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AGAWAM

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Agawam City Council opposes bill related to battery storage

By Amanda Munson
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AGAWAM – On July 7, the city council voted and approved the resolution on the battery storage facility in the city and in discussion, Council Vice President Anthony Russo spoke briefly addressing the past votes.

“Real quick since it was mentioned earlier, this body did not approve this 11 to 0, that is not what we did. What this body did was create restrictions and regulations if one of these did come to town. We did not approve one of these to come in, we did not have the opportunity to have that vote which is part of the state law. Which is a big reason why we need to pass this resolution, this resolution will do that. I, Councilor Peter Smus, and Councilor George Bitzas did this by sending a clear message to Boston that not every city and town is the same. You cannot make a blanket law that every city and town is held the same way, what fits in one community may not fit in another. We should have a say when something like this comes to our community.”

Russo continued, “Furthermore, what will I ask if anyone out there has friends and other city councils and select boards throughout the state, reach out to them and ask them to do a similar thing. We are one small city, a few others have done this but if more cities and towns do this, hopefully Boston will have to react and must listen because there is power in numbers. I really hope more cities and towns do this, (referring to the resolution).”

Bitzas followed by clearing some confusion that he’s heard throughout the city.

“This council would never vote to approve any of these facilities,” Bitzas said. “What

we did vote for was an ordinance to make the general laws that the state passes a lot more restrictive. That was a positive thing we did. This issue is not democratic nor a republican issue, it’s a very strong opposition for anyone in town. To have these units in the town, how harmful are they? I spoke against it in the last meeting where the first ordinance came to us. I live very close to the area, but the state tells us what to do. This resolution, (referring to the one mentioned earlier with Russo), is the only way we can do something that allows a large battery storage facility in our town.”

Bitzas continued, “We are asking the state senators, state representatives, and governor to amend Chapter 40A of the general laws and add in local approval requirements for battery storage facilities. No state permitting authority shall approve a battery storage facility unless the municipality governing body of the municipality equates the is proposed to approve the project. The municipal governing body should consider public input and hold public hearings prior to any municipality vote.”

Councilor Thomas Hendrickson spoke in opposition, stating that there’s not legitimate evidence that suggests the systems pose any risk to public safety, environment, or community disruptions. Councilor Edward Borgatti commented saying,

“I am going to start by saying that I am a registered independent and disagree with my colleague Bitzas. He said this is not a Democratic or Republican issue, I am independent, and I see both sides, here’s the reality. We live in a green state and have a Democratic legislature. We couldn’t refuse this storage facility.

COUNCIL | page 12



Families gathered in Agawam Public Library to enjoy a family paint night. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Colors and fun light up APL on family paint night

By Quinn Suomala
 Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Agawam Public Library hosted a family paint night for kids and their families to come in and enjoy.

The program was led by Painter Stephanie Gaboury, who selected an image of an owl on a branch for the painting for the evening.

“I thought it was great because it was “just challenging enough, but not too hard” and there were a number of ways that people could individualize it,” Children’s Librarian Pamela Weingart said.

Weingart enjoyed getting to watch all of the families work on their different paintings with the guidance of Gaboury.

Gaboury throughout the program talked each family through the steps of making the painting while also demonstrating the image so families could have a visual

to follow.

This instruction made it easy for families to easily understand how to create the project, while also still allowing them the opportunity to make their own creative choices.

Weingart also got particular pleasure out of seeing how each family made the painting their own.

“It was delightful that some of the families chose to make their paintings connect, so that when the paintings are hung on the wall it looks like individual owls on one big family tree,” Weingart said.

Additionally, on top of families making the trees reflect themselves, Weingart also enjoyed how everyone got to express themselves differently throughout the project.

“My favorite part of the program was that even though Stephanie led us all in the same steps of painting an owl on a branch, each of



the projects came out a little bit different,” Weingart said.

Weingart was delighted by how much fun everyone had with the project, and grateful to Gaboury for her work with the program.

Weingart found Gaboury through recommendations from other librarians. Gaboury enjoys going to different libraries to share her programs, and Weingart had heard she was lovely to work with.

This paint night for families is far from the only fun event the library has planned in the remaining months of the summer.

One upcoming event is an escape room for teens in grades seven through twelve. This will take place in two separate sessions on Thursday July 17, with the first session from 4:30-5:30 p.m. and the second from 6 to 7 p.m.

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Summer Fun



Joe Couture and Ellen Davilli enjoying an evening out at the School Street Park Concert on July 9. See more photos on Page 7. TURLEY PHOTO BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

Town to receive federal funding toward interceptor project

By Gregory A. Scibelli
 gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – A sewer interceptor must still be moved and the town will receive a federal grant of \$740,000 that could be used toward that project.

In 2022, the town experienced a number of issues related to a sewer leak.

One of the pipes taking sewage to a wastewater treatment facility was in need of being moved. It took town officials several months before finding a solution. During that time, the town was able to secure federal funding to assist with the project, and came up with an alternative to their original, which was to run a pipe close to the Westfield River. The alternative cost the town less and coupled with

the state funding, significantly lowered the amount being borrowed, which was originally proposed to be \$2.5 million.

In early July, one of the most significant sewer-related issues happened when raw sewage leaked out of a pipe and into the Westfield River.

An overflow resulted in more than 540,000 gallons of sewage spilling into the Westfield River late last week.

According to Department of Public Works Superintendent Mario Mazza, a break in the sewer line occurred near the Hood plant on Main St. The result was approximately 50 gallons of untreated sewage flowing into the river per minute for a number of days.

The leak was reported by a kayaker and Mazza said the location of the main break

was in a “not easily seen” area.

It’s not completely clear when the leak started, but it was reported by the kayaker on July 7 and finally stopped the following morning on July 8.

Mazza said valves were shut off in order to reroute the sewage so the leak can be repaired.

A disinfectant was then spread to eliminate the bacteria from the sewage in the affected area of the river.

Plans were made to move the interceptor pipe, then were delayed.

According to a resolution set to go in front of the Agawam City Council in early August, the council is being asked to re-confirm acceptance of the \$740,000.

There is not a date for the start of the project.



Programs continue in busy July at Agawam Library

AGAWAM – Summer is in full swing as we “Level Up” at the Agawam Library. The Adult Summer Reading Program kicked off on June 23 and runs through Aug. 8. Adults 18 and older can win up to 66 raffle tickets throughout this challenge by logging their reading and doing activities. Raffle tickets can be entered to win one of our grand prizes. We’ve also challenged the Agawam community to collectively read 5,000 hours, and every hour logged during this reading challenge will help reach our goal. All ages may contribute. Stop in throughout the summer to track our progress on the summer reading game board display. For more information about and to register for the adult summer reading challenge, please visit agawamlibrary.beanstack.org or stop at the Information Desk for a summer reading packet.

July is busy at the library. The July Library Tech Sessions will focus on Libby. Come learn the essentials on how to find and borrow new eBooks and audiobooks, along with some helpful hints and tips. Tech sessions will be held on Tuesday, July 22 at 10 a.m. in the Cline Community Room. Please register for either session. Tea & Trivia returns on Tuesday, July 22 at 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday, July 30 at 2:30 p.m., also in the Cline Community Room. Come by yourself or with a team; prizes will be awarded to the winning players. We will use the same questions for both sessions, so register the time you prefer and join us for some fun. These programs are for patrons ages 18 and older. The Agawam Writer’s Group will meet on Thursday, July 17 at 6:00 p.m. in the Peirce Conference Room. The library is excited to welcome back Julia Nadol-

ny on Thursday, July 17 at 6:30 pm for Chakra Healing. If you have experienced Julia’s sound healing sessions, this next class will bring you deeper into exploring your energy. Discover the power of your energy centers in this gentle, guided class. Learn about each chakra and how to recognize imbalances. Clear energetic blockages in your chakras through a guided meditation with Julia and her crystal bowls. No experience needed—just come with an open heart. This event is sponsored by the Agawam Center Library Association. Please register for this event. Adult Services Librarian Cher Collins will present an Introduction to Genealogy on Monday, July 28 at 6:30 p.m. in the Cline Community Room. Come learn about basic research strategies and tips and tricks for getting and staying organized. For a more advanced introduction to re-

