look forward to you joining us.

**Computer Classes**

Monday, July 7 and 14, Aug. 18 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The Agawam Senior Center in conjunction with Revitalize Community Development of Springfield will be provide Computer Literacy Work Shops twice a month at the

Senior Center. Andrew Fluit who is a Digital Navigator/IT Support from Revitalize will be here to provide this service at no cost to you. The class will be available to 9 students per time. We will be sharing the computers. Please call Kristina at 726-2826 to register. First come first serve.

**Agawam Senior Center Computer Tech & Support Club**

July 8 and 22, Aug. 12 and 26 from 10 to 11 a.m.

The Agawam Senior Center Computer and Technology Club will meet on July 8 and 22 and again on Aug. 12 and 26.

**Ken Harris performance**

Tuesday, July 8 at the Community Stage

Agawam Senior Center is honored to present this award-winning show. The cast

includes 16 characters and only one actor.

Writer and performer Ken Harris hilariously portrays the story of an aging security guard. Steve Smelly finally has a day off but when his menacing manager demands he reports to work, chaos unfolds engaging audiences of all ages. This show is headed to NYC this fall with producer Angela Grout. Reserve your Free seat to this award winning one man show at Agawam Senior Center's Community Stage on Tuesday July 8.

**Nutrition and Cooking Educational Seminar**

July 9, 16, 23, 30 at 1 p.m. in the Garden Room

Ascentria Care Alliance SNAP-Ed is pleased to offer a four-week nutrition and cooking course. During the course we will cover a variety of top-

ics including healthy eating guidelines, demystifying food labels, grocery shopping on a budget and more. Each class includes an interactive cooking demo with the opportunity to taste test the recipe. Please call the Senior Center to register for this four-week seminar.

**Stroke Lecture**

Thursday, July 10 at 1 p.m. in Seminar Hall

Things we will discuss: -What is a Stroke? Different Types of Strokes How to recognize symptoms of strokes using the "BE-FAST" method. Risk Factors and things we can do to help prevent strokes from happening. What to expect when you call 9-1-1. What to expect when you arrive at the hospital and things to think about after having a stroke.

## Eversource preparing for storm season

BOSTON – As the ocean waters churn along the east coast and another hurricane season begins, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is predicting above-normal activity for the 2025 Atlantic hurricane season. Between June 1 and November 30, NOAA is forecasting a 60% chance of an above-normal season with 6-10 hurricanes having winds of 74 mph or higher and 3-5 major hurricanes with winds 111 mph or higher. With the changing climate increasing the frequency and severity of extreme weather around the globe, including here in New England, Eversource is reminding customers to plan and always be prepared for severe weather. The energy company works year-round to safeguard the electric grid through upgrades, maintenance, and proactive vegetation management to ensure reliability for customers. "As we've seen in Massachusetts many times over the years, extreme weather can hit hard here causing significant damage just as it can

anywhere else in the country, so we know how crucial it is to be prepared—especially during hurricane season," said Eversource President of Electric Operations in Massachusetts Doug Foley. "We've been meeting to discuss NOAA's hurricane season forecast and review and update storm response protocols accordingly, but we really prepare for storms year-round. We always monitor multiple forecasts and take steps to prepare, including having crews ready to go if a storm is heading our way so they can respond as quickly and safely as possible to get customers back on if they do lose power."

With trees causing more than 90 percent of power outages during storms, trimming and removing hazard trees that threaten overhead electric lines is fundamental to emergency preparedness and crucial to providing customers with reliable power in all types of weather. Eversource also reminds customers that homeowners are responsible for keeping branches away from the

lower-voltage service wires connecting their homes to the main utility lines on the street. The energy company strongly recommends contacting a professional tree service to perform this work.

Eversource offers several simple tips and steps customers can take to help prepare for hurricane season at home. The energy company provides a storm safety checklist and encourages customers to always have an emergency plan in place, assemble a storm kit with essential items, plan a meeting place for family members and be ready to check on neighbors. Customers can also download Eversource's mobile app or sign up for the company's two-way texting to report and check outages in the event they do occur.

For all the latest storm information and updates, follow Eversource on X and Facebook. For more information on the energy company's emergency preparedness efforts and restoration process, visit Eversource.com.

## Freedom Credit Union collecting cash and food donations for the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts

'Month of Giving' campaign extends from June 1 through August 31

REGION- Food insecurity continues to affect families across western Massachusetts, with inflation driving up the cost of everyday essentials. That's why Freedom Credit Union is again rallying support for its summer campaign benefiting the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. From June 1 through August 31, the community is invited to contribute to a stronger community by donating nonperishable food, personal care items or monetary gifts at any Freedom branch.

"Thanks to the generosity of our members, staff and entire community, this campaign has grown annually, and so has its impact," said Freedom Credit Union President Glenn Welch. "Last summer, we collected more than \$3,350 in donations, along with nearly 1,435 pounds of food and personal care items. This year, we're aiming even higher. By simply adding an extra item or two to your grocery cart each week, you can make a lasting difference-without stretching your budget."

Suggested donations of non-perishable food and personal care items include:

- Baby formula
- Beans in cans or dried in bags
- Bread mixes
- Canned chicken, fish and

- meat
- Cereals
- Coffee and tea
- Cooking oils and spices
- Diapers, wipes and toilet paper
- Dried or canned fruit
- Evaporated/powdered milk
- Granola bars and crackers
- Feminine sanitary products

- Instant potatoes
- Pasta and noodles
- Peanut butter and nuts
- Rice and grains
- Sauces
- Shampoo and body wash/soap
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- Toothpaste and tooth brushes
- Vegetables in cans

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 For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357 or email [adventuretours@att.net](mailto:adventuretours@att.net) or go to [www.adventuretoursofwarren.com](http://www.adventuretoursofwarren.com)

## Pickleball tournament July 20 to benefit Greater Springfield Habitat

WESTFIELD – Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) is excited to announce a Pickleball Tournament open to players of all skill levels on Sunday, July 20, at The Picklr 415 E. Main St (The Westfield Shops Retail A-1).

From 12 to 4 p.m., seasoned players and rookies alike, will play a "King of the Court" three-person style play. Tickets are \$40 each, which includes prizes, snacks and refreshments, swag bags, and ridiculous amounts of fun. All are wel-

come to participate or spectate. To purchase tickets, visit [habitatspringfield.org](http://habitatspringfield.org)

"We are excited to be hosting this event. The staff at The Picklr has been educating us on all things pickleball and helping us to ensure a fun and lively event while raising awareness and supporting our construction programs," said Aimee Giroux, GSHFH executive director.

Greater Springfield Habitat is also looking for sponsors for the event. Sponsorships range from \$500 to \$1,500. For more informa-

tion, see attached flyer.

GSHFH is dedicated to strengthening communities by empowering low-income families to change their lives and the lives of future generations through homeownership and home preservation opportunities. Since 1987, Greater Springfield Habitat has built or repaired 129 homes in Hampden County.

For more information, contact Olga Callirgos, Homeowner Programs coordinator, at [callirgos@habitatspringfield.org](mailto:callirgos@habitatspringfield.org) or (413) 739-5503 x1003.

## HCC offering free course in artificial intelligence essentials

HOLYOKE — Dive into the world of artificial intelligence with a free, 12-week training course offered by Holyoke Community College in partnership with the non-profit CanCode Communities.

"AI Essentials," a real-time, instructor-led online training program runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays, June 24 to Sept. 11, from 5:45 to 8:45 p.m. each day.

The class is free to eligible Massachusetts residents.

Over 12 weeks, participants will learn the fundamentals of AI, including prompt engineering, tokenization, embeddings, model structures, retrieval-augmented generation (RAG), agency, compute, and ethics.

The course emphasizes practical applications, leveraging tools such as Google AI Studio, n8n, and OpenWebUI to explore how AI models are built, trained, and deployed

in the real world.

"Along the way, participants will gain valuable professional development experience, enhancing their technical skills and problem-solving abilities," said Arvard Lingham, HCC executive director of community education and corporate training.

