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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS



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Historic home to get major facelift

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The Captain Charles Leonard House is finally undergoing the process of restoration.

The goal is to upgrade and fix many different aspects of the house so that it can be enjoyed by Agawam residents for years to come. Work on the house has just begun, with the building permit being issued the week of June 19.

“Work is focused primarily on the exterior of the house,” Christopher Johnson said, speaking as a chair of the board of trustees for this building. “We’re going to be replacing the roof, doing extensive work to the clapboards. We also have begun doing work on rot repair on the sill of the house and around the foundation of the house. We’re going to be replacing all of the windows[...]and we’ll be constructing new porches and installing a new handicap ramp.”



Mayor William Sapelli is joined by members of the Agawam City Council for the groundbreaking for the restoration of the Captain Charles Leonard House.

On top of all of the replacing and upgrading work, they will also be installing a new sprinkler system at the recommendation of architect Stephen Jablonski.

“We’re going to have a sprinkler system installed in the build-

ing,” Johnson said. “When we first met with the architect on the project, the architect said the only surefire way to preserve this historic house is to put a sprinkler system in because, given the age and the construction type of the



At right, Mayor William Sapelli speaks up about the upcoming work to the historic landmark.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

house, an actual fire would invariably lead to probably a total loss. So, he suggested and the board agreed, and the town, luckily, the CPA and the council funded adding a sprinkler system on the property.”

This house was initially constructed in 1805 as a stage tavern, or a place for people to stop by and grab some food and have a place to stay.

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Council president set to join mayoral race

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – As the election nomination season heads into July, it is certain there will be two open seats for the Agawam City Council, and two current councilors throwing their hats in the race to run for mayor.

Council President Christopher Johnson, who has been serving on the council for more than a decade, sent out a press release saying he would make a formal announcement this week confirming his candidacy for mayor.

Johnson was the first mayor of the Town of Agawam. He was elected in 1990 when the town switched to a mayor form of government.

Town Clerk Vincent Gioscia confirmed Johnson has taken out nomination papers to run for mayor, though, only one person has return papers to get on the ballot.

That is former Council President Cecilia Calabrese. She announced her candidacy via Facebook a few weeks ago, and

followed up saying she had returned her nomination papers to the town clerk’s office.

With both Johnson and Calabrese running for the top seat, which will be vacated by incumbent Mayor William Sapelli at the end of this year, there are two open seats for the city council that could go to one of three challengers who have taken out papers for a seat on the council.

Edward Borgatti is the only one of the three who have already returned his nomination papers, but Maria F. Valego and former one-term mayor Susan Dawson have taken out papers as well. The remaining nine incumbent councilors have all taken out papers. They are: Thomas Hendrickson, Gerald Smith, Dino Mercadante, Paul Cavallo, Anthony Russo, George Bitzas, Anthony Suffriti, Rosemary Sandlin, and Robert Rossi. So far, Hendrickson, Mercadante, Russo, Bitzas, and Rossi have returned their papers.

The School Committee has six individuals who have taken out papers so far. Five are in-

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Library is ready for summer reading

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The library’s summer reading program will kick off on June 26 for children, teens and adults.

Those interested in participating in the program can go to <https://agawamlibrary.beanstack.org/reader365> in order to log their reading and get prizes.

Children and teens earn virtual tickets for each day they read for at least fifteen minutes.

“Each day that they log reading on Beanstack they earn virtual tickets,” Pamela Weingart, the children’s librarian, said. “These virtual tickets can be used to enter to win weekly prizes. This year, if there’s a certain prize they want they can save up their tickets and enter them into specific prizes.”

The deadline for submitting tickets for a weekly prize is 5 p.m. on the Friday for that week. So, for example, if a person wanted to submit for the weekly prize on the week of June 26, they would have to submit their tickets by 5 p.m. on June 30. Prize winners will be announced the following Monday.

Adults can earn virtual raffle tickets by also going to the

beanstack website and completing bingo activities.

“They do bingo activities. They’ll receive one raffle ticket every time they score bingo,” Weingart said. “Raffle tickets can be used to enter one of seven \$25 gift card raffles. We have seven local organizations that we got gift cards from, like Joey’s Deli Market, Agawam’s Java Stop, Agawam Cinema and some others.”

On top of these opportunities to log reading and win prizes, there will also be different events and activities for participants to take part in.

For the children and teens, there are new crafts every Monday and joke days on Wednesdays. This means that if kids and teens come up to the desk on Wednesdays and tell the librarians a joke, they will get a rubber duck.

There will also be riddles for children and teens to solve.

“Each week for kids and teens, we’ll have a riddle for them to figure out by searching around the library and a fun hunt for them to do around the children’s room,” Weingart said. “So even if they can’t make it to the library for a specific time, there’s still going to be activities

and things to do.”

There are also activities planned that kids, teens and adults can take part in, which gives families great summer activity opportunities that they can do for free.

“We’re going to have a program called Find Your Voice With Chalk Art, for all ages,” Weingart said. “We’re borrowing a parking lot in the high school and families, adults, kids, everyone can sign up and reserve a parking space and make chalk art.”

The chalk art activity is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on July 7. To register, go to the library website at <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/> or call the information desk at 413-789-1550.

Overall, this program provides a great opportunity to get out and enjoy the summer with family and friends.

“It’s so hard to find affordable things to do with the family,” Weingart said. “So, here at the library there is no cost to any of it. There are lots of options that are open to all people regardless of whatever financial stage they might be at right now. It’s all free, it’s all open to everyone.”



Three Agawam residents join Pan-Mass Challenge

NEEDHAM – On Aug. 5 and 6, more than 6,000 riders from around the globe, including three residents from Agawam, will pedal in the 44th Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC). These cyclists will come together with the common goal of raising a record-breaking \$70 million for cancer research and patient care at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (Dana-Farber). If achieved, this would be the single-largest gift Dana-Farber has ever received, bringing the PMC's total contribution in the fight against cancer to \$970 million since 1980.

As the nation's single most successful athletic fundraiser, the fully supported bike-a-thon includes one and two-day routes, from 25 to 211 miles, designed to cater to all levels of cycling and fundraising ability. For the 17th consecutive year, 100 percent of every rider-raised dollar will be donated directly to Dana-Farber to support lifesaving cancer research and treatment. The PMC accounts for more than 60 percent of the Jimmy Fund's annual revenue as Dana-Farber's largest single contributor.

"The steadfast commitment of the PMC community year after year continues to inspire me," said Billy Starr, founder and executive director of the PMC. "With our sights set on a record-breaking fundraising goal for PMC 2023, I'm grateful for the continued support from all PMC riders, volunteers, donors, and sponsors and I can't wait to see everyone out on the road together this August."

Riders and volunteers will travel from 43 states and 8 countries to participate in PMC Ride Weekend festivities in Massachusetts.



Three Agawam residents are participating in the Pan-Mass Challenge this year.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Most participate in honor of a family member or friend fighting cancer, and 950 riders and volunteers are cancer survivors or current patients, considered Living Proof® of the PMC mission. There are also 150 Dana-Far-

ber employees committed to the cause as riders and volunteers, in some cases to fund their own cancer research.