search, Cher will present an Introduction to Ancestry-Library Edition on Friday, Aug. 1 at 10 a.m. Search for census records, vital statistics, immigration and military records and start to piece together the story of your family’s history. Registration is required for both sessions. Back by popular demand. Level Up your puzzle-solving with this literary-themed Escape Room. Eccentric mystery novelist and book collector Penelope Nightingale has recently passed away, leaving her vast fortune and collection of rare books behind. However, the prized jewel of her collection – an antique book valued at \$6 million – is nowhere to be found. A month after her death, a group of her friends and family members each receive a letter in the mail from the deceased stating that she has constructed an elaborate puzzle, the solution of which

will reveal the location of the book. These participants have one hour to search her study, solve the puzzle, and claim this vast fortune for themselves. Register for one of three time slots on Tuesday, July 29: Session 1: 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.; Session 2: 5:30 p.m. – 6:30p.m.; Session 3: 7 – 8 p.m. Sign up with a group during your preferred time slot or join on your own to make some new friends. Please register for only one time slot. This event is for adults age 18 and older. The library is pleased to partner with Ashland Public Library on two virtual programs this month. The first is on Friday, July 18 at 10 a.m. and it’s called Artificial Stupelligence: The Hilarious Truth About AI”. Author, finance expert and tech enthusiast Lynn Raebame will shine a hilarious light on Artificial Intelligence that will just knock the fear out of us. On

Monday, July 21 at 7 p.m. join us online for The Wisdom of Morrie with Author (and son of Morrie), Rob Schwartz. For 30 years, Morrie Schwartz’s wisdom has resonated with people around the world largely due to the beloved, best-selling memoir, Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom. Now we have the opportunity to speak with Morrie’s son, Rob Schwartz, about the book The Wisdom of Morrie. Please note these are virtual programs that will take place via zoom. Registrants will receive a link via email to access the Zoom Webinar. Our virtual Author Series will feature writers that may interest teachers this month. For a complete list of featured authors, please visit our virtual author talk events page <http://www.library.org/agawamlibrary>. Please note the library is closed Saturdays during the summer.

Tykes Tuesday back in the summer

HOLYOKE – 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 Belcher-town PD Dog
- August 12: Superhero Training Academy with Face Painting and Balloon Art
- August 19: Funtastic

Forces with Mad Science Families are encouraged to pre-register at 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.

Senior Center activities

AGAWAM – The Agawam Senior Center will be holding the following activities and events in the coming weeks: **Hearing checks Thursday, July 17** The next New Ears hearing care clinic will take place on Thursday, July 17. Gary Winn a licensed Hearing Instrument Specialist, and owner of New Ears Hearing Care, will conduct a free hearing clinic. He will check ears for wax build-up, perform hearing screenings, and counsel people about hearing loss. Hearing aids will be cleaned and adjusted if possible. The Agawam COA invites residents of Agawam and surrounding towns to benefit from this service. Call 821-0604 to make an appointment. Hearing checks will take place in the seminar hall.

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.

Jewelry Making Tuesday, July 29 at 5 p.m. in the Garden Room We are excited to offer Jewelry Making with Sandy. Sandy will bring all the materials you need and you bring your creativity. Cost for the class is \$3 per person plus the cost of your supplies. Call Kristina at 413.726.2836.

Computer Tech & Support Club July 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.

Computer Classes Monday, 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 Fluitt 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.

Nutrition and Cooking July 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 topics 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.

Coffee Talk with Veterans Wednesday, Aug. 20 in the Coffee Shop Are you a Veteran? We here at the Agawam Senior Center would like to offer you a space to have a coffee or tea on us. Come alone or bring a buddy. We would love to get to know you.

Continuing Sessions with Glenn Olsen Friday, July 25 and Aug. 22 at 1 p.m. in the Conference Room A little about me, I was a

Stanley Park hosting Chakra dance sessions

WESTFIELD – Join us Aug. 18 on the Stanley Park Acre Lawn next to the Pavilion Annex from 6 to 7 p.m. for two Chakra Dance sessions led by Harlene Simmons from All Natural Reiki. Chakra dance is rhythm for your soul, a movement-based practice that combines dance, music, and visualization to balance and activate the body’s seven energy centers, or chakras.

This dance is to balance your Chakras (energy centers) and discover a deepened connection to your true self and feeling of coming home. Music for your Base Chakra : vibrational, connecting your body to earth Music for your Sacral Chakra: sensual, connecting to your inner goddess or god Music for your Solar Plexus Chakra : fiery & dynamic,

strong defined movement. Music for your Heart Chakra: uplifting, joyful softening of your heart. Music for your Throat Chakra: more ethereal, chanting as you dance, expressing your inner truth. Music for your Third Eye Chakra: High vibrations, opens up to intuitive guidance through dance. Music for your Crown Chakra: opening to a feeling

of oneness, connected to the divine. Dress comfortably, easy, flowing clothes are recommended. Donations to the Park of \$5 per person, per class, is suggested. For more information on Chakra Dance classes and all other Stanley Park events, check online at: www.stanleypark.org.

Tips for protecting medications from extreme heat

Caution and Care During Periods of Intense Heat PIONEER VALLEY – As temperatures continue to rise across the region, MiraVista Behavioral Health Center is reminding community residents who may be taking medication to support their mental health to be extra cautious in summer heat. According to MiraVista Behavioral Health Center Medical Director, Dr. Ken-

neth Richmond, “Increased temperatures can affect the impact of medications. It is important for anyone on medications, including those which may be prescribed for a mental health condition, to talk with their health care provider about how extreme temperatures and exposure to sun may change how they feel, cause certain side effects and what they can do during periods of increasingly hot weather to be safe.” According to the Cen-

ters for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 1,200 people in the United States die from extreme heat every year, with individuals who take medications that affect thermoregulation among those at higher risk. Dr. Richmond added, “Many people don’t realize that the medications they take to support their mental health may also impact how their body manages heat. Be informed, take precautions, and know the

warning signs of heat-related stress such as dizziness, confusion, excessive sweating, blurry vision or skin rashes.” The CDC has made an Extreme Heat guide available to visitors on its website with tips on staying cool, staying hydrated, identifying individual risk factors and knowing the symptoms associated with overheating and when to seek medical care. The guide can be found on the MiraVista website at www.miravistabhc.care

Food Bank of Western Massachusetts to hold cooking demo

WILBRAHAM– The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts will host a live cooking demonstration at the Wilbraham Public Library on

Monday, July 21 at 6 pm. In addition to discussing MyPlate, healthy eating guidelines, and learning how to make budget-friend-

ly meals, attendees will also have the opportunity to sample the food prepared during the demonstration. This event is free and

open to the public. Registration is requested. Sign up at wilbrahamlibrary.org, or call the library at 413-596-6141.

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Stamp collectors come together at council-on-aging



Members of the Stamp Collectors Group at the Granby COA: Mr. and Mrs. Jack Marcy, Joan Mikolajczyk, and Laurie Medina.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
epappas@turley.com

GRANBY – Collections tell a story, and that story can share what we have experienced, as well as share a look into the deep aspects and parts of what makes us unique.

Jack Marcy, a local of Granby, is known for his many different collections, from rocks and minerals to Boy Scout paraphernalia, Smokey the Bear, and postage stamps, has a group that has been meeting at the Council on Aging for several years now centering around the collection and learning about stamps.

“When I was 12 years old, my mother told me I could buy a book of stamps, and I did,” said Marcy. “It’s a lot of fun, and I find them here, there, and everywhere, and it just stuck with me, I guess.”

Some of the oldest stamps in his collection are from the 1800s since the first postage stamp came out in 1840, the Penny Black.

The members of this group get together to go through their collections, share stories, and trade with one another as they each strive to fill up their own personal collections, each with their own distinct goals and plans for the stamps.

“I’ve been collecting them

since I was a kid when they came out with the sheets with all the colors and different animals,” said member Laurie Medina. “It’s a lot of fun to find something different all the time.”

“We have people who will come by and drop off their old stamp collections for us to put into the mix, too,” said Marcy.

“You can really learn about the country and the history of where the stamps come from just by collecting,” said Medina.

The group looks for and finds stamps around their interests, whether it be stamps from the United States only

bit of everything for Medina, or Boy Scouts for Marcy, stamps have something for everyone, and can teach you a lot.