Tuition assistance is available for qualified Massachusetts residents 18 and older. Limited seats are available. Laptops and WiFi hotspots for Internet access will be provided for students who need them.

Funding for the program comes from the Western Mass Alliance for Digital Equity.

To sign up for classes, please send an email to [admissions@albanycode.org](mailto:admissions@albanycode.org), or go to [cancode.org/apply-now](http://cancode.org/apply-now) and choose "AI Essentials."

## Preservation Trust announces annual Garden Tour

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Preservation Trust has announced it will host the Fifth Annual Garden Tour in the city. This year's event will feature new gardens, a photography contest, a tree tour with Forester Tom Kass, and a lecture from Bernie Conway, Assistant Gardener at NY Botanical Garden. The event will be held on Saturday, June 28 and admission is \$20 per person with children 12 and under free of charge. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to [www.holyokepreservationtrust.org](http://www.holyokepreservationtrust.org)

PLEASE REMEMBER  
TO RECYCLE  
THIS NEWSPAPER

## FAMILY & FRIENDS SUNDAY

YOU ARE INVITED!

Please join us Sunday, July 13th  
for Family and Friends Day at  
**AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
745 Main Street, Agawam

*Pastor Dan's wife will be preparing a non-spicy Jamaican meal directly after our 9:30 a.m. service.*

To sign up, please call the church office at 413-786-7111.

## Opinion

## Guest Column



## SOCIAL SECURITY

## Matters

By Russell Gloor



## What about non-career Veterans and their VA healthcare?

## Dear Rusty:

In your answer to the retired U.S. Navy veteran about why he is forced to enroll in Medicare, you focused on military TriCare's requirement for the member to enroll in Medicare. But you said nothing about regular VA health care. If a non-career veteran is eligible for VA health care, couldn't that be used in place of Medicare?

Signed:  
Veteran Advocate

## Dear Veteran Advocate:

Thank you for your feedback. FYI, I have previously explained numerous times that veterans who rely on the VA for 100% of their healthcare can, indeed, disenroll from Medicare Part B (thus saving the monthly Part B premium). I don't personally recommend it because of my personal experience, but it certainly is possible to do so.

Personally, I use the VA for some of my healthcare needs usually an annual checkup and optometry services at my local VA clinic, which is only a mile away from where I live. But for any extensive treatment needs medical tests, etc., I must travel about 40 miles to the nearest VA hospital facility.

For contrast, I have numerous private healthcare services, specialists and hospitals very near where I live, but to use them under the VA I must get VA pre-approval and use only certain VA approved providers, which is inconvenient for me.

Personally, I prefer the freedom to go to any healthcare service provider I choose, without restriction, at any time I need to. So, I use my VA coverage when it is convenient for me, but rely also on non-VA, Medicare-approved specialists who I can choose to use or not at will. For me, it's a matter of convenience and the freedom to use whichever healthcare provider I want.

That said, I fully understand that some veterans rely exclusively on the VA

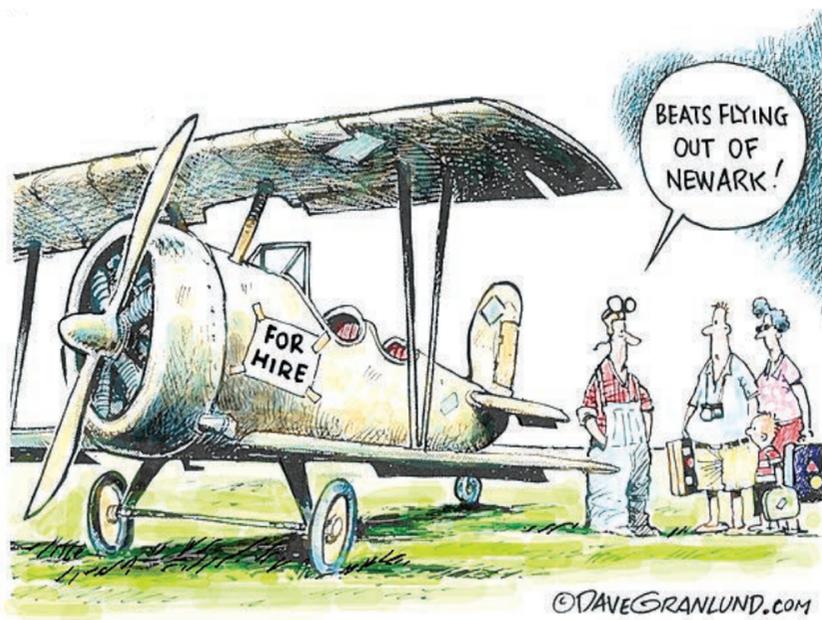
for their healthcare needs, and I have explained to many who have written to me that they have that option. I have also published several public articles about this as well. Here is one such article:

<https://socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-why-should-a-veteran-pay-for-medicare/>

So, please rest assured that we regularly advise our veterans about their healthcare options under Medicare, including the ability to decline Medicare Part B coverage if they have full VA healthcare coverage. FYI, free Medicare Part A (inpatient hospitalization coverage) is mandatory to collect Social Security after age 65, but Medicare Part B coverage is always optional because there is a premium associated with Part B.

A veteran can decline Medicare Part B coverage and save that monthly premium, but they would need to contact Social Security to do so. Social Security will want to interview the veteran to ensure they are aware of the potential financial consequences of not having Medicare Part B. And they may need to file form CMS-1763 Request for Termination. But a non-career veteran can opt out of Medicare Part B if they get all of their healthcare services through the Veterans Administration.

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



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## Guest Column

## Renovate your strawberry patch and divide those irises, too

I started over with new strawberry plants this year, but for those of you who are completing your harvest, it's high time to renovate your patch so that it will remain productive.

Sure, it will be hard work, but it's absolutely necessary if you want to keep the berries coming!

First, get up the courage to run the lawnmower over your row of strawberries. Yes, you heard correctly. This will give you an opportunity to see what you have to work with in a dense planting, as well as cut down on foliar diseases.

Set the mower at a height of two and a half to three inches and use the bagger attachment if you have one. Small plantings can be clipped away by hand. Compost the leaves away from your patch.

Now, assess your surroundings and think back to when you were doing all that picking. Was your back sore from reaching in to a very wide row? Were most of your berries on the small side? If you answered yes to both of these questions, then serious renovation is in order.

Use the tiller or a shovel to shrink your row back to a manageable width. Fourteen inches is about as wide as the experts recommend. Choose the healthiest part of your row and measure out fourteen inches. Then, remove all the runners that have emerged outside of the boundaries.

Managed in this fashion, a strawberry patch can remain productive for five years or more.

Another favorite plant that may be in need of reinvigoration is your iris. If once upon a time they bloomed strong and now there is barely a blossom to be seen, chances are they are overcrowded. It's time to divide them and replenish their soil.

In our climate, this should be accomplished every three or four years. Surprisingly, and unlike most other perennials, division of irises should take place no later than July or August.

This will give them ample time to take hold in their new location prior to the ground freezing. At first glance the act of dividing irises may appear to be difficult. An overgrown iris patch does look like a maze of thick roots, but take heart, the rhizomes are shallow rooted and come out of the ground with relative ease.

Start digging at the outer edge of the clump, lifting as you go. Once the entire clump is removed, rhizomes can be pried apart by hand. The healthiest "fans" of foliage are those the furthest from the center. Leave about two inches of rhizome attached to each fan for re-planting.

Water at least every other day for the next couple of weeks or until a healthy stand of leaves has returned to the plants. Keep up with weeding, and continue to

pinch back runners until frost hits.

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GARDEN | page 5

## In the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



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## Better Business Bureau cautions travelers about passport scams

BBB is cautioning travelers about USPassportandVisa.org, a website falsely claiming to facilitate international travel processes. Despite a disclaimer stating it is not affiliated with any government agency, many consumers have been misled into believing they are on an official site for passport and visa applications or renewals.

Since the website's launch in January of this year, BBB Scam Tracker has received 78 reports

detailing fraudulent activities associated with this website. Travelers have reported paying approximately \$88, expecting official documents, only to receive a simple PDF application that can be filled out for free on the U.S. Department of State website.