Registration for PMC 2023 is open through July 6. Join riders from your com-

munity in the fight against cancer by registering for one of the following routes still available:

- 25 & 50-Mile Routes (1-Day, 25 or 50 Miles; Sunday, August 6):

- o Starting and finishing in either Wellesley or Foxboro, these Sunday routes are perfect one-day options for those passionate about giving back.

- Wellesley Century Ride (1-Day, 100 Miles; Sunday, August 6):

- o The Wellesley Century route is a popular option for riders looking to challenge their endurance in a one-day format while making an impact in the fight against cancer.

- Reimagined Ride (Rider's Choice Mileage/Timing):

- o PMC Reimagined riders can ride whenever and whenever they want – except for the PMC routes on PMC weekend. This option is intended to provide flexibility for those that want to contribute to the fight against cancer without specific time or mileage constraints.

The PMC is co-presented by the Red Sox Foundation® and M&T Bank. To make a financial contribution to a rider from your town or to register as a rider, visit www.pmc.org, or call (800) WE-CYCLE. Connect with #PMC2023 on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.

Thank you to the following riders from Agawam:

- Nick Connell
- Michael Donahue
- Richard Gloster

Heritage Woods embraces SafelyYou to reduce resident fall risk

SAN FRANCISCO- SafelyYou, a more person-centered care through real-time AI video technology and round-the-clock remote clinical experts, announces its collaboration with Heritage Woods, a senior living community in Agawam. SafelyYou has installed its AI video technology within the community, helping to change the approach to fall risk mitigation and resident well-being.

SafelyYou's AI-enabled cameras are accurate, detecting 99.5 percent of observed events while care staff is immediately alerted for assistance. The clear fall videos empower care staff to assess the severity of falls and make well-informed decisions regarding the need for emergency services. Additionally, SafelyYou's clinical experts support the community's care staff in identifying the root causes of falls and implementing effective interventions to mitigate the risk of future incidents. This combination of cutting-edge technology and expert insights has resulted in a 40 percent reduc-

tion in falls and an 80 percent decrease in fall-related emergency room visits within communities utilizing SafelyYou.

"Our adoption of SafelyYou's AI video technology reinforces our commitment to delivering innovative care solutions and prioritizing resident well-being," states Melissa Powell, Chief Operating Officer. "We are excited to offer this advanced technology and safety feature to our residents and their families. We are setting a new industry standard for senior care."

"We're honored to work with Heritage Woods, a trailblazer in the US senior care landscape," commented George Netscher, founder and CEO of SafelyYou. "Our core mission has always been to elevate the standard of care for seniors by providing innovative solutions for fall detection and prevention. Collaborating with Heritage Woods allows us to further that mission and continue to create safer environments that positively impact the lives of residents, families, and staff."

School Street Spray Park open

AGAWAM – School Street Spray Park will be open Daily 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. from June 23 through Labor Day. Please respect the park and other users. Children under 12 must always be supervised by a parent or guardian. No glass containers, food or beverages. Pedestrians only, no skate-

boards, bikes, scooters, etc. Anyone with a communicable disease or illness is not permitted. No animals or pets in the Spray Park area. Large group field trips are not permitted. To report any problems please notify the Parks & Recreation Department at 413-821-0514.

Perry Lane Pool opens June 26

AGAWAM – Perry Lane Pool Open Mon. June 26 through Sun., Aug. 20, the hours will be Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5p.m.

The Public Swim Saturday & Sunday 12:00 to 5:00PM Public Swim The pool schedule is subject to change. Daily Pool Passes are \$1 per person. Pool passes may be purchased at the pool from the lifeguard on duty.

These are the pool rules; An Adult must

accompany children – under the age of 16, disposable diapers are not permitted in the pool at any time. A cloth diaper with rubber pants or swim diapers are recommended. Swimmers must shower before entering the pool. Anyone with a communicable disease is not permitted in the pool. The pool may be closed due to extreme weather, special events, or emergencies. The Pool Director or Head Lifeguard on duty has authority over all pool rules and closures.



Feline Friends to hold supply drive July 8 at Smithland

FEEDING HILLS-Feline Friends Inc. Cat Sanctuary will be holding a food, supply drive at Smithland Pet & Garden Center on Saturday, July 8 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers will be accepting food, litter, treats & monetary donations for the kitties. Opened bags/boxes will also be accepted. Gift cards from various pet stores or Costco would be much appreciated.

Smithland, a valued sponsor, is stocked with Friskies Pate or Shreds canned food (single flavored cases pre-

ferred), unscented cat litter and Temptations cat treats. All donations will be accepted. The donation bin is located near the cash registers.

Other items on the wish list include; disinfecting wipes, paper towels, puppy pee pads, dry cat food for strays & colonies.

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

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 1,214 calls for service from June 19 to June 25 and recorded the following arrests. No arrests in the public log have been omitted. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty.

Wednesday, June 21

Olga Lebedinskaya, 65, 59 Pochassic St., Westfield, was arrested at 4:27 p.m. for operating under the influence of liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, and possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle.

Friday, June 23

Richard L. Crawford, 51, of 78 Paul Revere Dr., Agawam, was arrested at 5:49 p.m. on a straight warrant and two default warrants for failure to appear.

Saturday, June 24

Jose Manuel Rivera Torres, 66, of 58 Wilbur St., Springfield, was arrested for operating under the influence of drugs, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, a marked lanes violation, carrying a dangerous weapon.

Registration for Girls Youth Field Hockey

AGAWAM- Registration for the Youth Field Hockey League starts June 21. Players are restricted to Agawam residents only. Girls in grades 1-8 and have their own stick, goggles, shin guards, and mouth pieces can sign up. The season is from Aug. to Oct. For more information please contact Agawam Parks and Recreation located at 100 Suffield St. or call 413- 821-0513.

91 South to perform July 5

AGAWAM—Wednesday, July 5 at 7 p.m., the 91 South band will be performing at School Street Park, 436 Corey St. The 91 South band plays classic rock-and-roll music. For more information, please visit 91southband.com.

Trolley museum announces summer activities

EAST WINDSOR, Conn. – Summer-time is the best time to visit the CTM, visit once or all summer long! CTM will hold activities for all ages. Let CTM help you make memories that will last a lifetime! Activities including- Trolley Rides: Take a trolley ride operated by period dressed motormen on a trolley car dating back to the early 1900's. Learn historic information about the collection and how the Museum began.

Trolley Experiences: Get up close and personal as you climb aboard selected trolleys from the Museum's incredible collection in the Visitors Center. From streetcars to Interurban cars this is your chance to take the controllers and let your imagination "operate." Crafting Station: Make a Motorman Hat, create your own trolley fare ticket & more.

Take your new creations home with you for future use. Scavenger Hunt/ISPY-Hunt through the Visitors Center to locate Trolley History answers for a chance to win a trolley fare token.