“They can be really interesting, and some will even have descriptions of what’s in the little pictures so you can learn all about them and their history,” said Mikolajczyk. “Every individual has their thing and their interests for what they prefer to collect.”

The topics found on stamps range from birds and animals to dinosaurs, sports and sports stars, World Wars and other historical wars and battles, and famous people, landscapes, artwork, and so much more.



Stamps from all over the world, some from countries you may have never heard of.



“Whatever your interest is, there’s probably a stamp with it,” said Medina.

“You really do learn so much from a stamp, and sometimes when I read an article or watch TV, I’ll know about something from history already because I read about it while collecting the stamps,” said Mikolajczyk.

The stamps can range in rarity, from the rarest being the first stamps to be printed still on paper you have to glue on, to the modern pages of sticker-stamps. Some stamps will even have the names of countries that no longer exist today, painting a picture of the past.

As the 250th anniversary of the United States approaches next year, stamp collectors are excited to find the special ones that will surely be coveted by future stamp collectors.

To get into stamp collecting, come to one of the meetings at the Council on Aging in Granby, and find Jack Marcy and the other members at a table on the first and second and fourth Mondays of the month at 1 p.m.

The key to getting into stamp collecting is to find a stamp, find people who love collecting them, and learn about the art that is found within these tiny items that tell huge stories.

AHS 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.”

HS 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 Aug. 30, 2025 at 6 p.m.

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

T-Birds bringing back Community Caravan on July 19, Aug. 19

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.

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 Car-

avan 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, stay tuned to the T-Birds on social media @ThunderbirdsAHL, or visit the Community Tab on www.SpringfieldThunderbirds.com.

July 20 Pickleball tournament 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 welcome to participate or spectate. To purchase tickets, visit habitatspringfield.org

“We are excited to be host-

ing 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 spon-

sors for the event. Sponsorships range from \$500 to \$1,500. For more information, 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 Calligos, Homeowner Programs coordinator, at calligos@habitatspringfield.org or (413) 739-5503 x1003.

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Opinion

Guest Column



Why can't I get my Social Security payment plus my Railroad Pension from my ex-spouse?

Dear Rusty:

I have a question. I now get a Railroad Pension from my ex-husband. I did not know it was from the Social Security Administration. I want to collect my SS benefits and my Railroad pension. Can I do that? I do not understand why I cannot collect both. Please advise.

Thank you. Signed: Railroad Ex-spouse

Dear Railroad Ex-spouse:

Railroad pension benefits and Social Security benefits are fully coordinated – that is, your Railroad pension payment from your ex-spouse already includes your earned Social Security retirement benefit. That's because the two government agencies, Railroad Retirement Board and Social Security Administration work together and pay your benefits in one single payment, usually managed by the RRB if some of your benefit includes a railroad pension component. The RRB and SSA are two separate government agencies, but they fully coordinate benefits for beneficiaries.

This is exactly the same as if you were collecting regular SS ex-spouse benefits instead of RR benefits from your ex-husband; your personal SS retirement benefit is always paid first, and you receive an additional amount (a spousal boost) from your ex-husband. In your case, your "spousal boost" is the difference between your personally earned SS retirement benefit at his full retirement age. A railroad pension usually

consists of two pieces – a Tier I benefit and a Tier II benefit, with Tier I benefits being the equivalent of the pensioner's Social Security.

Your ex-spouse benefits under the RRB are handled the same way. The two agencies fully coordinate with each other, evaluate your SS entitlement, and then reduce the amount of your RRB Tier I ex-spouse benefit by your SS retirement amount and pay both amounts together. In this way, you only get one payment, consisting of both your earned SSA component and the RRB component. And whenever there is a railroad component, the RRB is usually responsible for making pension payments.

You may find the information at this RRB website helpful: https://rrb.gov/RRB-9/Social_Security_Benefits and you can also contact your local RRB field office by accessing this link: <https://www.rrb.gov/Field-Office-Locator>.

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



Guest Column

In the eye (or nose) of the beholder

So many things in life are a matter of preference, and there is no exception when it comes to likes and dislikes in the garden.

Take, for example, the hydrangea in my front yard that is truly a kaleidoscope of blues, purples and magenta. My husband prefers all blue hydrangea flowers, and would love if I would give the bush a watering of "Miracid" so that it will conform more to his liking.

But alas, I tend to enjoy the circusy feel, and will probably continue to let it do its thing without any help from me. Likewise, if you prefer the pink shades instead, you can use lime to make the soil more alkaline.

Do you ever wonder how this process works? It's a matter of making aluminum ions more readily available or not, and that process is pH dependent.

Another area where he and I tend to disagree is whether or not Bugbane, Actaea (formerly Cimifuga) racemosa, deserves a place in our perennial border. The plant is really unique, in that it sends up loads of four-five foot tall white flower spikes,

years. Welcome volunteers, at least as far as I am concerned!

What is the consensus on Hosta flowers? Should they stay or go? I used to be of the "go" camp until earlier this morning, in fact, when I saw a hummingbird frequenting the blossoms! That changed my mind in a hurry.

While it's true that Hostas are better known for their foliage which is often beautifully variegated, the light lilac flowers are pretty in their own right. A handful of pendulous bells hang from the tips of the stems that seem to float above the foliage.

Hostas are not very demanding and are best known for their use in a shady border. Most will burn if planted in the sun, although golden leaved varieties seem to fair better in sunnier locales. In general, most varieties look great paired with Astilbe and Ferns.

I've mentioned the "take it or leave it" attitude in prior columns towards the smell of Marigolds. I am definitely a "take it" girl on this one. In fact, the fragrance, in and of

even in the shade.

It's a beefy plant once full grown. I consider it a "specimen" like the Peony or Baptisia, where one will do the trick.

The flowers are blooming now and will continue to put on a show for a good few weeks.

So, you ask, what is the problem? Simply put, it's the smell. The plant reeks. It's all for good, though, since the acrid smell lures flies to pollinate it!

My husband loathes the smell and has given it the not so nice nickname of "stinky flesh plant." I am not sure how he came up with that, but each year he is always pretty vocal about the stench when it is in bloom.

As a sidebar, the flies are doing their job, in turn making viable seeds. I know this for certain, since a few of them have sprouted over the



by Roberta McQuaid

GARDEN | page 5

Velis was indeed co-sponsor of bill

Dear Editor:

It was wrongly stated at our last City Council meeting that our Democratic Senator John Velis was not a co-sponsor in the House Bill No 4557 requiring local approval of Battery Storage Facilities.

Senator Velis was the only Democratic Senator who co-sponsored not only this House Bill but he also co-sponsored 2 other bills, the House Bill No 4046, Buffer Zone for Battery Storage Facilities and the House Bill 4558, Temporary Moratorium on the siting of Lithium Battery Storage Facili-

ties. I spoke at our last City Council meeting that our Senator John Velis is supporting our efforts and he will help us to see that other Democratic or Republican Senators and State Representatives vote in favor of their amendments. As I said at our last meeting, this is not a Democratic or Republican issue. It is an American issue and that the vast majority of the Democrats, Republicans and Independents voters, don't support large commercial Batteries in their communities. I will continue to speak with Senator John Velis and our State

Representative Nicholas Boldyga and I am sure that both of them, a Democrat and a Republican will do their best to get more support in Boston to pass the amendments. I would like to thank all the City Council members who voted for the resolution TR -2025 -56 supporting the passage of House Bill No 4557 requiring local approval of Battery Storage Facilities that I sponsored with Vice President Anthony Russo and Councilor Peter Smus.

George Bitzas

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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. 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.

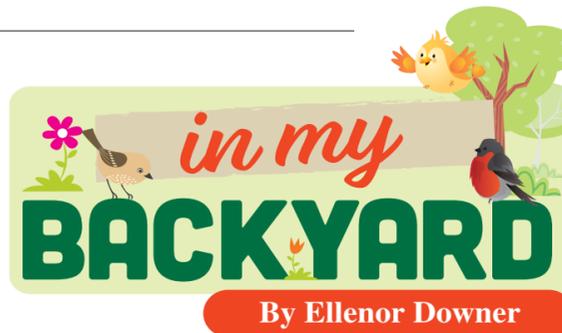
Campaign news

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.