The scam operates by luring travelers to search for passport or visa renewal information online. Fake websites mimic official platforms, collecting personal

information and fees under false pretenses. Subsequently, victims are left to complete the actual application process with the U.S. Department of State, incurring additional costs.

BBB recommends the following for those looking to renew their passport.

- Do thorough research. Verify passport renewal procedures directly through the U.S. government's official channels. Authentic information is crucial to

avoid unnecessary fees.

- Allow ample processing time. Passport renewals can vary in processing times. Plan ahead and consult the U.S. Department of State for current processing estimates to prevent rushing into potentially fraudulent quick-fix options.

- Verify website URLs. Official government websites end in .gov. Exercise caution with sponsored ads or suspicious URLs that mimic legitimate sites. En-

sure websites are secure before entering personal information.

- Avoid third-party services. Utilize BBB.org and BBB Scam Tracker to verify legitimacy before sharing sensitive information online. Be cautious of impostor websites and protect yourself from potential scams.

- Report scams. If you encounter or fall victim to a scam, help others by reporting it promptly to BBB Scam Tracker.

## Agawam Advertiser News welcomes letters to the editor

The Agawam Advertiser News welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to the Agawam Advertiser News, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to [aan@turley.com](mailto:aan@turley.com). Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that

Friday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election. For more information, call 413-283-8393.

## Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper

plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in the Agawam Advertiser News.

# Schools & Youth

## COLLEGE NOTES

### Ma named to WPI Spring Dean's List

WORCESTER – Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) has announced that Tyler Ma, a member of the class of 2027 majoring in Civil Engineering, was named to the university's Dean's List for academic excellence for the spring 2025 semester.

The criteria for the WPI Dean's List differ from that of most other universities

as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI students are named to the Dean's List based on the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and hands-on projects. A total of 2,331 undergraduate students achieved these criteria for WPI's spring 2025 Dean's List.

### Moreau earns Spring Dean's List honors

RANDOLPH CENTER, VT – Vermont State University is proud to congratulate Rylee Moreau, of Agawam, for being named to the Dean's List for the spring 2025 semester. Well done.

Dean's List designation is reserved for students who maintain full-time status and a semester grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

### Croteau named to Middle Atlantic Conference Academic Honor Roll

ANNVILLE, PA – Cameron Croteau of Feeding Hills, Mass. was one of more than 250 Lebanon Valley College student-athletes to be named to the Middle Atlantic Conference's (MAC) Winter/Spring Academic Honor Roll.

Croteau, a graduate of Tec Connections Academy, is a member of the Lebanon Valley College men's ice hockey team, and is

pursuing a bachelor of science in exercise science.

The academic honor roll is comprised of student-athletes who compete in a varsity-level sport and register a term/semester GPA of 3.20 (on a 4.00 scale) or higher. The MAC honored student-athletes across all of the conference's institutions who competed in winter and spring sports.

### Elms College announces Dean's List

CHICOPEE – The College of Our Lady of the Elms has named the following students to the dean's list for the spring 2025 semester. Congratulations to all the students who are named to the list.  
Carson Asselin of Agawam  
Alexis Barna of Agawam

Bianca Kerr of Feeding Hills  
Ciara Lamoureux of Agawam  
Aidan Noftall of Feeding Hills  
Tezaswi Rijal of Agawam  
Nicholle Sousa of Feeding Hills  
Nick Uschmann of Agawam

### Elms College Spring 2025 graduates

CHICOPEE – Elms College congratulates 279 students who graduated in Spring 2025.  
Katelynn Gordner of Agawam

Sabrina McBride of Feeding Hills  
Amy McKinley of Agawam  
Raymond Randall of Feeding Hills  
Claire Riberdy of Feeding Hills

### High School of Commerce holding 50th Class Reunion

SPRINGFIELD – The High School of Commerce Class of 75 is holding their 50th class reunion.

It will take place at the Storrowton Tavern, West Springfield, MA, on Saturday August 30, 2025 at 6 p.m.

Contact Janet at jan0826@comcast.net to learn more.

### ACC holding family day

AGAWAM – Please join us for Family and Friends Day at Agawam Congregational Church at 745 Main St., Agawam on Sunday, July 13. Pastor Dan's wife

will be preparing a non-spicy Jamaican meal directly after our 9:30 a.m. service. To sign up, please call the church office at 413-786-7111.

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

### GARDEN | from page 4

If you are changing your site altogether, keep in mind that irises need at least six hours of full sun a day for optimal flowering. They despise "wet feet," so plant where drainage is good.

If your soil is lean, compost can be added to enrich it up. While you're at it, add a sprinkling of lime as well; irises prefer a soil near neutral. Dig a shallow hole wide enough to fit the rhizome. Make a ridge of soil in the hole for it to sit on so that its fibrous roots can hang down.

The top of the rhizome should be level with the soil surface and exposed, not buried. This goes for bark mulch as well, keep it clear or blooms may be sacrificed.

If your irises hardly flower but aren't overcrowded and are planted where they receive enough sun, assess your planting depth and adjust if necessary.

Examine your rhizomes closely when replanting. If you notice a lot of soft, rotten tissue, your iris patch could be infected with the iris borer.

Usually by midsummer, one to one and a half inch larvae have made their way from the leaves into the rhizomes. They hollow out the fleshy roots causing foliage to collapse and rot to take over. Control this pest by proper sanitation.

In the fall, after a hard frost, cut iris foliage back to the ground as low as possible. Throw it and any nearby debris or mulch away. With

any luck, overwintering eggs will be removed by your efforts.

In the spring, about the time that the tulips are blooming, inspect iris foliage for chew edges, small holes, or tan colored water marks running down the leaf. If these are present, tiny larvae can be crushed inside the leaf before they burrow into the rhizome.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*

## BBB: New scam involving Tik Tok

If you've spent any time on social media, you may have come across ads or videos selling merchandise that claim to support a charity or a local cause. Complete with older adults, adorable animals, touching music, and handmade products, these videos are part of a growing social media scam targeting animal lovers and kind-hearted donors.

who experienced this scam:

*TikTok videos on an account called FlappyBirdUS of a little old man and his wife who "make cat toys to support their failing cat shelter"... when you order the toy to support them nothing ever gets sent to you they just take your money... all the videos are fake, AI generated nonsense ...selling cat toys in this case, cow slippers in another version"*

### What you'll learn:

- How a new scam on TikTok is targeting social media users with fake donation requests.
- Tips to avoid donation scams and other social media scams.
- Information on how to give locally and check to see if a charity is real.

### How the scam works

When scrolling on TikTok or another social media platform, you see a video showing an older adult asking for help. The video may say something along the lines of, "Please stay for 8 seconds to help my cat shelter from shutting down," or "Please don't scroll for 12 seconds to help my failing animal shelter."

You continue watching the video, which shows cats or other animals in a shelter. The video captions say that the person is struggling to keep their animal shelter open, so they are making cat slippers to help fund it. You see shots of the person in a craft store, cutting fabric, and then showing the final slipper product.

In the video description, you see a link to donate to the cause. You will be directed to a website to make a purchase, where it is unclear if the money is going to a charity.

These social media videos may be AI-generated or may include stolen videos or images from other accounts.

BBB received the following report on BBB Scam Tracker from someone

even if you're excited about the product. It's the best way to protect yourself from fraud and identity theft.

• **Don't give in to videos that tug at your heart-strings.** If you see one of these videos with kittens, puppies, or cows and want to make a purchase to support the cause, resist the urge to do so right away, even if the video relays a sense of urgency. Intimidation and sympathy tactics are often used by scammers and are a red flag.

• **Check to see if the charity is real on Give.org.**

For a charity to receive Accreditation, it must meet 20 Standards of Accountability covering everything from governance to fundraising. If the organization does not appear on Give.org, that does not mean it's not a real charity, but it can be a warning that you need to do more investigation.

• **Give locally.** Contact your local or state/provincial animal shelters or other agencies directly and ask how you can support them.