Dress-up Station: Dress up as a Motorman or Conductor. Great Photo op. Scavenger Hunt- Navigate through the

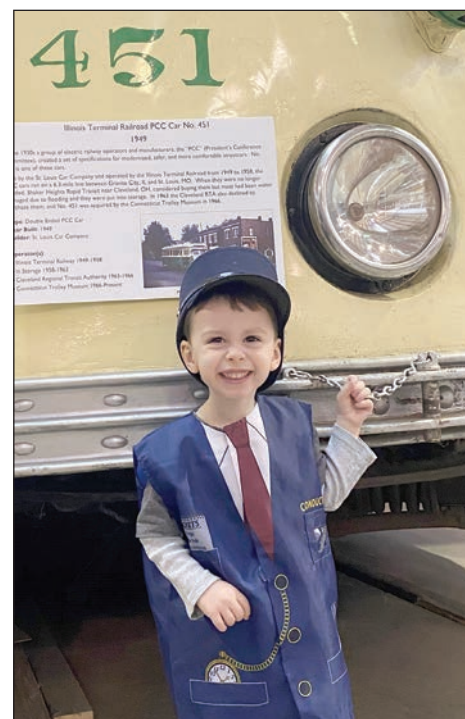
Visitors Center using a scavenger Hunt. Whoever completes the hunt wins a souvenir trolley fare token.

LEGO Build- put your building skills to the test and create a design to coincide with the weekly transportation theme. Creations stay at the Museum to be broken down at the end of the day. Fire Truck Museum: View over 15 Fire Trucks dating back to 1923.

Learn more about the Fire Truck Museum's collection along with historic Fire Fighting Equipment. (Admission to Fire Truck Museum is included in the Trolley Museum admission ticket).

Admission prices are \$12 for Adults, \$11 for Seniors (62+), \$11 for Youth (ages 12-17), Children (ages 2-11) \$9, children under 2 and Museum Members free. Please visit the website for Special Event prices. The Museum is open from 10am-4:00pm (last trolley ride departs at 3pm), for more information visit www.ct-trolley.org or call 860-627-6540.

The Connecticut Trolley Museum is located at 58 North Road (Rt. 140) and is 15 minutes north of Hartford and 15 minutes south of Springfield.



There is lots happening at the nearby Connecticut Trolley Museum this summer. SUBMITTED PHOTO

ACAA accepting applications

AGAWAM – The Agawam Community Artists and Artisans are accepting applications for the Pioneer Valley Art Festival that is being held at the Agawam Polish American Club, 139 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills. The Art Festival is Saturday, August 26 and Sunday, Aug. 27 from 10

a.m. to 4 p.m. Set up is Friday, Aug. 25 beginning at 8 a.m.

For General Information and the Registration form please contact Ceil Rossi, President ACAA, at email tocarefree2@hotmail.com or call 413 207-1247. Deadline is Saturday, July 1.

Women's Club holding rehearsals for entertainment

AGAWAM – The first rehearsal for the Catholic Women's Club of Agawam's entertainment will be held on June 22, in the St. John the Evangelist parish center gymnasium located at 833 Main St., Agawam, at 7 p.m.

All members are invited to be cast members and share their talent. Rehearsals will continue throughout July and August. Come with ideas for skits, songs or something you might want to present. Hope to see you there.

Summer programs now available

AGAWAM – The Parks and Recreation Department announced this week the 2023 Parks and Recreation Summer Brochure is now available online. Go to www.agawam.ma.us and visit the Parks and Rec page to

view the brochure and get information and sign-up for camps, clinics, and many other summer programs. Information on the Perry Lane Summer Camp and the Agawam Piranhas can also be found in the brochure.

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cumbents, Michael Perry, Kerri O'Connor, Wendy Rua, Dawn DeMatteo, and Shelley Borgatti-Reed. Catherine MacDougal is the only challenger who has taken out papers. McDougal was unsuccessful in a bid for school committee two years ago. The only incumbent who has not taken out papers is A.J. Christopher, who is also pres-

ident of Agawam Little League. There are six elected school committee members. The mayor is the seventh member and the chair of the committee.

All elected offices are for two years and the primary election is set to take place in early October with the general election set for Nov. 7. A primary election will be needed if more than two people return their nomination papers for mayor.

FACELIFT | from page 1

"It was originally constructed by, we believe, Captain Charles Leonard who was a captain in the militia," Johnson said. "It served for generations as, back then they called them stage taverns. There was a main route that went up similar to where Main Street is now and people would stop at the stage tavern for food, drink and a place to stay."

An old resident of Agawam Minerva Davis took control of the house in 1938 with the goal of preserving this historical site. From there, she formed the board of trustees who have continued with that mission to this day.

"Minerva Davis purchased the property and paid for the house to be initially renovated," Johnson said.

Now, the house is used for a variety of

social events and business functions.

"The first floor of the house and the grounds are used for meetings and events," Johnson said. "So we rent it out to folks who want to use it for either meetings and/or events like showers, graduation parties, after funeral events, things like that. We also partner with the schools to provide tours if requested."

The hope is that this restoration will keep the house in good shape, so that future Agawam residents can still see the history that this house holds.

"Our goal is to keep the house preserved," Johnson said. "It sits on a prominent location in Main Street and we think it is the most prominent historical structure in town. So we want to do the work that needs to be done on the house so we can keep it preserved for decades to come."

AHS Class of '68 to celebrate 55th reunion this summer

AGAWAM – On July 8, Joanne (Demont) and husband Frank Locke will be hosting the event at Deli Agawam, 141 Main St. Tickets will be \$20 per person.

This will be a casual summer affair, held outdoors rain or shine, between the hours of 4 to 9 p. m. Food, beer, and wine will be available. To learn more,

please visit the Deli's website where you can view the buffet menu and pricing. Tickets must be purchased in advance; the deadline to purchase is June 30. Tickets can be bought online through the website or by calling (413) 821-9881.

Anyone with questions should contact jllocke1020@comcast.net or Janice DeFilipi @ jdefilipi@gmail.com.

Register for 2023 Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk

BOSTON – Registration is now open for the 2023 Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai. Scheduled for Sunday, October 1, funds raised from the Walk support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at one of the nation's premier cancer centers, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

The Jimmy Fund Walk is the only organized walk permitted on the famed Boston Marathon course, and participants have the flexibility to choose from four distance options:

5K walk, 10K walk, Half Marathon walk, or Marathon Walk. All registered walkers will receive a bib, medal, and a Jimmy Fund Walk T-shirt.

Register as an individual walker, team

member, or start a team.

To register for the Walk) or to support a walker, visit www.JimmyFundWalk.org or call (866) 531-9255. Registrants can enter the promo code NEWS for \$5 off the registration fee.

Whatever route walkers choose, participants will be treated to 10 refueling stations as well as poster-sized photographs of patients displayed at each mile and half-mile marker as inspiration.

Funds raised from the Walk support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The Boston Athletic Association has supported the Jimmy Fund Walk since 1989, and Hyundai has been the presenting sponsor for more than 20 years.

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of July 4th,
there will be an
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Thursday, June 29

– Thank you!

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Opinion

Guest Column

Random Acts of Kindness

Spreading joy through flowers and smiles

By Barb Turcotte

Special to the Agawam Advertiser News

Flowers, flowers, flowers, smiles, smiles, smiles and then more of both. That's exactly what we got from everyone involved. With flowers galore, in mid-April we traveled to the Hampshire Mall and the Holyoke Mall to do Random Acts of Kindness. We gave many unsuspecting shoppers a beautiful flower for no other reason than to just improve their day.