BACKYARD | page 5



Cooper's Hawk

My neighbor has a Cooper's hawk in his yard. Cooper's hawks are common woodland hawks and skilled fliers.

They will fly at high speed through cluttered tree canopies in pursuit of other birds. They may be seen at the forest edge or a field taking a few wingbeats followed by a glide.

Males are smaller than the females. They build the nest and supply nearly all the food to females and young during the nesting period.

During migration, ridge tops in both the East and West are great places to spot Cooper's hawks in large numbers. Coopers hawks perch



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Baystate Medical Center Earns Prestigious 5th Consecutive Magnet® Recognition for Nursing Excellence

SPRINGFIELD - Baystate Medical Center is proud to announce that it has once again been recognized with Magnet Recognition® by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)-marking its fifth consecutive designation. This rare and prestigious honor is shared by less than one percent of hospitals nationwide, underscoring the exceptional level of nursing care and organizational commitment to excellence at Baystate.

Magnet® Recognition is considered the gold standard for nursing excellence, reflecting not only the quality of patient care but also the

strength of nursing leadership, the support for professional development, and the culture of collaboration that defines outstanding health-care organizations. Achieving this honor five times in a row (20 consecutive years) is a testament to Baystate's consistent focus on delivering high-quality, patient-centered care.

"This recognition affirms what we already know to be true-our nurses are extraordinary," said Joanne Miller, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, Senior Vice President and Chief Nurse Executive, Baystate Health. "This fifth Magnet® designation is

a profound recognition of the extraordinary care, professionalism, and heart that our nurses bring to every patient, every day. It reflects 20 years of sustained nursing excellence and a deep-rooted culture of collaboration across our organization. I could not be prouder of the nursing team and every individual who supports their success."

"This honor is a reflection of our entire Baystate Medical Center family-all team members who work with and support our nurses. It speaks to our collective commitment to excellence and the power of working together to care

for our community. Congratulations to our nurses on this achievement!" said Ron Bryant, President & COO, Baystate Medical Center.

The designation was awarded following a comprehensive review of Baystate's nursing practices, outcomes, and culture of care. The ANCC highlighted Baystate Medical Center for exemplary performance in several key areas, reflecting not only strong clinical outcomes but also a deep commitment to continuous learning, shared decision-making, and interprofessional teamwork.

"This designation is a

tribute to the unwavering dedication of our nurses and the interdisciplinary teams who stand beside them," said Brenda Rocha, DNP, MBA, RN, Chief Nursing Officer, Baystate Medical Center. "It validates the quality, compassion, and innovation that define care at Baystate Medical Center and the powerful impact we have when we work as one team with one purpose."

Since first achieving Magnet® status in 2005, Baystate Medical Center has remained dedicated to the principles that define Magnet® organizations: excellence in nursing

practice, strong interdisciplinary collaboration, and a culture that supports innovation and resiliency. This recognition reaffirms that commitment and highlights the critical role nurses play in shaping the future of health-care.

"This is a proud moment for all of us," said Miller. "I want to thank every nurse, every leader, and every colleague who contributed to this incredible accomplishment. Your commitment to excellence doesn't just meet expectations-it transforms lives."

Mosaic set to be revealed next week

AGAWAM - The Agawam Community Artists and Artisans' New England Mosaic Project is being unveiled on Thursday, July 17.

The unveiling will be held at the Agawam Municipal Golf Course, 128 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills, from 5 to 7 p.m. The event is open to the public and free of charge.

The project provides free six-by-six-inch canvases to residents of Western Massachusetts, through local libraries. Participants can be first-time artists or experienced, who agree to return

the completed canvas to their library. Over 180 canvases have been returned this year, and will be assembled onto a 20-by-4-foot Mosaic that will be displayed at two events. At each event, the canvases will be sold for \$25, and the net proceeds will go to support the Gloria McLellan Memorial Scholarship.

Through the Mosaic Project, the Agawam Community Artists and Artisans group recently awarded scholarships to three Western Massachusetts students who are pursuing a career in

visual arts. Receiving scholarships of \$1200 each were Sarah MacDonald, a graduate of Longmeadow High School; Charles Santiago, a graduate of Chicopee Comprehensive High School; and Anthony Nguyen, a graduate of Springfield Technical Community College.

The New England Mosaic will also be on display at the Pioneer Valley Art Festival, which will be held on Saturday and Sunday, August 23 and 24, at the Polish American Club in Feeding Hills.

Springfield Museums full of activity

SPRINGFIELD - Now open seven days a week, the Springfield Museums are ready to embrace the season with activities and highlights throughout the weeks of Summer at the Museums, happening July 7 through Aug. 15. Free with museum admission.

The Museums are elevating the 2025 summer experience with opportunities to gather, tinker, and jam as a community. Family-friendly exhibitions and hands-on explorations in the Cat's Corner, Hasbro Games Art Discovery Center, and Spark!Lab are available daily for visitor enjoyment.

"Summer at the Museums is such a fun time of year! Explore four interactive special exhibits, become an inventor or artist in one of our hands-on educational spaces, and play out on the Quadrangle lawn" says Larissa Murray, Director of Education at the Springfield Museums.

Then, from Wednesday to Friday, visitors can participate in a variety of special program offerings. On Wednesdays, dance and jam to performances from a variety of local acts. On Thursdays, kids can get crafty with the Museum School for Tinker Thursdays, available at

an additional charge. Lastly, on Fridays, welcome the weekend with bubbles, a performance by the Toe Jam Puppet Band, and other featured activities.

"We have so much happening this summer, from our Wednesday and Friday performances to our daily drop in spaces and exhibits. There are so many reasons to visit the Springfield Museums this summer," exclaims Abby Garner, Family Engagement Coordinator.

All exhibits and activities are FREE with museum admission unless noted otherwise.

BACKYARD ■ from page 4

upright and have a long, rounded tail with dark banding. The band at the end of the tail is white. They have a small, hooked beak.

Adults have a gray back, reddish barred chest and red eyes. They also have a black cap.

Cooper's hawks are similar to sharp-shinned hawks, but are larger. They inhabit deep forest to backyards.

Grape jelly warning

I received a link about the dangers of feeding grape jelly to hummingbirds from a Granby resident. The link said, "Bird experts are raising the alarm that a common practice done to attract some birds is actually killing hummingbirds. Raptor Education Group, Inc. said just this week they had three adult ruby-throated hummingbirds brought in covered in grape jelly. One had already died. The others are alive, but struggling."

The central Wisconsin nonprofit shared photos to raise awareness that grape jelly is a sticky danger for the delicate birds. They said, "It has become common practice for people to put out jelly for orioles. However, when it is this warm, the jelly melts and sticks in other bird's feathers and feet." The group recommends buying bird-safer jelly from a specialty store or feeding orange

halves.

Brimfield bird report

I received an email recently from a Brimfield resident. He said, "It's been a different spring/summer in the yard this year. I didn't see the first Baltimore oriole until June when a male showed up at the bird

bath and a few days later a female showed at the bird-bath. In previous years we have had a couple of pairs in the yard. I offer jelly and oranges during migration and then just oranges later in the year. I've

only seen catbirds at the oranges, no orioles."

He saw a juvenile red-bellied woodpecker following an adult male around and begging for food recently. The catbirds are seen frequently and use the birdbath regularly. He has a couple pairs of rose-breasted grosbeaks as well. Several years ago, he saw 11 rose-breasted grosbeaks in the yard at the same time. He has not seen an indigo bunting this year. Although he saw great crested flycatchers and house wren earlier in the spring, they did not stay and use the nest boxes in his yard as they did last year.

Nesting osprey

He also said in his email, "In Warren last week I saw one osprey nestling in the nest on South

Street, but on a visit today there was no sighting of



the chick, but an adult was perched on the nest."

Alarming statistic

He also said, "Unfortunately the reports that there are billions of fewer birds in the country now than there were in the 1970s is very evident to anyone who has watched birds since then. Very sad what we humans have done to the planet." He said, "On another depressing note, there are way fewer butterflies in the yard this year."

Phoebes

Every year Eastern phoebes return to nest in my yard. Recently, I saw a fledgling following an adult around begging for food.

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.

COLLEGE NOTES

Roger Williams University Spring 2025 Dean's List

BRISTOL, RI - Select students have been named to the Spring 2025 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I. Full-time

students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a GPA of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean's List that semester.