## JOB OPPORTUNITY

# newspaper correspondent

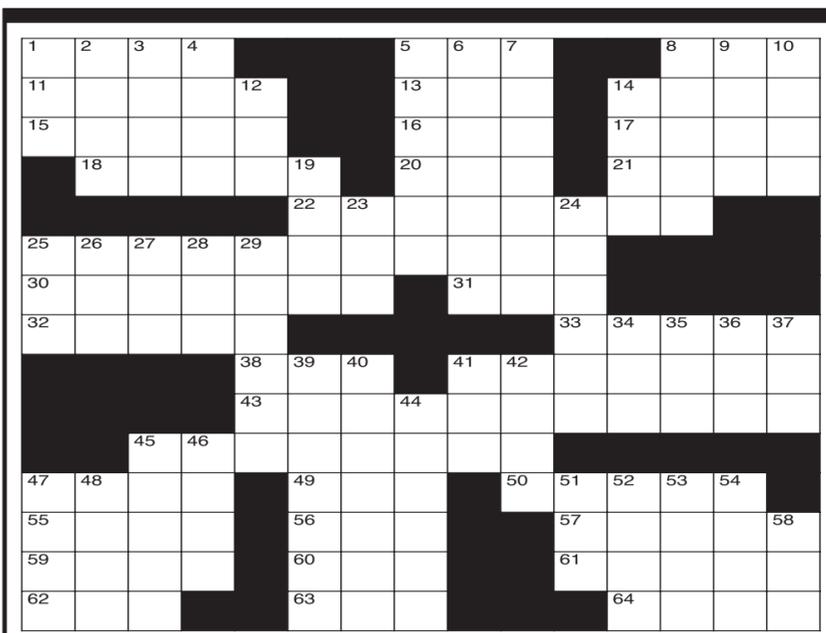
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### CLUES ACROSS

- Computer manufacturer
- Noted space station
- Fights
- Dunn & Bradstreet (abbr.)
- Finishes off
- Places to store things
- Dutch painter Gerard \_\_\_
- Smaller quantity
- There's a North, South and Central of these
- In an early way
- More spacious
- Short-term memory
- One who possesses
- Sesame
- Forbid
- A way to explain
- Not around
- Evoke or suggest
- Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- Dekameter
- Fencing sword
- "Luther" actor
- Affirmative (slang)
- Afflicted
- One point north of northeast
- Born of
- Arabic name
- Hong Kong food stall: \_\_\_ pai dong
- Not the start
- Post

### CLUES DOWN

- Creative expression
- Fiber from the outer husk of a coconut
- City in ancient Syria
- College army
- More disturbed to
- Restored
- Competitions
- Lyric poems
- Famed American lawman
- Expression of disappointment
- Scars
- Satisfy
- Central European river
- Brass instrument
- One who gets paid to perform
- Propel with oars
- Long period of time
- Woman (French)
- Type of plane
- Pitching stat
- Pointed end of a pen
- Pro sports league
- Body part
- Inoffensive
- Yellowish cotton cloth
- Feline
- Does not tell the truth
- Set out to attract
- Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- Abba \_\_, Israeli politician
- Repair
- Genus of flowering plants
- Tributary of the High Rhine
- Prejudice
- C. European river
- Restrain
- Father

## Our own strawberries

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# BBB Tip: Flight canceled? Tips for handling travel delays

**Paula Fleming**

*pfleming@boston.bbb.org*

Better Business Bureau provides guidance to travelers who may be seeking compensation and refunds for airline cancellations.

When a consumer is flying domestically in the United States, rules regarding flight delays and cancellations are overseen by the US Department of Transportation. In Canada, complaints about flight delays are handled by the Canadian Transportation Agency. In general, no U.S. federal laws require airlines to compensate passengers for a delayed flight. In Can-

ada, see the flight and delay cancellations guide.

Airlines may have policies and provide better benefits if a flight is canceled or significantly delayed within the airline's scope of control. Consumers may have additional benefits if they purchase the flight with a credit card that offers additional travel protections. Check the cardholder agreement with the airline. Consumers should keep receipts for extra purchases, like a hotel room, to submit them to their airline or credit card company for reimbursement later. Typically, nearly all domestic airlines will try to accommodate passengers

on the next available flight and sometimes on a different carrier.

When flights are canceled by the airline, consumers are always entitled to a full refund. This includes refunding bag fees or extras for a seat, such as additional legroom. Ask about expiration and blackout dates if the airline offers a voucher instead of a refund. Airlines may also have additional restrictions on the use of vouchers. Consumers are not obligated to accept vouchers and may insist on a full refund. However, if the consumer cancels the trip, they may not be entitled to a full refund.

BBB is asking consumers to keep the following tips in mind when handling travel disruptions:

**Check delays** - Travelers can check their latest flight information on their carrier's website or via the airline's telephone reservation system. Delays often don't occur until the day of the flight, and the airline must update its flight information within 30 minutes of receiving a status change notice.

**Check carrier and credit card terms** - While federal regulations don't require airlines to reimburse expenses such as rooms or food in the event a flight is canceled or severely

delayed, the carrier and credit card companies may have different policies. Purchase tickets with a credit card that offers trip protection or traveler insurance and check individual airline policies.

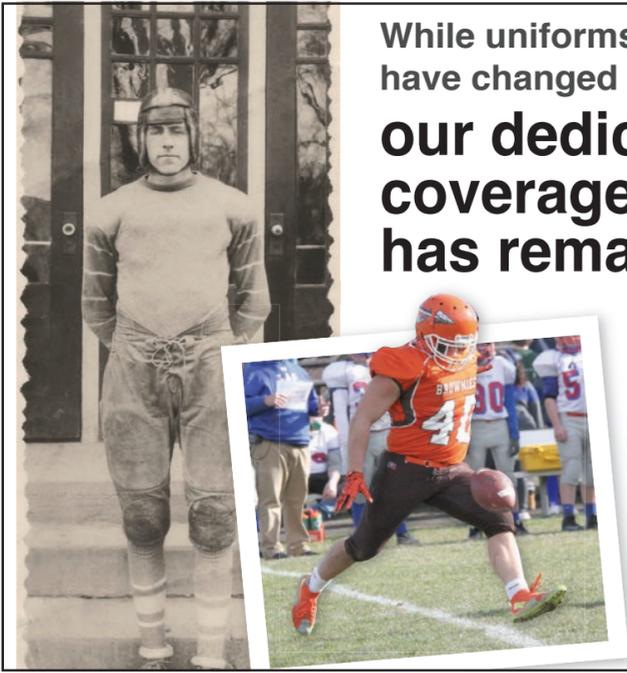
**Keep documentation** - Keep receipts and records for expenses incurred due to a significantly delayed or canceled flight. These may be needed later to recover expenses.

**Check the carrier's website** - Most airlines allow consumers to initiate refunds directly on the carrier's website. Using a website may help a consumer obtain a refund or rebook a trip much faster

than waiting for a consumer service agent in person or on the phone.

**Consider travel insurance.** Most travel insurance policies cover trip cancellations or interruptions; emergency medical situations; lost, stolen or damaged baggage; and cancellations for any reason. It's important to check with the provider to verify what is covered and what is not.

Rules are different for foreign flights. Flights canceled in another country will be affected by the laws of that nation. Check with the local country's department of transportation while traveling internationally.



While uniforms for high school sports have changed over the years, our dedicated weekly coverage of local games has remained the same.

Our Sports editors and their staff of reporters and photographers cover select varsity school games weekly as well as youth and adult sports leagues. We also accept photo submissions and write-ups from coaches and players. Email your content to [sports@turley.com](mailto:sports@turley.com).

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- Ware River News • Wilbraham-Hampden Times



## Senior Center set to offer ping pong every Thursday

AGAWAM - The Agawam Senior Center is pleased to announce its ongoing weekly ping pong program, "Ping Pong with Jerry," held every Thursday from 1 to 2 p.m.

Players of all skill levels are welcome to join this inclusive and engaging activity. "Whether you're a beginner looking to learn the basics or an experienced player wanting to maintain your skills, this program offers a supportive environment for everyone," added Ping Pong host Jerry.