We put smiles on approximately 700 faces of flower recipients, however, the good feelings and smiles that this produced went way beyond these people. Various florists that donated all these flowers for the residents at Keystone Commons in Ludlow to do this fun random acts of kindness day were so happy and excited about this idea that they were extremely generous with their donations. The observers of us doing these gestures also had huge smiles on their faces and the residents giving out the flowers, well their faces glowed with permanent smiles as they greeted the shoppers and gave them a flower. What happiness this produced for everyone.

Some shoppers thought we were selling the flowers and then their faces lit up as we explained our reason for doing this, just to make their day a better one. Others tried to give us money as a donation, which of course we refused; we were doing this as our way of giving back to the community and doing random acts of kindness.

One recipient shared it was her birthday, another receiving a yellow flower told us it was her grandmother's favorite color so we gave her two so she could pass one along to grandma and another even had tears in her eyes when handed the flower. We just never know what another is going through and for us; it was sheer joy to make their day a better one by giving them a gorgeous fresh flower.

Through the incredible contributions of the following florists, we were able to be successful in our vision of the day. Participants were: Floral Concepts by Tom in Agawam; in Chicopee was Golden Blossom Flowers and McClelland's Florist; Mark Henry Florist in Indian Orchard, Kinderhook Flowers in Hampden also helped along with Heavenly Inspirations and Randall's Farm Greenhouse, both in Ludlow; Wilbraham Florist in Wilbraham and Durocher Florist in West Springfield were also among the donors. Over 700 thank you's to you for your amazing generosity.

We wanted to make sure every recipient knew who the businesses were that participated so made a small spread sheet listing each florist's name, address with their phone number and attached one to each flower. Now this certainly would have been a daunting task to take on myself so incorporated some wonderful friends of mine for their help with this project. Guess what? More smiles. One of the florists had over ordered Easter Lilly's so offered them to me which in turn I offered to each friend who had helped me tag the 700 flowers. It was definitely a win-win, fun kind of day.

When I explained our desire of putting smiles on people's faces one florist shared with me that one of her own customers had done just that! She was a regular customer who weekly bought a bouquet of flowers for a relative and on a particular day asked for additional bou-



Guest Column

Working widow seeks to maximize Social Security benefits



Dear Rusty:

I was widowed years ago and, when I approached age 60, I looked into Social Security survivor benefits based on my late husband's record. He started receiving Social Security shortly before he died at \$1,200 per month. My income at age 60 was \$42,000 and, since Social Security would keep \$1 for every \$2 above the limit (around \$15,000 at that time), I did not apply.

Next year I will reach my full retirement age of 66½, but I plan to work until I am 70. Will I be able to receive full survivor benefits next year if I continue to work? I plan to switch to my own Social Security benefit at age 70, which will be higher than my husband received.

Since I am waiting to apply for survivor benefits, will there be an increase in the amount I receive? I am a municipal employee and when I retire, I will collect from the state retirement system. I paid into the state retirement system and also paid Social Se-

curity taxes, so will my state pension have any impact on my Social Security?

Signed: Still Working

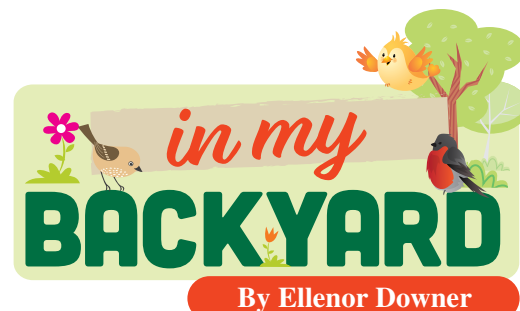
Dear Still Working:

Congratulations on having an excellent strategy for maximizing your survivor benefit as well as your personal SS retirement benefit. Once you reach your Full Retirement Age next year, you are no longer subject to Social Security's "earnings test" and can collect Social Security benefits without those benefits being affected by your work earnings.

Your surviving spouse benefit will be more because you are waiting until your full retirement age to claim it. At your FRA you can claim your full survivor benefit from your deceased husband without reduction and collect only that while still allowing your personal SS retirement benefit to grow to maximum when you are 70. Then, at age 70, you can switch from your smaller survivor benefit to your maximum SS retirement benefit and collect that higher amount for the rest of your life. Essentially, your survivor benefit reaches maximum at your FRA and your personal SS retirement benefit reaches maximum at age 70.

Note that you should apply for your benefits a

SECURITY | page 11



I received a note from a Williamsburg resident along with a newspaper clipping about a green-tailed towhee spotted in Newport, Rhode Island at Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge.

She said they are native to the Southwestern United States and "having gotten so far, they might be here any day now." The green-tailed towhee is the smallest towhee. They are small, but chunky songbirds with a big head, stocky body and a medium to long tail. Their bill is thick.

They are fairly common in the western mountains and spend most of their time in dense, low thickets where they forages on the ground. It has a gray body, fairly greenish wings and tail with a rufous crown and white throat. These towhees do sometimes wander east.

The female lays three to four white eggs with heavy dots of brown or gray, often concentrated at the larger end of the egg. They build their nests on the ground or in low shrubs. It is a large, deep cup loosely made of twigs, grass, weeds, strips of bark and lined with finer grasses, rootlets and animal hair.



Green-tailed towhee

They eat mainly seeds and insects, but they will sometimes feed on berries or small fruits. They make a cat like meowing sound.

Best cities for birdwatching

New York, New York recently was ranked the number one city for birdwatching; I assume because of Central Park and the sea coast. Other cities on the list from two to ten were: San Diego, California; Houston, Texas; Seattle, Washington,

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PHONE

413.283.8393
Fax: 413.283.7107
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL

Advertising Sales
Theresa Wegiel
twegiel@turley.com

Editor

Gregory Scibelli
aan@turley.com

Subscriptions

cgriswold@turley.com

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS TEAM



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



ADVERTISING SALES
Theresa Wegiel
twegiel@turley.com

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WEB

www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

DEANNA SLOAT
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Schools & Youth

WNEU announces spring 2023 Dean's List

SPRINGFIELD – Western New England University recently named over 570 students to the spring 2023 Dean's List. These students are from the Agawam area:

Loredana Randazzo of Agawam, Lauren Plakias of Feeding Hills, Keith Sanabria of Agawam, Nathan Labonte of Agawam, Geta Preniqi of Agawam, Hanan Sarrar of Agawam, Katherine Gauthier of Feeding Hills, Brooke Rising of Feeding Hills, Anthony Kelliher of Feeding Hills, Michael Stepanik of Feeding Hills, Robert Taylor II of Agawam, Jonathan Murray of Agawam, Scott Malecki of Feeding Hills, Jason Breton of Feeding Hills.

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

Agawam student graduates from Commonwealth's largest virtual school

AGAWAM – Olivia Applegate was among more than 300 seniors graduating in June from TEC Connections Academy, the Commonwealth's largest public K-12 virtual school. TECCA's enrollment has grown steadily from about 240 students nine years ago to nearly 3,000 today with students representing every county in Massachusetts.

"At TEC Connections Academy, we pride ourselves on providing a world-class education in the online environment, while also preparing our students to thrive in a changing world. I am honored to congratulate our graduates and their families, many of whom have been with us for their full, four-year high school experience," said TECCA Superintendent Patrick Lattuca.

TECCA is a tuition-free, online public school for K-12 students that offers a safe and social learning environment where empowered students direct their own educational journey. Teachers focus on emotional well-being and social development in addition to academics.