Jacob Barber of Feeding Hills, MA
Siobhan McMahon of Agawam, MA

GARDEN ■ from page 4

itself, transports me back to the Grange Hall of my youth and their annual summer fair where I would, and still do, enter the flowers in the "Cut Flower" category.

Both the larger doubled petal African and the smaller French types are represented. Besides looking good in the vase, Marigolds are said to repel aphids and other insects from neighboring plants, and supposedly even able to keep underground nematodes at bay.

Maybe they are worth the odor. Or maybe the fragrance? You be the judge.

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 with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Resorts
5. One point south of southwest
9. Musical performances
11. Matched
13. Four-footed animal part
15. Express severe disapproval of
16. Type of leaf
17. Preparatory
19. Walk heavily
21. Succulent plants
22. Rectangle of grass
23. Lump in yarn
25. Too
26. Foot (Latin)
27. Afflicts
29. Smoothed
31. Mind (Greek)

33. Tampa ballclub
34. Semitic language
36. Sheltered sides
38. Ocean
39. Electronic point of sale
41. Thrust a knife into
43. 12th month (abbr.)
44. Ringworm
46. Father of Aoris (Greek myth.)
48. Fighting back
52. Cease to exist
53. Insects in adult stage
54. Freestanding sculpture
56. Caps
57. Repents
58. Brown and Wallace are two
59. Moved quickly

CLUES DOWN

1. Goes bad
2. Yard structure
3. They ___
4. Marine invertebrate
5. European river
6. Office supplies firm
7. Physically abused
8. Service stations in Australia
9. Kills
10. Liquid body substances
11. Particular to a given individual
12. Brave or noble act
14. Sicilian city
15. Conqueror
18. Elected officials
20. Type of «pig»

24. Drop of viscous substance
26. Monetary unit of Spain
28. Guarantees
30. Coloring materials
32. Reddish browns
34. Square measure
35. Will not
37. Canned fish
38. Appeared
40. Six (Spanish)
42. Took off
43. Negligible amount
45. Posts in a Greek temple
47. Witnesses
49. Phil ___, former CIA
50. Places to park
51. Guns
55. Dance to pop music

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

HCC awarded \$423K federal grant for TRIO student support program

HOLYOKE — The U.S. Department of Education has awarded Holyoke Community College a TRIO Student Support Services grant of \$423,190 to improve college retention and graduation rates among low-income, first-generation students, and students with disabilities.

This award, which runs through June 2026, marks the continuation of more than 30 years of TRIO SSS services at HCC. Since 1993, the program has served thousands of HCC students, helping them stay in school, earn degrees, and build meaningful careers.

SSS is one of eight federal TRIO programs funded under the Higher Education Act of 1965 to remove social, academic, and cultural barriers to higher education. Since its inception in 1968, TRIO SSS has helped millions of low-income, first-generation students graduate from college and contribute to their communities and the economy.

Through individualized

services including academic tutoring, financial aid, scholarship guidance, career exploration, personal and academic counseling, and mentoring, TRIO SSS empowers students to overcome barriers to success. These comprehensive supports make it significantly more likely that students will complete their degrees or successfully transfer, with the lowest possible debt.

“The TRIO Student Support Services program at Holyoke Community College empowers students to achieve their academic goals through personalized academic support as they navigate both educational challenges and personal growth,” said Elsie Rodriguez-Garcia, director of TRIO programs at HCC. “Through mentorship, guidance, and valuable resources, TRIO inspires students to realize their full potential and thrive during their college journey. TRIO is more than just a support service, it



TRIO SSS student Danyelle Foster celebrates her graduation from Holyoke Community College at Commencement on May 31. She earned an associate degree in criminal justice.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

is a community that engages, encourages, and uplifts students – fostering resilience,

persistence, and lasting success beyond college.”

Nationally, the TRIO SSS

program has a proven track record. According to a 2019 evaluation by the U.S. Depart-

ment of Education, students in TRIO SSS at two-year institutions were 48 percent more likely to earn an associate degree or transfer to a four-year school, and students at four-year institutions were 18 percent more likely to earn a bachelor's degree compared to similar peers not in the program.

“TRIO programs generally and TRIO SSS in particular transform students from the least resourced backgrounds into college graduates,” said Kimberly Jones, president of the Council for Opportunity in Education in Washington, D.C. “This vital program makes all the difference for nearly a million students each year across the country.”

Notable alumni of the TRIO Student Support Services program include Michael Cashman, town supervisor of Plattsburgh, N.Y.; former NASA astronaut José Hernández; and Cheryl Johnson, 36th Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Glasgow Lands Scottish festival takes place at Look Park this weekend

NORTHAMPTON – On Saturday, July 19, beautiful Look Park comes alive with Celtic Dancers, Highland pipers and drummers, a clan parade, sheep herding, Scottish dogs and other animals, wool spinners and weavers and lively Celtic music. Celebrate your Scottish heritage – real or coveted – with kilt-wearing, tree-tossing Scotsmen at the Highland athletic games and delight in plates piled high with scones, shortbread, bridies or meat pies. Over 30 pipe bands competing with 600 to 700 pipers and drummers marching in opening ceremonies.

Come celebrate the second largest Scottish Festival in New England, and the only one in Massachusetts. We have been chosen to host the first ever EUSPBA Northeast Branch Amateur Drumming championships.

Fencing Demonstrations by Mass Historical Swordsmanship. Saving Scottish Wildcats organization. Doug Fluie Jr. Foundation for Autism.

Honored guests: State Representative Lindsay Sabadosa, 1st Hampshire District.

Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra, City of Northampton

This family fun event includes children's athletic games and a water spray park. Many Clans and a genealogist will be present to assist in tracing your Scottish ancestry. Vendors will be offering a variety of imports, Scottish and other foods. Listen to the beautiful Celtic harp music of the Pioneer Valley Harpers' Guild. Learn about spinning and weaving from the Weavers' Guild of Springfield. Relive history with the Historic Highlanders.

For 2025, Glasgow Lands Scottish Festival presents world class Celtic music in

the Ceilidh tent from 9:45 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Featured artists The Devil's Brigade, Albannach, and Waking Finnegan. Whether sitting in the Ceilidh Tent watching the show, quenching your thirst in the Celtic Pub with local microbrews provided by New City Brewery, Easthampton, or just having a picnic on the grass nearby, plan on enjoying great live Celtic music all day long. Again this year – Whisky Tasting! – sponsored by ImpEx and Four Seasons Wine & Liquor, Hadley, MA. New this year – Wine and Mead from Four Phantoms Brewing Co, Greenfield.

The Glasgow Lands Scottish Festival, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Its mission is to support other nonprofit organizations and to provide scholarships for qualifying Scottish dance, pipe and/or drum students. Event co-sponsored by: Westfield Bank, New England Public Media, Burger King of Northampton, and New City Brewery, Westfield Gas & Electric, Accelerated IT, Walker's Shortbread, Four Seasons Wine & Liquor and ImpEx Beverages and many others.

All Festival Proceeds Benefit: River Valley Counseling

Center, a multi-service agency in Hampden County, MA, is a licensed mental health clinic, offering a range of traditional and non-traditional outpatient services to adults and children. Also, Forum House, Westfield, a service of Viability, Inc., a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization serving disabled and disadvantaged adults in Hampden, Hampshire and S. Worcester Counties.

For more information and schedules, visit our web site: www.glasgowlands.org or call (413) 862-8095/4539.

Learn about a proposed natural gas system upgrade in your area.

The **Western Mass Reliability Project Informational & Listening Session (in-person and virtual)** will provide more information on efforts to improve system reliability to existing natural gas customers in the Greater Springfield area. This project includes constructing a new point-of-delivery (POD) station in Longmeadow and installing, upgrading, and operating a steel main between this new POD station and the company's Bliss Street Regulator Station in Springfield.

Please join us in person or virtually at our Informational & Listening Session on Thursday, August 7th, where you'll learn what this project will mean for the Greater Springfield area. Project team members will be available to provide information and answer your questions.

Location:

UMass Center at Tower Square, 1500 Main Street, Springfield, MA

Event Date/Time: Thursday, August 7th

6:00 PM—Open

6:30 PM—8:00 PM—Informational & Listening Session

Guest Services to be Provided:

- Tower Square parking vouchers
- Childcare available
- Refreshments throughout the duration of the event
- Spanish and Russian translation available

Visit eversource.com/wma-gas-reliability to learn more about the proposed project and see details about the Informational & Listening Session, and to access the event virtually if you are unable to attend in person.