Jerry has been an avid ping pong player for many years, and is an enthusiastic player and teacher.

"Ping Pong with Jerry"

provides an excellent opportunity for physical activity, social interaction, and friendly competition in a welcoming atmosphere.

Equipment is provided, but participants are welcome to bring their own paddles if preferred.

Ping pong (table tennis) offers numerous health benefits, including improved hand-eye coordination, mental acuity, and cardiovascular exercise in a low-impact format that's appropriate for various ages and physical abilities.

For more information about this or other programs offered at the Agawam Senior Center, call 413-821-0604.

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## Send Us Your Autumn Event Information

Turley Publications will print your Autumn event **FREE OF CHARGE** in our **Autumn Fest Supplement** which will be published **September 10, 2025.**

Total circulation of 85,000 reaching over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley.

Deadline for Calendar submissions is **August 11.**

## Community Autumn Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Time \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Description \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cost \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name & phone number for more information \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO:**

Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069

or email\* them to: [jamie@turley.com](mailto:jamie@turley.com)

\*Be sure to indicate "Autumn Event" in the subject line of your email.



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# SPORTS

## Brownies face off with Palmer

**PALMER** – In one of the first games of the season for summer soccer, Agawam girls B defeated Palmer 5-0 to get their season underway.

The Brownies are 1-3 to start the summer, but are holding a tie of seventh place. The top eight teams make the summer playoffs.



Bella Santaniello clears the ball away.



Jordyn Rosario advances up the field.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY SOFIA DIGRANDE



Gianna DePalma is closely pursued by an opponent.



Olivia Polevoy tries to change directions.



Emma Pellegrino tries to head off an opponent.

## Gaines shines for PeoplesBank in win over rival St. Joe's

By **Tim Peterson**  
Sports Correspondent

**THORNDIKE**—People's Bank, who captured the last eleven Tri-County League championship titles, and the St. Joseph's Baseball Club are scheduled to face each other four times during the regular season.

The first two meetings on

the baseball diamond were won by People's Bank without very much trouble.

A week after defeating St. Joe's, 13-3 at Mackenzie Stadium in Holyoke, People's Bank celebrated a 6-1 road victory at St. Joe's Park in Thorndike, last Friday night.

"This is a very big win early season win for us against St. Joe's, who's currently in first

place," said People's Bank player/manager Joe Ferry. "I thought our pitching and defense was the difference in tonight's game. We also had some timely base hits."

People's Bank, who had two games postponed last week, had a perfect 4-0 record following the road win, while St. Joe's had a 5-2 record.

Each of the five Tri-County League teams gets two points for a victory and one for a tie.

"We always want to beat People's, but they're a very veteran team and we have a bunch of younger players," said St. Joe's player/manager Brian Hayes, who shares the coaching duties with Paul Marcinek. "They don't swing at many bad pitches. They

also don't make very many mistakes defensively."

People's Bank jumped out to a 2-0 lead against St. Joe's lefthander Jackson Petrin in the top of the first inning.

Petrin, who was a senior on the Pope Francis baseball team this past spring, tossed a two-hitter against Minnechaug Regional in the Western Mass. Class A finals,

which was held at Mackenzie Stadium on May 27. He didn't have the same kind of success in his start against People's Bank.

With one-out in the opening frame, second baseman Dave Clark (3-for-3) lined a single down the right field line. First baseman Kyle Plat-

WIN | page 12

## Pioneers suffer rare league loss in game against Vermont Green

By **Tim Peterson**  
Sports Correspondent

**BURLINGTON, VT.**—Not very much went the right way for the Western Mass. Pioneers against Vermont Green FC in the first match-up of the regular season between the USL League-Two rivals.

Vermont Green scored a goal at the end of both halves leading to a 2-0 shut-out over the Pioneers before 2,500 enthusiastic soccer fans at Virtue Field, which is located on the University of Vermont campus, last Tuesday night.

"I thought we played well, but we just couldn't put our chances away," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. "They did put their chances away."

The Pioneers had a 5-1-2 record following the road loss.

Vermont Green (6-0-1) took over sole possession of first place in the Northeast

Division.

Since joining USL League-Two in 2022, Vermont has finished in third place behind the Pioneers in the league standings.

The overall series record between the two clubs is now tied 3-3-1. Three of the seven matchups ended 1-0.

In the second meeting of last season, Vermont made the trip south on Rte. 91 needing to defeat the Pioneers to qualify for the league playoffs. They got the job done with a 3-1 victory.

Their first meeting of 2024, which was played at Virtue Field, finished in a scoreless draw.

The last time the Pioneers celebrated a victory over Vermont Green was a 1-0 home shutout in the second meeting of the 2023 campaign. The lone goal of that match was scored by Mama-di Jiana, who played soccer at Chicopee High School, and is still a member of the Pioneers. He also plays for

the men's soccer team at Bryant University.

The Pioneers had a couple of scoring chances during the first half of last Tuesday's match.

In the eighth minute, Robbie Lyons fired a shot from the top of the box, but Vermont goalie Niklas Herceg managed to make the save.

A little more than ten minutes later, a Lyons free kick sailed wide

Herceg made another save following a shot attempt from Augustine Boadi during the 32nd minute.

Vermont Green took a 1-0 lead 11 minutes later.

The scoring play began with Stephane Njike sending a crossing pass into the box from the left side. Then Joseph Picotto flicked a shot into the back of the net past Western Mass goalie Cam Hall.

The Pioneers had an op-

LOSS | page 8



Augustine Boadi hustles up the field.

TURLEY PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

## Sports

## Hitters come through as Valley Blue Sox defeats Vermont

MONTPELIER, VT – Last Sunday, The Valley Blue Sox had a great night at the plate against the Vermont Mountaineers. Valley's designated hitter, Sebastian Mexico, had himself yet another great game. Mexico went two for four with one RBI, a walk and had himself a nice home run. He is third in the entire New England Collegiate Baseball League with an impressive batting average of .389 and has three home runs on the year.

Blue Sox First baseman Gavin Schrader also had himself a great game going

three for five at the plate with two RBIs.

Vermont started the game off strong, scoring two runs in the bottom of the first thanks to Mountaineers' designated hitter Griffin Brown's sac-fly to score right fielder Sam Gates. The second run scored from Conlan Daniel's stealing home on a wild pitch thrown by Ethan Slowik.

The Blue Sox got the bats rolling to answer in the top of the second thanks to catcher Cade Carr crushing a home run to make it 2-1. Valley was able to score in the top of the third again thanks to third

baseman Mike O'Connor's triple and Schrader's single to drive O'Connor in to tie it all up at 2-2.

Mountaineers' shortstop Thomas Schreck gave Vermont the lead back 3-2 in the bottom of the fourth by stealing home on a wild pickoff attempt to first base from Blue Sox's pitcher Jake Andrews.

Valley's right fielder Clay Burdette was hit by a pitch with two outs in the top of the fifth inning. O'Connor stepped up to the plate and doubled off the center field fence and the speedy right fielder for the Blue Sox scored to tie the game at three apiece.

Designated hitter Mexico saw the perfect pitch in the top of the seventh inning and crushed his third home run of the year to give the Valley a 4-3 lead. Second baseman Michael Elko and Burdette walked as the momentum started to shift drastically. Elko seized his opportunity to score by stealing second, third and home. O'Connor got on base due to a throwing error made by the Mountaineers. Schrader came back up to the plate locked in to hit a single to score Burdette to make it 6-3.

Left fielder Mike Lucarelli

hit a nice single to load the bases backup for the Blue Sox. Shortstop Kai Cunningham walked with the bases loaded to score O'Connor. Schrader then scored on a wild pitch to make it 8-3. Mexico then walked for Valley to load the bases again. Elko came back up to the plate and walked to make it 9-3. Burdette crushed a ball into the outfield to make it 11-3 but Elko got tagged out trying to get to home base to end the offenses' explosive inning. The Blue Sox scored eight runs in the top of the seventh inning to shift the tide of the game.

A new pitcher for Valley came into the game to start in the bottom of the seventh. Jack Niedringhaus, and he only allowed one run in the inning to keep it 11-4.