TECCA works closely with families to tailor curriculum to explore specific student interests and address particular

needs. Students who enroll in the school join a collaborative community of their fellow students and educators that provides a welcoming, distraction-free learning environment.

Families who are interested in TEC Connections Academy are encouraged to attend an online information session to learn more, ask questions and discover if virtual school is the right fit for their student.

For more information on TEC Connections Academy, please visit call 800-382-6010 or visit www.TECConnectionsAcademy.com.

URI Spring 2023 Dean's List

AGAWAM – The University of Rhode Island is pleased to announce the spring 2023 Dean's List. These students are from the Agawam area.

Jocelyn Fonseca, Marissa Hermans, Eme Oberheim, Hope Santaniello, Samantha O'Meara, Cassie Reed.

DiLullo named to UA Spring Dean's List

TUSCALOOSA – Michael DiLullo was named to The University of Alabama Dean's List for spring semester 2023.

Roger Williams University spring 2023 Dean's List

AGAWAM – Select students have been named to the spring 2023 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I. These students are from the Agawam area.

Arianna Albano, Jack Dunn, Ethan Timms, Zack Wieners.

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Your wedding or engagement announcement will be included in our Bridal Guide, out August 2023 for FREE!

Be sure to include the following with photograph:

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 Groom's Town Residence: _____
 Wedding Date: _____
 Wedding Location: _____

Email: JAMIE@TURLEY.COM by July 19th
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Be sure to include a high resolution, clear photograph for printing.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Excited movements
 8. Soap opera actress Patsy
 13. Unknowing
 14. Dangerous mosquitos
 15. Exaggerated and sensationalized
 19. Military policeman
 20. Touch softly
 21. Wrap
 22. A story of one's life
 23. Midway between east and southeast
 24. Toward the mouth or oral region
 25. A list of dishes available at a restaurant
 26. Changes the meaning of
 30. Semitic Sun god
 31. Sneaker parts

CLUES DOWN

1. A type of pool
 2. Malaise
 3. Seasoned
 4. A pair
 5. Young male
 6. Make a mistake
 7. Experienced
 8. It often accompanies injury
 9. Old world, new
 10. Commercial
 11. Course of lectures
 12. Promote
 16. Female horses
 17. Greek mythological figure
 18. Small amount
 22. Orthodox church altar
 25. Actress Tomei
 27. Excited
 28. Looked directly at
 29. Popular cold desserts
 30. More reasonable
 32. Disk above the

head of a saint
 34. Devoted to the extreme
 35. Make an effort
 36. It's in the surf
 37. Member of aboriginal people of Japan
 38. Discounts
 40. Cliff in Hawaii
 41. Extremely wild person
 42. All persons
 43. Aromas
 45. Popular kids' game
 48. A difficult situation
 51. Popular Georgia rockers
 52. It's in all living cells
 53. Unspoken language
 54. 'Talk to you' abbreviation
 56. Influential lawyer

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 9

Expert grilling safety tips to help prevent accidents and injuries

SPRINGFIELD – There’s nothing like a backyard barbecue on a beautiful summer day, but it’s important to remember that grills can also cause serious damage and injuries if not used safely.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, U.S. fire departments respond to an average of 10,600 fires involving grills each year, and nearly 20,000 people seek medical care annually because of grill-related injuries, about half of which are burns.

The experts at Rocky’s Ace Hardware stress the importance of grill safety, especially as we enter the most popular months for grilling.

“We are big fans of the grilling lifestyle, but it’s only fun if it’s safe,” said Rocky’s Ace Hardware President Rocco Falcone. “This starts with having a working fire extinguisher on hand every time you grill. Hopefully, you’ll never need it, but you’ll be glad it’s there if you do. Remember, water doesn’t work on a grease fire, so a nearby hose is not enough.”

Falcone said ongoing grill maintenance is a key safety factor. He recommends doing a thorough grill inspection at the start of the season to look for rust, cracks or damage to the fuel line and other parts.

A deep clean at the start of the season, and then regular cleaning after every use, is also advisable.

When it comes to the grates, Falcone



advised cleaning them before and after each use. “There are a variety of tools designed for this, including wire brushes and scrapers,” he said. “If you opt for a wire brush, be sure to inspect the grill carefully afterward to ensure none of the wire bristles remain on the grill, as they can be very harmful if they attach to food and are swallowed.”

To prevent flare-ups, Falcone noted that best practices include trimming excess fat from meats, keeping the lid open when sear-

ing high-fat foods, leaving space on the grill to move food away from a flareup and avoiding grilling in windy areas.

When deciding grill placement choose a flat, open area at least 10 feet from the home or other structures.

“Never grill in your garage, even with the door open, or on a covered patio,” Falcone said. “Also, never leave a grill unattended, and make sure children and pets stay at least 10 feet away.”

Legislation announced on advancing LGBTQI+ rights

WASHINGTON – As LGBTQI+ communities across the world gather to celebrate Pride Month, Sen. Edward J. Markey, Jeanne Shaheen and Jeff Merkley and Rep. Dina Titus reintroduced the Greater Leadership Overseas for the Benefit of Equality Act, legislation outlining a comprehensive vision for the United States to uphold and defend international LGBTQI+ rights.

The GLOBE Act would ensure equality and justice are critical components of U.S. foreign policy, reaffirm that the United States will not tolerate any discrimination, hatred, and violence against LGBTQI+ persons around the world, and develop assistance and immigration programs for LGBTQI+ individuals abroad.

The legislation would also make permanent the office of the Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBTQI+ Persons, which President Joe Biden established, as well as ensure that future administrations continue to uphold LGBTQI+ rights on the world stage by directing the State Department to document and respond to bias-motivated violence against LGBTQI+ people abroad.

The bill will implement a comprehensive strategy to prevent and respond to criminalization, discrimination, and violence against LGBTQI+ people.

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USDA INSP. FRESH STORE MADE ALL VARIETIES FAMILY PAK ITALIAN SAUSAGE \$2.79 ea		
USDA INSP. FRESH STORE MADE KOREAN BBQ MARINATED BONELESS PORK BUTT STRIPS.. \$2.99 lb		
USDA INSP. KAYEM 2 LB BOX SKINLESS HOT DOGS \$6.99 ea		

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SPORTS

Pioneers suffer first loss this season

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – Since the start of the 2019 regular season, the Seacoast United Phantoms are the only USL-League two team who have been able to beat the Western Mass. Pioneers at Lusitano Stadium.

The Phantoms knocked the Pioneers out of the 2022 playoffs with a 1-0 extra time victory in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

With the score tied 1-1 in last Friday night's match-up between the archrivals, Seacoast retook the lead during the 62nd minute and they were able to celebrate a 2-1 road victory at Lusitano Stadium.

"This result really hurts a lot because we clearly performed better than they did in tonight's match," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. "You win soccer games by scoring goals. We just didn't score more goals than they did."

Last Friday's setback was the Pioneers first regular season home loss since June 22, 2018, when they lost to Black Rock FC.

The Pioneers also lost a home match to Flower City Union, who are from Rochester New York, in the 2022 Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup.