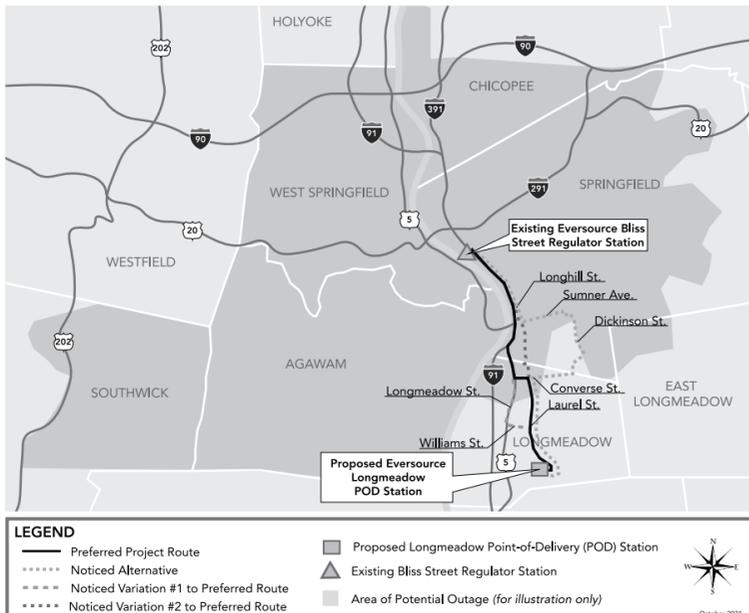
Questions?

For more information, please email Eversource at projectinfoma@eversource.com or call **833-836-0302**.

You can also keep up to date on the project by visiting our website at eversource.com/wma-gas-reliability, or by scanning the QR code below with your smart device.



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Si necesita que le traduzcan esta notificación, envíenos un correo electrónico a Projectinfoma@eversource.com y escriba "Gas Reliability Project" en el asunto.

Если вам нужен перевод данного уведомления, отправьте электронное письмо по адресу Projectinfoma@eversource.com, указав в строке темы «Проект по обеспечению надежности газа».

7Roads plays concert at School Street Park

AGAWAM – On July 9 7Roads played a concert at School Street Park. Their set consisted of beloved songs from genres such as rock, punk, emo and country. There was a large turnout of community members who attended the concert to have some summer fun and support the band. 7Roads is based in East Longmeadow,

the band consists of Ryan Harrington on vocals and guitar, Tyler Brown on guitar, Alex Bazin on bass and Brian Bazin on drums. The band was lively and performed each song with enthusiasm. For more information about 7Roads and their upcoming shows visit <https://www.7roadsband.com/>.



Ryan Harrington, Tyler Brown, Alex Bazin and Brian Bazin, 7Roads, playing their show at School Street Park on July 9.



Matthew and Daniela Balsamo at the School Street Park Concert on July 9.



Charlie Riga-Frogameni, Cora Lee Hynes and Leopold Reynolds having fun at the School Street Park Concert on July 9.



Robert and Kathy Keenan at the School Street Park Concert on Wednesday July 9.



Community members gather at School Street Park for 7Roads Concert on July 9.



Mother and son, Liz Frogameni and Marlow Frogameni, at the School Street Park Concert on July 9.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

Veterans Cemetery friends group holding golf tournament

AGAWAM — The Friends of the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Agawam and the Friends of the Agawam Veterans Council proudly announce their First Annual Golf Tournament in support of Wreaths Across America, a national effort to honor and remember our fallen veterans during the holiday season.

413-221-9548 or email wreath-friends@gmail.com. Registration forms are available upon request.

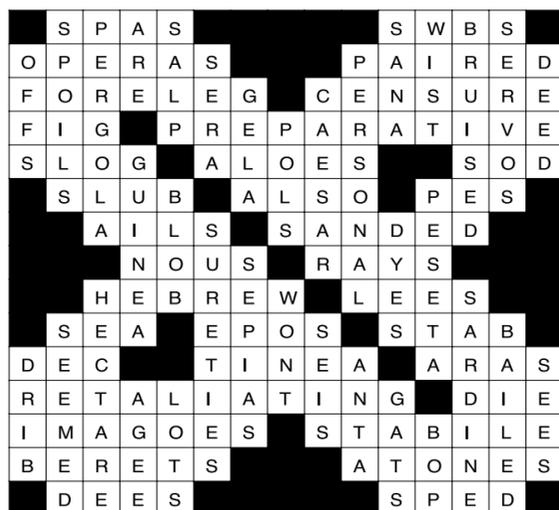


Golfers, sponsors, and community members are invited to participate and help lay wreaths at the graves of veterans resting at the Agawam Veterans Memorial Cemetery this December.

The event involves 18 Holes of Golf with a cart, lunch, dinner and a raffle entry. It takes place at noon on Aug. 31 at the Agawam Municipal Golf Course.

Registration Options: Individual Golfer for \$125; Team of Four for \$450; Dinner Only for \$30; Tee Sponsorships for \$100; Other Sponsorship Opportunities Available

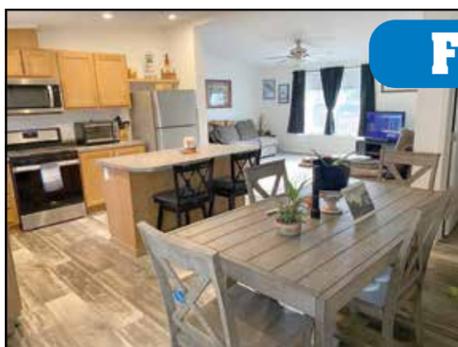
Payments Accepted: Check (payable to FMVMCA, PO Box 03, Feeding Hills, MA 01030); Venmo; Credit Card (by phone) To Register or Sponsor Contact Marline Claremont at



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SPORTS

Lions take down Agawam

AGAWAM – Last Tuesday evening in A Division action, Ludlow boys soccer defeated Agawam 3-1 at Harmon Smith Field at Agawam High School.

The Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League resumed

action last week. Ludlow is now a perfect 8-0 and a lock for the PVSSL playoffs. Agawam well to 3-5 and are on the outside of the play-off picture with nine points. Eighth place currently has 13 points.



Clockwise from above: Joseph Uneegar tips the ball to his left; Kyle Ghareeb looks to clear the ball away; Pat Keating advances up the field; Jaden Holloway makes a throw-in; James Shostak heads for the back of the net



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGHOTOS.COM



Extra time goals hurt WMass. Pioneers in draw

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—The task wasn't a very difficult one for the Western Mass. Pioneers entering the regular season finale against rival Vermont Green FC.

The Pioneers needed a victory to clinch the top spot in the USL League Two Northeast Division table for the first time since 2021.

The home team held a 2-0 lead in the 90th minute before referee Stephanie MacFarland decided to add 10 minutes of stoppage time. That's when everything fell apart for the Pioneers like a house of cards.

The Green managed to score two goals during extra time and last Friday night's match, which was played in front of the largest crowd of the regular season at historic Lusitano Stadium, ended in a 2-2 draw.

"I've never been involved in a soccer game before where the referee added ten minutes of stoppage time," said Pioneers captain Aidan Kelly. "We just crumpled under the pressure, but it's something that we're going to learn from. It's very disappointing, but we're looking forward to the playoffs now."

Longtime Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari was upset with how the home

match ended.

"I have no words to describe tonight's game," Molinari said. "We played very well until extra time. There isn't anything we can do about it now."

The scoreboard clock was stopped when the match reached the 90th minute. MacFarland kept the rest of the time. Soccer is the only sport that uses a clock where the players and fans have no idea when the match is going to end.

While it was a heartbreaking way to end the regular season, the Pioneers (10-1-3), who lost, 2-0, to the Green on June 17, were scheduled to host the Long Island Rough

Riders in an Eastern Conference play-in match on Tuesday night.

"We've qualified for the playoffs again," Molinari said. "We just have to prepare for Tuesday's playoff match now."

The Pioneers qualified for the playoffs for the sixth time since 2019. They've also finished in second place in the Northeast Conference standings in each of the past four seasons.