The eighth inning did not see any scoring changes as both defenses played efficiently well. In the top of the ninth Chris Walsh was able to score for Valley to make it 12-4 to end the half inning. Andrew Jergins started in the bottom of the ninth inning for the Blue Sox and closed the game out by allowing no runs in the last inning. The final score was 12-4 in favor of Valley.

## T-Birds bringing back Community Caravan

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds are proud to announce the return of the T-Birds Community Caravan, with support from MassMutual, marking the third annual summer tour designed to bring the excitement of Thunderbirds hockey to communities across the region.

This year's Caravan will include three stops throughout the Greater Springfield area during the summer months, continuing the initiative's mission to keep the T-Birds top-of-mind in the offseason while deepening the team's connection to local families and fans. This summer's Caravan dates are as follows:

- Saturday, July 19 - Sonny's Place, Somers, CT - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

- Saturday, August 9 - Amelia Park Ice Arena, Westfield - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. \*

\*The Westfield Community Caravan will also feature the annual T-Birds Street Hockey Tournament on the outdoor deck hockey court at Amelia Park. The Street Hockey Tournament features teams of players ages 9-12. To

register your team, click here.

"After a fantastic continuation of the program last summer, we're thrilled to bring back the Caravan and keep building on its success," said Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. "We're equally excited to welcome back MassMutual as a partner and thank them for embracing our mission of being champions in the community beyond the Thunderdome."

Each free-to-attend event will feature appearances by Thunderbirds mascot Boomer, team staff, and a lively mix of interactive games, street hockey, family-friendly activities, and local vendors. Fans can also enjoy delicious food options, with each Caravan date spotlighting a local non-profit beneficiary, helping to raise awareness and support for impactful community organizations.

"We're delighted to support the Springfield Thunderbirds not only on the ice but also throughout the local community," said Dennis Duquette, head of community responsibility at MassMutual and president of the Mass-

Mutual Foundation. "Their caravan provides terrific activities for local kids and families, and we're proud to be a part of it."

The Springfield edition of the Caravan will be collecting donations benefiting The Gray House. Among the requested items are baby food, diapers and wipes, school supplies, and non-perishable food items. The Thunderbirds will also be hosting food drives at the July and August Caravan stops. The July Caravan at Sonny's Place will benefit the Enfield Food Shelf in Connecticut, while the August Caravan in Westfield will collect items for the Westfield Food Pantry.

Additional information for all Community Caravans will be released in the coming weeks via the Thunderbirds' website and social media channels.

For more information on upcoming events, including the Community Caravan, stay tuned to the T-Birds on social media @ThunderbirdsAHL, or visit the Community Tab on www.SpringfieldThunderbirds.com.

## Motocross Nationals return this weekend

SOUTHWICK – Since 1976, the intimate, serpentine layout of Southwick, Massachusetts' iconic The Wick 338 has provided the most unique and grueling challenge in American motocross. Nestled behind the American Legion outpost for which it is named, amidst a sea of trees and the nearby Great Brook, the hidden gem is a pillar of the globally prestigious Pro Motocross Championship and has a legacy that spans nearly five decades. On Saturday, June 28, the 44th running of the Crestview Construction Southwick National will see the town of Southwick will become the global epicenter of the motocross world, as the most legendary race teams and an international contingent of the fastest racers on the planet converge on Western Massachusetts for the ultimate battle of man and machine at the "moto sandbox."

With its one-of-a-kind racing surface, endless stream of flowing turns, and an undulating terrain that is surrounded by spectators,

The Wick 338 stands alone in the world of motorsports. It is rare to find a racetrack of such global significance, with such a rich history seamlessly interwoven into the community that surrounds it, but the embrace of this summer tradition has become a fixture of Southwick living and an economic boon for the Hampden County town. Hundreds of racers, race team personnel, event staff, and race fans from across New England will make the journey to Western Massachusetts for an action-packed day of racing that will play a pivotal role in the quest to crown champions.

With legendary track elements like Jo Jo's Powerslide and Buckley Berm, The Wick 338 has long put riders to the ultimate test. The ever-changing sand means the track is constantly evolving, getting rougher and tougher as the day wears on and is usually complemented by elevated summer temperatures and humidity, adding another layer to an already monumental task. Despite

its challenges, it's a race all athletes want to win and those who have prevailed on these hallowed grounds take immense pride in knowing they earned that success. For spectators, there's simply nothing like it, as virtually every vantage point provides spectacular visuals and puts fans on top of the action.

The Pro Motocross Championship comprises 11 rounds of competition amongst the most high profile superstars of motorcycle racing, like American-born champions Eli Tomac and Chase Sexton, as well as championship-winning Australian phenom Jett Lawrence, Spaniard world champion Jorge Prado, and many more. The series will visit 10 different states from late May to late August, visiting the most hallowed venues in racing with legacies that span upwards of five decades. In the end, a pair of athletes will emerge with the sport's most distinguished title, celebrated as an AMA National Champion.

## LOSS | from page 8

portunity to score the tying goal in 52nd minute when Boadi sent a pass to Lyons, but his shot went over the crossbar.

In the 73rd minute, Jared Smith's free kick just missed going into the net.

With the Pioneers still trailing by a goal late in the second half, Vermont goalie Niklas Herceg received a yellow card from referee Elvis Jandric.

Molinari thought his team should've been given a free kick following the card, but the referee gave the home team a goal kick instead.

"It should've been a free kick for us because the referee gave their goalie a yellow card," Molinari said. "The referee made a mistake and it's a very tough loss for loss."

Following the match, Molinari and several of the Pioneers got into a heated argument with Jandric in the middle of the field.

The home team sealed their victory when Hall attempted to make a diving save on a shot taken by Tyler Trimnal. The ball bounced away from the Pioneers keeper and Njike put the ball into the back of the net sending the Vermont Green supporters into a frenzy.

The Pioneers did get back into the win column following a 2-0 win against the Boston Bolts.

The Pioneers goals were scored by Jorge Veintimilla and Jiana.

The second meeting between Vermont Green and Western Mass. is scheduled to take place at Lusitano Stadium on July 11. It's also the regular season finale for the Pioneers.



Gustavo Barbosa traps the ball and heads up the field.

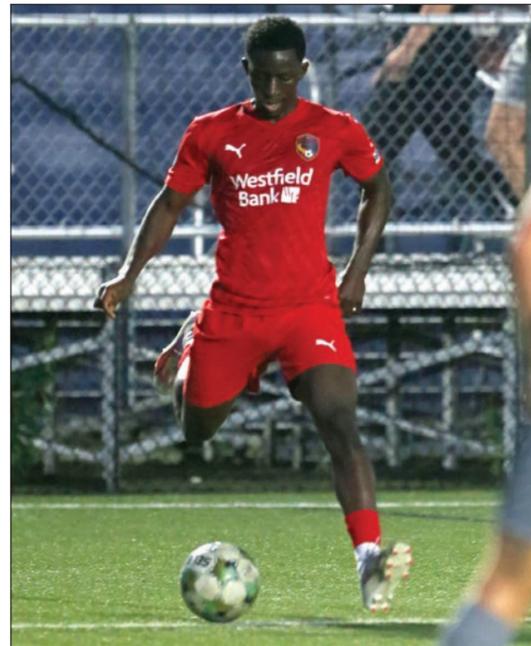
TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Jaiden Williams shoots on goal.



Robert Lyons crosses the field.



Mamadi Jiana runs down the loose ball.

# Registration open for many summer programs

AGAWAM – Registration has begun for all of our summer programs. Some of our programs are at full capacity. Doering PE Academy, C0-Ed Basketball Clinic, Boys Lacrosse Clinic, and Girls Lacrosse Clinic have openings as of this week.

## Doering PE Academy

Doering Middle School PE Teachers will offer fun and physically engaging activities in a safe structured environment fostering fitness, teamwork, and social skills. The academy will consist of a variety of games, sports, and activities. Participants need to wear sneakers, bring

a snack, and plenty of water.