The Pioneers (5-1-3) have posted a 1-1-2 home record this season. Their only victory at Lusitano Stadium was a 3-0 shutout win versus the Boston Bolts in the home opener, which was played on a rainy night in the middle of May. The Pioneers do have a 4-0-1 road record. The road tie came in the first meeting of the regular season with Seacoast, which ended in a 1-1 draw.

"Our home matches have been disappointing this

PIONEERS | page 8



This year's B squad features several junior varsity and incoming freshmen players.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Agawam girls soccer features both an A and B team this summer.



The girls have played three games so far this summer.



The girls fell behind early in the match as South Hadley notched a goal in the first 10 minutes.



The girls have more action this week before taking a break for the Fourth of July holiday.



Dave Clark makes a catch in right.

PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Cam McDonald makes a quick throw for an out.



Ryan Franczek makes a throw to first.



Pitcher Danny Gaines starts for PeoplesBank.



James Flahive pitches in relief.

Agawam girls fall to South Hadley

AGAWAM – Last Wednesday evening, Agawam girls soccer dropped its matchup with South Hadley in B Division action in the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League. The Brownies are out to a 1-1-1 start this summer.

Bankers roll into first place

HOLYOKE – After a slow start, the reigning, defending playoff champion PeoplesBank are now in first place thanks to wins over the Chicopee Falls Tigers, DiFranco Realty, and St. Joe's during the past week. PeoplesBank is now 6-1 this season, with 12 points to lead all teams. The Bankers, a Tri-County team with eight straight playoff championship and drawing great players from all over the region, sees their season continues this week.

How to contact the Sports Editor

Please send all sports-related press releases and information to Sports Editor Greg Scibelli at: sports@turley.com or call, 1-413-283-8393.

Sports

Ronnie Williams gets another big win at Thompson

THOMPSON, Conn. – Ronnie Williams used a late caution to win the Icebreaker 125 for the Outlaw Open Modified Series at Thompson Speedway back in April. Wednesday night, Williams didn't need a late caution - he did it in dominating fashion. Williams took the lead early and rolled to the win after holding off Chris Pasteryak and on a flurry of late restarts. The victory came in the first of the summer Dash For Cash 50-lap, \$5,000 to win races for the Outlaw Open Modifieds at the Connecticut oval in 2023.

Williams had a tough challenge on the final restart with Pasteryak closing in on the back bumper. Pasteryak was close on the final lap when the field took the white flag, but got loose off turn two and had to settle for second. Joey Mucciacciaro posted a strong third-place finish with Kurt Vigeant and Swanson finishing the top-five.

Former Thompson champion Nick Johnson rolled to victory in the 25-lap Late Model race, taking the lead using the bottom lane. Johnson passed Matthew Lowinski-Loh for the second spot on the bottom, then passed Devin Deshaies for the lead just before halfway. Although Lowinski-Loh was closing in during the final laps, Johnson was able to seal the win. Lowinski-Loh finished in second, with Andrew Moelleur wrapping the race in third. Oddly enough, even though Johnson won the championship in the Late Models in 2019, it was his first career track Late Model win, he said in Victory Lane.

The New England Supermodifieds rolled into Thompson to supply pure speed and power and it was a dominant performance by Ben Seitz. The driver of the No. 11 jumped out to the lead passing Anthony Nocella for the top spot and never looked back en route to picking up the dominating victory. Danny Bowes was second and Rob Summers third at the end of their 30-



Ronnie Williams captured a win in the Outlaw Open Modifieds

SUBMITTED PHOTO

lap feature.

Tyler Chapman collected the extra-distance prize in the SK Light Modifieds at the end of their 30-lap feature, worth \$750 to win. Much of the middle portion of the race saw Chapman chasing Danny Cates for the lead, with Alexander Pearl not far behind in third. Chapman would pass Cates for the lead with just under 10 laps remaining and go unchallenged the remainder of the laps to win. Cates would lose second to Pearl in the final laps, but the two did complete the podium. The division not only had extra laps and extra prize money, but also infield pitting during the race for the first time during their Thompson tenure.

Corey Fanning made it two-for-two on the 2023 season in the Limited Sportsman, outlasting a stout group of contenders during a wild green-white-checked fin-

ish to take the win in the 30-lap EdenRafety Clash For Cash. The \$750 to win race looked to be in the control of Ryan Waterman as the field took the white flag, but a caution for a spinning car in turn four slowed the race and set up the dash to the finish with a green-white-checked. Waterman and Chicolas brought the field down for the green with Waterman jumping away with the lead into turn one. When the field hit turn one after taking the white flag a lap later, contact between Waterman and Chicolas sent Waterman drifting up the track sideways. Chicolas took advantage to grab the lead, but Fanning snagged the bottom lane and drag-raced him for the lead down the backstretch and Waterman rallied to chase them both in third. Off turn four to the checkered, Fanning jumped out to control and crossed for the win. Chicolas was second and Waterman third.

It was a dominant type of night for Kyle Wing in the Mini Stocks. Wing won his qualifying heat in dominant fashion, then followed it up by leading all 15 laps to win the Mini Stock feature race. It was his first career win in racing, he said in Victory Lane. Kevin Moore crossed the stripe second and Glynn Roy in third.

Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park's oval track is promoted by the American-Canadian Tour and Pro All Star Series again in 2023. The track will return to racing action on Wednesday, July 26, with the Twisted Tea Open Modified Dash For Cash round two, set for 50 laps and \$5,000 to win. The SK Light Modifieds will run double features, while the Late Models, Limited Sportsman and Mini Stocks will also be in action. Racing begins at 6PM and a full schedule of events will be released one week prior to race day.

PIONEERS ■ from page 7

year," Molinari said. "The ball has been going into the net in our away games, but for some unknown reason it hasn't been going into the net at home."

The Pioneers and the Phantoms also faced each other in the 2021 Eastern Conference semifinals at Lusitano Stadium. The Pioneers advanced into the finals that season by outshooting the Phantoms, 5-4, in a penalty shootout.

"This isn't a very easy place to win a soccer match," said Seacoast head coach Alex Ryan following last Friday night's match. "We had a very good game plan and my players played very hard in tonight's match."

Seacoast United, who took over sole possession of first place in the Northeast Division table, played their second match in a span of 48 hours. The Phantoms posted a 3-1 home win versus Boston City FC last

Wednesday night. Their trip to Ludlow took a little longer than they expected because of traffic.

"It did take us a little while to get down here this afternoon because the traffic was really bad," Ryan said. "We also played a match two nights ago. We played very well in tonight's match."

Seacoast grabbed a 1-0 lead during the 18th minute of the opening half when Taig Healy split a pair of defenders before firing a low breakaway shot into the back of the net past Western Mass. goalie Gianluca Cersimo (4 saves) for an unassisted goal.

A couple of minutes later, Western Mass. forward Alec Hughes blasted a shot that deflected off the face of Seacoast goalie Jackson Lee (4 saves), who laid on the ground for several minutes before coming out of the game.

"Jackson has a slight concussion and we're going to have him checked out by

a doctor," Ryan said. "Our back-up goalie (James Lowell) came in and did a very good job for us. We do have a couple of very good keepers."

Late in the first half, another shot attempt by Hughes was deflected over the endline by Lowell, who was credited with five saves, resulting in a corner kick.

Jared Smith also had a free kick for Western Mass before the first half ended.