Vermont (12-0-2) captured the League title for the first time since joining USL League Two in 2022.

When the Green made their annual visit to Lusitano Stadium a year ago, they

clinched a playoff berth with a 3-1 victory over the Pioneers. The first meeting of the 2024 regular season ended in a scoreless draw.

The overall series record between the two squads is now tied 3-3-2.

The Pioneers posted a pair of 1-0 victories against Vermont during the 2023 regular season.

Since suffering the shut-out loss at Vermont back in June, the Pioneers had gone 5-0-0 and outscored their opponents, 18-1 during that span.

The start of last Friday's contest was delayed about 30 minutes due to a thunderstorm.

The Pioneers starting goalie was Trey Sheppard, who started a home match for the first time this season.

"We decided to go with him (Sheppard) tonight," Molinari said. "He's been training with us the whole season and he deserved a chance to play."

Sheppard, who'll be a sophomore on the Amherst College men's soccer team in the fall, started his first match of the season for the Pioneers on the road against New England FC, which was a 3-1 victory on July 7.

During the third minute,

PIONEERS | page 12

Valley Blue Sox suffer loss to Ocean State Waves

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox were the away team for the first game in the doubleheader at Mackenzie Stadium against the Ocean State Waves last Friday. Valley's third baseman Wyatt Hunt had himself an incredible day at the plate. Hunt went four for four with three singles, a double, two runs scored and one RBI. Blue Sox's Bryan Mataschat relief pitcher led the

team in strikeouts with three in two innings pitched.

This game did not disappoint as scoring started early on for the Waves (14-15) in the top of the second. Waves' Gavin Greger hit a single and stole second. Coen Niclai's single advanced Greger to third. Niclai seized his opportunity and stole second base quickly. Kayle Pisano ripped a sac-fly to center field, scoring

Greger and advancing Niclai to third. Ocean State's second baseman, Jack LaRose knocked a single to score Niclai to make it 2-0 after two innings.

Valley found their footing in the top of the third. Hunt doubled into left field off of the diving

catch attempt by left fielder Kolton Reynolds. Hunt stole third on a wild pickoff attempt by Ocean State starting pitcher Rhys Bowie. Nicholas Spaventa cracked a single right up the middle, scoring Hunt to cut the lead



to one.

The Blue Sox found more momentum in top of the fifth thanks to Hunt's single and steal that was followed up by Michael Elko's line drive ball to left field that scored the speedster Hunt to tie the game at two apiece before the inning ended.

The Waves punched back in the bottom of the inning. With two outs and no run-

ners on base, Brandon DeGoti demolished a triple into right field to put a runner into scoring position. Ryan Gerety then doubled off the right field wall and scored DeGoti to make it 3-2. Reynolds followed suit with a single into the outfield to score Gerety to extend the lead even further. Greger doubled into right

BLUE SOX | page 9

Sports

Saints keep first place in Tri-County

PALMER – Following the Fourth of July, Tri-County Baseball League action resumed with a full week of action. Teddy Bear Pools and St. Joseph's were among the several games that took place. Both teams had a few games during the week. With a couple of weeks remaining in the season.

St. Joseph's holds first place with 20 points and a 10-6 record. PeoplesBank is second with 16 points and an 8-2 record and several games to make up. BankESB is third with 11 points, and Teddy Bear Pools holds fourth with nine points and a 4-7-1 record.



Colby Harrington delivers a pitch for St. Joe's.
TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Breddan Fournier cuts across the diamond and gets the out.



Jake Delaney picks the ball out of the dirt. Right: Devin Slattery, of Ware, makes the stop.



Left: Mason Barcomb slings a throw to first. Above: Brandon Magni fields a grounder to third.

T-Birds reveal schedule for upcoming season

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds, the proud American Hockey League affiliate of the St. Louis Blues, released their full schedule for their 2025-26 regular season on Thursday in conjunction with the AHL. The T-Birds will be celebrating their 10th year as an AHL member club during the upcoming campaign, as well as their fifth playing season in affiliation with the Blues. Springfield has qualified for the Calder Cup Playoffs in three of its past four seasons. The Thunderbirds will begin their regular season on home ice for a sixth consecutive season when they play host to the defending Eastern Conference champion Charlotte Checkers on Saturday, Oct. 11 at 6:05 p.m. inside the MassMutual Center for Opening Night. Fans are advised that all Saturday games at the MassMutual Center will now start one hour earlier at 6:05

p.m. for the 2025-26 season. The Thunderbirds will face every Eastern Conference team at least twice during the 2025-26 regular season, except for the Cleveland Monsters. Once again, the AHL season will consist of all 32 clubs playing 72 games (36 home, 36 away). Springfield will play 54 games against Atlantic Division opponents, including 27 at the MassMutual Center. Their most frequent opponents are the Providence Bruins, who will visit the Thunderdome six times, including 6:05 p.m. puck drops on Saturday, Dec. 6, Saturday, Dec. 27, Saturday, Feb. 21, and Wednesday, March 11. The two teams will also square off on New Year's Eve for a 3:05 p.m. matinee on Wednesday, December 31, as



well as a 7:05 p.m. puck drop on Wednesday, March 25. The home-ice portion of the I-91 rivalry series against the Hartford Wolf Pack begins on Saturday, Oct. 25 at 6:05 p.m., and the two foes will square off five times in each building during the 2025-26 season. Other I-91 game dates include Friday, Jan. 9 (7:05 p.m.) and 6:05 p.m. puck drops on Saturday, Jan. 31, Saturday, April 11, and Saturday, April 18. The Bridgeport Islanders will also make five appearances in Springfield against the T-Birds, starting with a 7:05 p.m. contest on Friday, Nov. 7, followed by meetings on Saturday, Nov. 29 (6:05 p.m.), Sunday, Dec. 28 (3:05 p.m.), Friday, Jan. 2 (7:05 p.m.), and Friday, Feb. 20 (7:05 p.m.).

The most frequent visitor from Pennsylvania is the Lehigh Valley Phantoms, who visit the Thunderdome on Saturday, Jan. 10 (6:05 p.m.), Friday, Jan. 30 (7:05 p.m.), and Wednesday, April 15 (7:05 p.m.). Springfield will also host two games each against the Hershey Bears and Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins. The Thunderbirds will also play 18 games (9 home, 9 away) against North and Central Division opponents. The Iowa Wild are the lone Western Conference team on the T-Birds' schedule, visiting Springfield on Friday, March 6 (7:05 p.m.) and Saturday, March 7 (6:05 p.m.).

BLUE SOX ■ from page 8
In doubleheaders in the New England Collegiate Baseball League, games are only seven innings with the exception of two extra innings. No runs were scored until the bottom of the ninth inning. Ocean State and Valley were on the cusp of having the first tie in the NECBL this season. Justin Hackett started as the ghost runner for the Waves. LaRose hit a sac-bunt to advance Hackett to third. Ocean State was 90 feet away from scoring the game winning run. Greg Pettay has been out since June 26 due to a knee injury and ripped a game winning single to score Hackett to walk it off in style against the Blue Sox. Game two of the doubleheader got canceled due to rain against the Ocean State Waves, but the Blue Sox were up 2-0 before it got canceled.

Field, advancing Reynolds to third. Niclai singled to score Reynolds but Gerety got out at home due to an incredible throw by right fielder Rees Kozar for out No.3. The score was now 5-2. Valley's Mike Lucarelli walked to start the top of the sixth. Lucarelli stole second, third and home on a wild throw by Waves' catcher Brandyn Durand. Andrew Loikits singled into left field. Sean Darnell crushed the ball deep into left for a double to advance Loikits to third. Gavin Schrader came into the game to pinch hit for Hayden Perry. He hit a sac-fly to center field, scoring Loikits to make it 5-4. Hunt came back up to the plate and hit a clutch single to score Darnell. The game was now tied 5-5.

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Obituary

Karin Parker

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Karin Parker, of Agawam, Massachusetts, whose presence touched the lives of many. Karin was born in Oak Bluffs Massachusetts and graduated from



stepson Adam Parker. Her parents, Diana and Preston Averill, and brothers, Christian Averill (Lauren) and Jonathan Averill (Kimberly), and her niece and nephews, aunts, uncles and many cousins.