### Session I

July 1 through July 3

### Session II

August 5 through August 7

**Days:** Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

### Location:

Doering Middle School Field & Gym if raining

### Ages:

Boys and Girls in Grades K - 8 (24-25 school year)

**Times:** 8 to 11 a.m.

**Cost:** \$100 per person

### Registration:

Begins in person and online on Tuesday, June 3.

## Boys Lacrosse

Agawam High School Lacrosse Coaches will focus on the basic, skills, strategies, and rules of the game in this four day program.

Participants need to bring their own equipment, bring a snack, and plenty of water.

### Days:

Monday through Thursday (Friday will be used as a make-up day if needed)

### Dates:

July 28 through July 31

Location: AHS Stadium

### Ages:

Boys in Grades 1 - 8 (24-25 school year)

**Times:** 9 a.m. to 12 noon

**Cost:** \$100 per person

### Registration:

Begins in person and online on Tuesday, June 3.

## Girls Lacrosse

Agawam High School Lacrosse Coaches will focus on the basic, skills, strategies, and rules of the game in this four day program.

Participants need to bring their own equipment, bring a snack, and plenty of water.

### Days:

Monday through Thursday (Friday will be used as a make-up day if needed)

### Dates:

August 11 through August 14

### Location:

AHS Stadium

### Ages:

Girls in Grades 3 - 8 (24-25 school year)

### Times:

9 a.m. to 12 noon

**Cost:** \$100 per person

### Registration:

Begins in person and online on Tuesday, June 3

## Co-Ed Youth Basketball

American International College (AIC) Men's Basketball Coaches will lead players through a series of drills and games that will enhance their ability in the game of basketball. Participants need to wear sneakers and bring

plenty of water.

### Days/Dates

Monday, July 14 through Thursday, July 17

### Location

Agawam High School Gymnasium

**Session I:** Ages 7 - 10

**Times:** 9 to 11 a.m.

**Limit:** 35 per session

**Session II:** Ages 11 - 14

**Times:** 12 to 2 p.m.

**Limit:** 35 per session

**Cost:** \$50 per person

Registration: Begins in person and online on Tuesday, June 3.

## Tykes Tuesday back in the summer

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 8 through Aug. 19.

Tykes Tuesday, sponsored by The Care Center, 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. This year's activities include

live animal ambassadors, a magic show, free trampoline park admission, and more.

### Tykes Tuesday Schedule:

• July 8: Wildlife on Wheels with Forest Park Zoo

• July 15: Adventures at Altitude Trampoline Park (Limited Availability, Registration Full)

• July 22: Celebrate Christmas in July with Mrs. Claus, Face Painting and More

• July 29: Magic Show with Ed Popielarczyk

• August 5: Meet and Greet with the Holyoke Fire Department and Belchertown

PD Dog

• August 12: Superhero Training Academy with Face Painting and Balloon Art

• August 19: Fantastic Forces with Mad Science

Families are encouraged to pre-register at [www.holyokemall.com/tykes-tuesday-2025/](http://www.holyokemall.com/tykes-tuesday-2025/). Plus, families who come to all 7 weeks of Tykes Tuesday will be entered to win a Grand Raffle Prize of a Back-to-School gift pack. Those interested can get a loyalty punch card at the Holyoke Mall registration table on July 8.

## The Cows Are Coming Home!

Old Sturbridge Village teams up with World-Renowned CowParade and regional artists to design an Udderly Moo-ving Experience

STURBRIDGE—This summer, Old Sturbridge Village, New England's premier living history museum, is partnering with CowParade, the world's largest public art event, to bring history and imagination to life with more than two dozen, artistically decorated cows grazing the Village grounds.

The world-renowned cows, made of fiberglass and weighing 100-pounds, are being transformed by local artists into creative works of art that represent early New England life, America 250 and more. The exhibit will be unveiled to the public the weekend of June 21-22 and will run into September, culminating with a cattle auction

to support the Museum's non-profit educational programs.

In March, more than 130 New England artists responded to the Village's call to create one-of-a-kind cow designs with over 261 submissions. Those chosen to go "on parade" range from revolutionary-inspired cows such as the "Bull of Rights" to more contemporary masterpieces like, "Salted," which represents a giant stick of butter. The selected artists will receive a \$1,000 honorarium and are now hard at work - painting, staining, and even knitting their imaginative creations to life.

"By welcoming the internationally known CowParade to Massachusetts, we

hope to bring history to life in a creative and unexpected way," said James Donahue, President and CEO of Old Sturbridge Village. "It is a wonderful opportunity to use Old Sturbridge Village as an open-air gallery to celebrate New England artists while offering visitors a truly unique experience."

In addition to seeing the one-of-a-kind cows, visitors will have the opportunity to learn about the importance of cattle in early 19th-century New England, meet the Village's heritage breed cows and oxen (including Devons, Shorthorns, and Randall Linebacks), and learn about the dairying process of the past.

## Bird Club offers tips to handle mosquitoes

Warm, wet weather means mosquitoes, but broadcast spraying of pesticides can put all pollinators - not just mosquitoes - at risk. Many birds rely on insects for food, and insect pollinators are essential to vast quantities of food crops and flowering plants throughout the world.

Luckily, natural home mosquito control is safe and simple. Mosquitoes breed in still water, so be vigilant about emptying any containers with standing water

every few days. Change and clean bird baths every 2-3 days.

For more active control, build a home mosquito trap. Start by filling a bucket half-way with water. Drop in the recommended amount of "Bti" (Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis, a commercially available, natural bacteria toxic only to mosquitoes, biting flies, and some gnats), then add handfuls of straw or grass clippings. This watery "stew" will attract female mosquitoes to lay their eggs.

If desired, drill a hole in the top quadrant of the bucket to release overflow in case of heavy rain. Finish your trap by slanting a board from the inside bottom of the bucket to the top so any hapless critters that fall in can escape.

Empty and rinse your mosquito trap every 30 days. This trap will also work without Bti but must then be emptied and refilled every three days. Whichever version you choose, birds and other pollinators will thank you!

## HCC to host city's Fourth of July fireworks

HOLYOKE — The City of Holyoke will be hosting the annual Fourth of July fireworks on Friday, June 27 (with a rain-date of June 29). The event will take place on the grounds of Holyoke Community College, at 303 Homestead Avenue.

Vendors interested in taking part in the event should

contact the Parks and Recreation Department before June 13, for a permit application at 413-322-5620.

We encourage everyone to come early to enjoy the music and food from a variety of vendors as well as many children's activities. The event begins at 6 p.m., with the fireworks display scheduled to

start at dusk.

Many of the streets around the college will close early, please plan for alternate routes. We are currently searching for volunteers, please call the Mayor's Office at 413-561-1600. If you are planning to bring your dog to the fireworks, the dog must be always kept on a leash.



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**PARK** ■ from page 1

from lower branches blocking the view.

The goal of RSP Day is to help show people in Agawam and surrounding areas how valuable this state park is.

Throughout the day, people were welcome to go on bird walks, tree walks, build bee feeders or nests, play games and participate in a mini bio blitz.

“There is a little bit of everything for everyone to enjoy,” Bobskill said.

During the bio blitz, kids and others were provided with a piece of paper and a pencil as they were taken around the park.

As they went around the park, the leaders of the blitz named different species of flora and fauna that they encountered.

The goal of this was to get a list of the variety of different species present within the park, and to show the participants how many species they have right in their backyard.

A true bio blitz, which can last for 24 hours, is when scientists all come out to a location and keep track of the species they encounter.

“This helps the towns come up with a natural resource inventory and understand what they have, and then compare it to the natural diversity database and see which ones of those species are threatened, endangered or uncommon,” Parlee said.

This can help towns to better protect the environment around them. The RSP Day volunteers were delighted to allow kids and adults the chance to see what a bio blitz can look like.

“I hope people learn how special this place is and that they come back and utilize the park on their own,” Parlee said.

Bobskill also hoped people enjoyed meeting the community around the park.

“There is a community of people who love nature and we want them to join in and support nature in any way that they can,” Bobskill said.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA  
Above: Multiple participants gathered around for the tree walk led by Arborist Matt Largess and Botanist Jared Lockwood.