Three minutes into the second half, Augustine Boadi gave the home fans something to cheer about. After gaining possession of the ball at midfield, Boadi dribbled down the middle of the field before firing a low shot into the left corner tying the score at 1-1.

"We were down at halftime and we really wanted to tie the score early in the second half," said Boadi, who faced a couple of his Boston College teammates. "I just the ball coming towards me. Then I had a lot

of open space and Alec drew the defender away for me. Then I fired a shot into the net, and it felt very good scoring the tying goal. It got us back into the game."

The contest remained tied until Ted Cargill scored the go-ahead goal, which was assisted by Austin Brummett, during the 62nd minute.

The home team had several scoring chances during the final 25 minutes of regulation, but they couldn't tie the score again.

"It's always tough whenever you lose, especially at home," said Pioneers captain Nicholas Obberauch. "We had several opportunities, but we couldn't put any of them away. We just need to keep working hard during the rest of the season."

After playing a road match against Pathfinder FC on Tuesday night, the Pioneers will be looking to start another home winning streak when they host the Albany Rush at 7 p.m. on Friday night.



Rodrigo Saraiva de Castro makes a quick pass.



Lucio Berron passes up the field.



Connor Bagdon follows through on a pass forward.



Lawrence Goddard stops the ball.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY

Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given by Langonet Towing pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.255, Section 39A, that on July 3, 2023 at 63 Ramah Cir S, Agawam the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy the garagekeeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.

2015 Hyundai Sonata
VIN: 5NPE24AF0FH043257
Michael Montel
273 Orange Street
Springfield, MA 01108
06/15, 06/22, 06/29/2023

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given by Langonet Towing pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.255, Section 39A, that on July 5, 2023 at 63 Ramah Cir S, Agawam the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy the garagekeeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.

2020 Thumpstar Dirtbike
VIN: None
Kevin Torres-Serrano
23 Alonquin Place
Springfield, MA 01104
06/15, 06/22, 06/29/2023

Legal Notice Town of Agawam Planning Board

The Agawam Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, July 6, 2023 at 6:00 PM** at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of Mr. Michael Dipon for a zone change request for 314, 318 & Rear Silver Street, from Business A & Agriculture to entirely Residence A-3. Copies of the proposed zone change can be obtained from the Office of Planning and Community Development between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM at the Agawam Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA.

By Order Of:
Mark R. Paleologopoulos,
Chairman
Agawam Planning Board
06/22, 06/29/2023

TOWN OF AGAWAM 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 10, 2023 at 6:30PM** for all parties interested in the request of Autumn Mist Farm, which is seeking a Variance from the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances, Ch. 180.

Article XX11, Appendix B, to allow for the construction of an addition with less than the required side yard at the premises identified as 1157 North Westfield Street.

Doreen A. Prouty
Chairperson
Agawam Zoning
Board of Appeals
06/22, 06/29/2023

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758**

Docket No. HD23P1269EA
Estate of:
Lorraine J Majka
Date of Death: 04/21/2023
**CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**

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

The Petitioner requests that: **Wayne Majka of Feeding Hills, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/17/2023.

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

**UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE
MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE
CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to

notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: June 16, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/29/2023

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758**

Docket No. HD23P1283EA
Estate of:
Barbara A Santaniello
Also known as:
Barbara Santaniello
Date of Death: 02/16/2023
**CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**

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

The Petitioner requests that: **Patricia A Moller of Feeding Hills MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/19/2023.

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

**UNSUPERVISED
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CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: June 20, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/29/2023

Legal Notice of Private Sale

Notice is hereby given by USA Towing, 71 Garden St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030, sale of a motor vehicle pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, that on July 10, 2023 at 8:00 a.m., at USA Towing, said motor vehicle will be sold at a private sale to satisfy the garage keeper's lien for towing, storage and costs of sale.

2008 Toyota Camry
VIN: 4T1BEU6K18U757712
NO PLATES ON TRAILER
Last known reg. owner:
Khadijeh Hamdi
4 Gibson Court
North Andover, MA 01845
06/22, 06/29, 07/06/2023

Legal Notice Town of Agawam Planning Board

The Agawam Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, July 6, 2023 at 6:15 PM** at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA.

The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of Mayor Sapelli on a proposed amendment to the Code of the Town of Agawam Zoning Ordinance regarding use restrictions within Residence A-3 Districts (Chapter 180, Section 29). A copy of the proposal can be obtained from the Office of Planning and Community Development between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM at the Agawam Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA.

By Order Of:
Mark R. Paleologopoulos,
Chairman
Agawam Planning Board
06/22, 06/29/2023

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

OPPORTUNITY

newspaper correspondent

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

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

EARLY DEADLINES

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

Thursday, June 29

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

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

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

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EVENTS

WINTERGARDEN FARMS ANTIQUES AT WINTERGARDEN FARMS just 15 minutes from the heart of Brimfield July 4 through July 10 9:00 am to 5:00 pm daily by appointment only, including evenings. 359 Stafford Road (Rte 32), Monson, Mass. Call (413)539-1472 to make an appointment or stop by. The barn is packed with great merchandise!! Keep watching for updated photos at www.antiquestatwintergardenfarm.com

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HELP WANTED

MAINTENANCE POSITION For a reliable, self-starter Handyman Call Bill at 413-563-7154

PER DIEM FRONT DESK.
Great place to work our front desk staff is averaging 10 years and counting! This is a part time per-diem position, 10-20 hours a week, including weekend coverage. Retirees encouraged to apply. Send a resume to: The Gardens of Wilbraham, 2 Lodge Lane, Wilbraham, MA 01095. Email: mchisholm@thegardensofwilbraham.com. Fax: 413-596-5320. Managed by Athena Communities, EOE.

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM FIREFIGHTER/EMT The Town of Wilbraham is looking to fill a vacancy for Firefighter/EMT. For application and more information please visit www.wilbraham-ma.gov. Open until filled. EOE

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HILLTOWNS - MONDAY AT NOON

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OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

SECURITY ■ from page 4

couple of months before you wish them to start. For example, if you reach your FRA in May of next year you can apply for your survivor benefit in February or March, specifying that you wish your survivor benefit to begin in May 2024 at your full retirement age. Just be sure to emphasize that you are applying only for your survivor benefit and wish your personal SS retirement benefit to continue to grow by earning Delayed Retirement Credits until you are 70.

You cannot apply for your survivor benefit online, so you will need to call Social Security, at either the national number (1.800.772.1213) or your local Social Security office, to make an appointment to apply for your benefit as your husband's widow.

And to answer your last question, your state pension won't affect your monthly Social Security payments because you paid Social Security FICA payroll taxes from your municipal earnings.

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

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

KINDNESS ■ from page 4

quets explaining her plan was to randomly give them out to people to brighten their day. Kindness really starts with each of us, so let the thoughtfulness start with each of you.

Beyond just being a beautiful addition to someone's surroundings and improving their mood, did you know that there are proven facts that flowers are beneficial to one's health? Here's just a few that I found interesting. They can reduce stress, help you focus, increase your energy, may help you physically heal, can aid in relaxation and also can increase creativity, innovation as well as productivity. Here's a great one too, they can improve your relationship and bolster your sex appeal! And one additional fact we can boast that we found to be true is that men love receiving flowers, too.