As we say farewell, we honor a life well-lived and a heart well-loved. She was blessed with many friends and visited her forever home on Martha's Vineyard whenever she could. She will always be in our hearts and will never be forgotten.

You are cordially invited to visitation hour at Bryon Keenan Funeral Home, 1858 Allen St., Springfield, MA, July 27 12 noon. Celebration of Life at 1 p.m.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Cancer House of Hope 1999 Westfield St., West Springfield, Ma. 01089

Karin was involved with the youth sports teams for the town of Agawam, and helped with the Agawam High School football and swim teams. Karin was an avid participant in Relay for Life MV.

Her journey ended on June 26, 2025, but her life was marked by kindness, resilience, and a generous spirit that left an indelible mark on all who knew her. Her children survive her: William C. Parker, Hannah M. Parker, stepdaughter Cassandra Roy (Keith) and family and

Trips offered to Agawam seniors

AGAWAM - Insider's Travel, LLC, in cooperation with the Agawam Senior Center, will be announcing two new trips for area seniors on July 22 at 1 p.m. in the Agawam Senior Center. The trip reveal will include updates on currently planned trips, the new Insider's Travel Website, and a chance for a \$99 raffle drawing if you RSVP by July 21 and are present at the reveal.

Two new exciting and affordable trips have been added to this season's schedule, which includes trips to Saratoga Race Track on Aug. 6, and beautiful Water's Edge Resort and Clinton Outlets on Sept. 9. There is also a Las Vegas concert at the famous Aqua Turf Club on Oct. 14.

With highly successful and entertaining trips already to Newport, RI and Thimble Islands, CT, two more trips are set to be revealed to 55-and-over residents. The response from our travelers have been overwhelmingly positive regarding attention to details, scheduling, and overall planning.

Please come Tuesday, July 22 at 1 p.m. in the Agawam Senior Center for an opportunity to build your own travel experiences in a fun, safe, and affordable way.

RSVP to Jo at (413) 478-4698 or email insiderstravel2025@gmail.com.



Holyoke Rows announces free youth kayaking

HOLYOKE — Holyoke Rows is pleased to announce another great lineup of free summer programming to help our community get out and explore on the Connecticut River. From free all ages kayaking days to a free learn to row week for Holyoke, Chicopee and Springfield middle and high school students, there are endless options to

enjoy the outdoors from our boathouse at Holyoke Rows, 25 Jones Ferry Rd, in Holyoke.

Holyoke Rows is pleased to announce Free Summer Nights for Youth and Families that will take place Mondays/Wednesdays July 7 to Aug. 20 5:30 to 8 p.m. Children, youth, and families are invited to come down to the

boathouse for free kayaking, fishing, and more. No registration needed, all equipment & instruction provided. Enjoy the outdoors from our boathouse at Holyoke Rows, 25 Jones Ferry Rd, in Holyoke. This program is offered as part of the Massachusetts DCR Summer Nights grant program.

Public Notices

TOWN OF AGAWAM LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING

The Agawam City Council Administrative Sub-Committee will conduct a Public Hearing on **MONDAY, August 4, 2025 at 6:30PM**, at the Agawam Senior Center Hall Seminar Hall, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA, on an Eversource petition for permission to install a joint owned pole on or near 349 Rowley Street, Agawam, MA could and include installation of a new pole(s), manholes, wires, cables and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protect fixtures along and across the property. This petition is available by contacting the City Council Office, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA or by emailing bbard@agawam.ma.us.

Robert E. Rossi, Chair Administrative Sub-Committee 07/10, 07/17/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court Docket No. HD21P0294EA

Estate of: Edward E Calabrese Date of Death: June 06, 2020 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Henry Calabrese of Agawam, MA.

Henry Calabrese of Agawam, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 07/17/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD25P1387GD In the interests of Kaden Rannenberg of Agawam, MA Minor NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. **Hearing Date/Time:** A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 06/23/2025 by Margaret Tillson of Agawam, MA will be held 07/29/2025 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing. Located: 50 State Street, 4th floor, Springfield, MA 01103.

2. **Response to Petition:** You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and

Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. **Counsel for the Minor:** The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. **Counsel for Parents:** If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

5. **Presence of the Minor at Hearing:** A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests. Date: July 2, 2025

Rosemary A. Saccomani Register of Probate 07/17/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD25P1431EA Estate of: Ilias L Tsounis Also known as: Ilias Tsounis Date of Death: 04/15/2023 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 Louis J Tsounis 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: Louis J Tsounis 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 08/11/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court. Date: July 11, 2025 Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 07/17/2025

DEATH NOTICE

Karin Parker Visitation July 27, 12 noon Byron Keenan Funeral Home 1858 Allen St.,Springfield

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.

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

Send Us Your Community Autumn Events

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

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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.

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PIONEERS ■ from page 8

Sheppard made an outstanding save on a shot taken by Arnaud Tattevin resulting in a corner kick.

The Western Mass. squad took a 1-0 lead following a free kick goal during the 41st minute.

Gustavo Barbosa booted the ball into the box with his left foot from the right sideline near the Pioneers bench. Juan Hermoso, who's a defender, headed the ball into the right corner of the net past Vermont goalie Niklas Herceg. It was Hermoso's third goal of the season.

"It was very important for us to score the first goal of the match," Hermoso said. "I saw the ball heading towards me, and I was able to head it into the net. It was a great feeling."

A year ago, Hermoso was a senior on the University of Charleston men's soccer team, which lost to Lynn University, 3-2, in the NCAA Division 2 finals.

It was the first time that Vermont, who only needed a tie to finish in first place, had trailed in a match this season.

The Pioneers had a couple of other scoring chances early in the second half before Israel Neto blasted a shot into the back of the net in the 64th minute. Barbosa was credited with his second assist.

Twenty minutes later, Neto had another shot on goal, but Herceg was able to make the save.

The visitors cut the deficit in half following a goal from Zach Zengue.

A couple of minutes later, Owen O'Malley, who had entered the match in the 69th minute, lined a shot from the top of the box over Sheppard that landed in the right corner tying the match.

Then the Vermont players raced across the field and celebrated with their many supporters, who made the three hour trek to Ludlow from Burlington.

It wasn't the way the Pioneers players wanted the regular season to finish, but they had a clean slate entering Tuesday's home playoff match.



Above: Juan Hermoso chases after a loose ball.
Right: Jaiden Williems gets the quick touch.



Above: Goalie Rees Sheppard punts the ball away.
Right: Robert Lyons eyes an opponent up the field.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

PAINT ■ from page 1

The escape room is fantasy themed and the teens will have to cast spells and decipher journal entries to escape from a Wizard's Tower before it is too late.

To the excitement of many in the library, the famous Project Waddleway program will be returning to the library on Wednesday, July 23 at 6 p.m.

During this event teens in grades seven through twelve will be encouraged to use the materials provided to create

a stunning outfit for a rubber duck.

Another planned event, which Weingart is particularly excited about, is Video Game Bingo for grades 3-4 on Thursday, July 31 at 3p.m.

This event will feature a Bingo game with questions inspired by popular and classic video games.

To keep up to date on all the different events the library will host throughout the summer, go to their website at <https://www.agawam-library.org/>.



Many more summer program are still available.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Kids and their families got to work drawing the image of an owl on a branch, as directed by Painter Stephanie Gaboury.



Families gathered in Agawam Public Library to enjoy a family paint night.



Many families worked together so that their paintings would connect to create the image of multiple owls sitting in a tree.

COUNCIL ■ from page 1

This was written in a big giant climate bill in 2024, this resolution is the best thing we can do because it tells our legislature that we want to have a say. The question is, what ex-

actly are we doing by sending this resolution?"

Borgatti explained that they're sending the resolution from the city council to the governor, state senator and state representatives.

Referring to the 'big giant climate bill', Borgatti stated that when it stated in the bill that the council must accept the battery storage facilities, "All of our democratic senators voted yes for

the climate bill where that was buried in. My point is this resolution isn't enough if you are against this facility. The red states are now starting to accept these battery storage facilities and if

our town doesn't want them, that's our prerogative. Talk to your council, talk to your representative, talk to your senator directly. 100 people coming at them is more effective than coming at us,

you must keep pushing at the next level."

The conversation continued around the storage facility resolution and was approved, following with an applause from the audience.