Right: Botanist Jared Lockwood explained how he measures the height of trees.  
Below: During Robinson State Park Day people were able to make bee feeders and bee nests.



# Public Notices

**AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT**

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., Agawam, MA. on **Monday, July 14, 2025 at 7PM** for all parties interested in the request of Jamie Santanello, who is seeking a Special Permit in accordance with the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances, Ch.180, Sections 23 (K) and 180-8.1 to allow for the keeping of hens at the premises identified as 12 Moore Street.

Doreen A. Prouty, Chairperson  
Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals  
06/19, 06/26/2025

**AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the

Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., Agawam, MA., on **Monday, July 14, 2025 at 6:30 PM** for all parties interested in the request of Serge Nakhabenko, who is seeking a Special Permit in accordance with the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances, Ch.180-69 (D) to allow for an addition to a residential structure located within the floodplain at the premises identified as 248 River Road.  
06/19, 06/26/2025

**TOWN OF AGAWAM ACCEPTING SEALED BIDS**

The Town of Agawam will receive sealed bids for Veterans Memorial Construction. Mandatory Pre-bid 7/1/2025 at 9 AM. Available 6/25/2025 via email: bids@agawam.ma.us **Bids due until 2:30 PM, 7/10/2025.**  
06/26/2025

**COUNCIL** ■ from page 1

ert Rossi wants to add the scooters and skateboards to this article, “I see these kids, eight, nine, ten years old going down the street in front

of my house going 20 miles-per-hour, standing on this little board with no helmets on. At least an e-bike, there's some type of legislation to protect the public, rules and

regulation for the people who own them, but I don't see anything for these little skateboards.”

Mercadante answered Smith stating that they are

working with the Mayor's Office in creating a separate ordinance to include them, but this cannot be amended to include the scooters and skateboards.

## EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of July 4th, there will be an **EARLY AD DEADLINE** To advertise, place your ad no later than **NOON**

### Thursday, July 3

- Thank you!

A TURLEY PUBLICATION  
www.turley.com

## EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of July 4th, **PUBLIC NOTICES EARLY AD DEADLINE** Place your public notice no later than **NOON**

### Thursday, July 3

- Thank you!

Agawam Advertiser News

## OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
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*Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.*

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**FOR RENT**

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# Sports clinics return this summer

LUDLOW – The Lions Pride Sports Clinics return this summer with a dynamic lineup of programs designed to support youth athletic development, foster sportsmanship, and prepare athletes for competitive success. Hosted at Ludlow High School, the clinics will run from late June through August and include offerings in basketball, soccer, volleyball, beach volleyball, athlete preparation, and track & field.

With a strong roster of experienced coaches and a focus on skill-building, these clinics provide athletes from kindergarten through 12th grade with opportunities to grow in a fun, supportive environment. Registration is now open.

Summer 2025 Clinics Include:

### Basketball Clinic

- Grades: 1st–9th
- Coach: Tim Brillo
- Dates: July 7–11 | 9 a.m.

- to 12 noon
- Fee: \$100
- Soccer Clinics – Session 1 & 2
- Ages: 5–12
- Coach: Greg Kolodziey
- Session 1: June 23–27 | 9 a.m. to 12 noon
- Session 2: July 21–25 | 9 a.m. to 12 noon
- Fee: \$100 per session

### High School Volleyball

- Grades: 10–12
- Coach: Ethan Campbell
- Dates: June 24–August 14 | Tuesdays and Thursdays | 6 to 8 p.m.
- Fee: \$200
- Volleyball Basics
- Grades: 7–9
- Coach: Ethan Campbell
- Dates: July 8–August 14 | Tuesdays and Thursdays | 4 and 6 p.m.
- Fee: \$200

### Beach Volleyball

- Grades: 10–12
- Coach: Ethan Campbell

- Dates: June 24–August 14 | Tuesdays and Thursdays (6 to 8 p.m.), Sundays (10 a.m. to 12 noon)
- Fee: \$350

### Athlete Prep

- Grades: 8–12
- Coach: Brian Walsh
- Dates: June 23–August 7
- Sessions: Monday and Thursday at 8 a.m., Monday and Wednesday at 10 a.m.
- Schedule subject to change
- Fee: \$130

### Youth Track and Field

- Grades: K–8
- Coaches: Brian Walsh
- Dates: June 30–August 11 | Mondays | 5 to 6:30 p.m.
- Fee: \$100

All sessions will be held at Ludlow High School, featuring high-quality facilities and a supportive environment for young athletes to learn and grow.

### WIN ■ from page 8

ner followed with a ground ball single up the middle into center field putting runners at the corners. Platner moved into scoring position on a wild pitch. Catcher Frankie Ferrentino, who's a first-year player, drove home both runners with a bloop single to center.

Ferrentino is a member of the Merrimack College baseball team.

Petrin retired the next two batters on a foul pop-up caught by third baseman Jacob Petrin and a strikeout.

St Joe's threatened against People's Bank lefty Danny Gaines, who's from Holyoke, with one-out in the bottom half of the first inning. Jacob Petrin (2-for-4) began the rally with an infield hit and right fielder Pat Fitzgibbons drew a walk. Gaines escaped further trouble by getting the next batter to hit into an inning ending double play.

After neither team scored in the second inning, People's Bank centerfielder Seth

Allen hit a groundball to the third baseman leading off the third inning. He wound up at second base following a throwing error. A Clark pop-up single to center and a walk by Platner loaded the bases.

The visitors, who had seven base hits in the game, took a 3-0 lead when Ferrentino was hit by a pitch. Then right fielder Cam Rivest, who's the varsity baseball coach at Ludlow High School, hit a sacrifice fly scoring another run.

St. Joe's broke the ice an inning later.

Fitzgibbons, who hit a hard ground ball into left field leading off the fourth inning, scored when centerfielder Aaron Little, who played baseball at Ludlow High School, hit a sacrifice fly.

Second baseman Nate Carillon continued the St. Joe's rally with a walk and catcher Bobby Trigilio was hit-by-a-pitch loading the bases with one-out. Just like they did in the first and third innings, People's Bank end-

ed the inning with a double play.

"Our defense was awesome tonight," Ferry said. "We turned three double plays early in the game."

Gaines, who allowed one run on three hits in four innings, was relieved by fellow lefty James Flahive, who's normally a starter, at the start of the fifth inning.

"Danny has been one of our top starting pitchers for a very long time," Ferry said. "It's still early in the season and we knew he could give us at least four strong innings."

Flahive, who threw 70 pitches over the final three frames, was credited with the win. He didn't allow any runs on two hits.

People's Bank final two runs were scored in the fifth and sixth innings on sacrifice flies from designated hitter Johnny Gegetskas and Platner.

The third meeting of the regular season between the two teams was scheduled to be played at Mackenzie Stadium on Tuesday night.



Children's Librarian Evan Delano ran a Pride trivia bingo game for the teens at the Pride party.



Children's Librarian Evan Delano and the teens got to work making Pride flags at the Pride party.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA

### PRIDE ■ from page 1

tion that they want or need, and a safe place with supportive adults," Delano said.

Additionally, Delano wanted to give the teens a space to connect with one another.

"It's fun to hear people open up about their experiences and connect...and to provide a safe and fun environment for them," Delano said.

They were proud of the teens who came out to the party, and glad that everyone

seemed to enjoy themselves. "It was fun to hear them connect a little bit," Delano said. "I liked hearing them laugh at each other's jokes and get along."

This Pride event is only one of the many events the library has planned for the

summer. Their summer reading program kicked off on June 23, and the calendar is packed with many more events for the next few months.

An example of this is the Cardboard Drive-In for kids in kindergarten through sec-

ond grade, which will take place on Tuesday, July 1 at 2 p.m..

Kids will be able to make their own cardboard race cars while watching the Super Mario Bros Movie.

Delano is also starting a Dungeons and Dragons

group for teens at the library. Starting June 24, this group will meet every Tuesday from 3 to 4:30 through the end of summer.

To keep updated on the different events at the library, go to their website at <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/>.

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