So next time you want to improve your own or someone else's day, consider doing it with flowers and supporting one of the mentioned florists as they supported us. You'll know you're at the right florist when you see a beautiful window cling-on designed by Turley Publications saying they are a 'Random Acts of Kindness Business.' Thank you to everyone who helped make this such a memorable day for so many. Kindness really does make a difference.

If you would like to tell me a story about a random act of kindness please contact me at bdt514@aol.com or 413-788-7514. You don't need one, but if you'd like to have a predesigned flyer to include with your next gesture, let me know. It's a way to keep the memory alive long after the gesture is done. Who knows, you might see your story in this column, 'Just 'Cause' you witnessed, did or received something nice being done.

BACKYARD ■ from page 4

Los Angeles, California; San Francisco, California; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Phoenix, Arizona; Austin, Texas and Chicago, Illinois.

On the worst cities for birdwatching list Kansas City, Kansas came in at number one. Other cities were Montgomery, Alabama; Olathe, Kansas; Overland Park, Kansas and Mobile, Alabama (tied for fourth place); Des Moines, Iowa; Huntsville, Alabama; Murfreesboro, Tennessee; Sioux Falls, South Dakota and Henderson, Nevada.

Wild turkeys

I recently saw a hen turkey with her poults on the edge of the road. The hen was standing on the edge of the road and her young were in the tall grass so I was unable to accurately count how many she had.

Geese and goslings

Last week, I saw two pairs of adult



Green-tailed towhee

Canada geese with some young goslings in my hayfield. I spotted the adults heads in the tall grass and stopped to watch. I could see the goslings when they jumped up or stretched their necks to eat grass.

Nesting cardinal

One of my daughters had a cardinal nesting in her rhododendron bush. They could be observed from a window in the living room and not be disturbed.



Green-tailed towhee

The nest is now empty and I hope they fledged and did not meet up with a predator.

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



Cardinal

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 13, 2023.**

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

Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 16.

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

Library Activity Schedule announced for June and July

June 29, 3 p.m.

Clini Community Room

Find Your Voice Tea & Trivia

Test your wits once again with our monthly tea and trivia. This month's trivia questions will center around the theme 'Find Your Voice'. Join us for an afternoon of good-hearted competition and a cup of cold iced tea. Please register online or by phone.

Keep your trivia skills sharp this summer with our Kahoot trivia challenges themed around Find Your Voice. Each challenge will be posted on our website and our social media for 2 weeks so you can play at your own pace. Fulfill one of the Bingo and Beanstack challenges by joining our virtual trivia challenges.

July 3 - July 14

Kahoot Trivia Challenge #1

July 17 - July 28

Kahoot Trivia Challenge #2

July 31 - Aug. 11

Kahoot Trivia Challenge #3

Beginning June 26 While Supplies Last. Available at the Information Desk

Adult Craft Take & Make:

Tiny Art Supplies

This kit includes everything you'll need to create your own miniature masterpiece, including a 3"x3" canvas and easel, a paint brush, acrylic paint in black, white, yellow, blue, and red, a color mixing guide, and images to help get you inspired!

Beginning July 10 While Supplies Last. Information Desk

Adult Craft Take & Make:

Needle Felted Sheep

Try your hand at needle felting. Each kit contains everything you'll need to create a felted sheep, including a barbed needle, wool roving in various colors, and detailed instructions. Happy crafting.

Beginning July 24 While Supplies Last. Information Desk

Adult Take & Make:

DIY Collage Bookmarks

Using old receipts as bookmarks is a thing of the past. Create your own custom collage bookmarks with this take and make kit, which includes patterned cardstock, stickers, ribbons, decorations, instructions and inspiration images, and a laminating sheet to hold it all together.

Beginning Aug. 7 While Supplies Last. Information Desk

Adult Take & Make: Shrinky Dink Pins

Create your own custom pins with this new take and make kits for adults. Each kit includes most of the supplies needed to create a set of handmade pins.

July 7 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

(Rain date: July 14)

Agawam High School-Lower Parking Lot

Find Your Voice with Chalk Art

Artists of all ages will have a unique opportunity to create their own outdoor chalk art masterpiece. Individuals can work alone, or teams/families can collaborate to transform a parking space into a chalk art design of their own choosing. Please register for each parking space you



July 19, 2:30 p.m.

Clini Community Room

Find Your Voice Tea & Trivia

Test your wits once again with our monthly tea and trivia. This month's theme will focus around the theme of 'Find Your Voice'. Join us for an afternoon of good-hearted competition and a cup of cold iced tea.

July 20, 6:30 p.m.

Clini Community Room

Silent Movie Play-Along with Richard Hughes

Pianist Richard Hughes will entertain our audience with musical accompaniment to the silent movie, *Grandma's Boy* from 1922. *Grandma's Boy* is a romantic/action/comedy/thriller about a boy who would do anything for his girl. Harold "finds his voice" with the help of his Grandma and a "Zuni" charm and manages to fight off a rival and subdue a town tough who has been terrorizing the town. Registration for Adult Programs begins June 20. Please register online www.agawamlibrary.org or by calling (413) 789-1550 X4.

July 10, 6:30 p.m. (rain date: July 17)

AHS Outdoor Classroom

Mindfulness Outdoor Exercise

Certified Koru Mindfulness instructor, Colleen Mollica leads participants in an outdoor mindfulness experience that will help connect participants to nature, encourage present-moment awareness and help manage stress. The program will take place in the outdoor classroom behind Agawam High School.

July 10, 7 p.m.

Clini Community Room

Open Mic Night for Adults

Use your voice to share a poem, a song, or a skit at our very first Open Mic Night. Participants are invited to share a five-minute or less piece. This program is for 18+. Please register online or by phone.

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Ruth's House
Assisted Living Residence

Bill to allow medical wigs to be covered under Medicare

WASHINGTON - Rep. James P. McGovern and Rep. Ayanna Pressley alongside Sen. Richard Blumenthal announced that they are reintroducing the Wigs as Durable Medical Equipment Act. This legislation would help individuals affected by Alopecia and patients with cancer who are undergoing chemotherapy.

Many private insurance plans cover wigs for those undergoing treatments that cause hair loss or who are affected by alopecia areata. This bill would allow cranial prosthetics (wigs) to be covered under the Medicare program.

For both McGovern and Pressley, the issue is deeply personal. In 2019, Rep. Pressley revealed in a video that she had been diagnosed with Alopecia Universalis, an auto-immune disease which attacks the hair follicles. Since then, Pressley has championed policies in Congress that

support and express solidarity with the nearly 7 million Americans living with alopecia. In a 2021 interview with Vanity Fair, McGovern revealed that his thinking on this issue has been impacted by a cancer diagnosis in his own family.

With no known cause or cure, Alopecia Areata is an autoimmune skin disease affecting approximately 6.9 million Americans. The disease disproportionately affects children and Black Americans, particularly Black women. Many individuals affected by Alopecia Areata utilize wigs as there are currently few effective treatment options. Unfortunately, these prosthetics can come with a significant out-of-pocket cost from \$100 to several thousand dollars for individuals with low or fixed incomes. This is especially burdensome for children, who often want cranial prosthetics for attending school.

HIRING DRIVERS

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

Paid CDL Training

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REQUIREMENTS

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- Valid driver's license for at least 3 years

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