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# AGAWAM

## ADVERTISER NEWS

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### Residents stage opposition to storage facility

By **Brendan Rooney**  
Correspondent

AGAWAM — Latest developments are starting to emerge from the ongoing red-hot button issue of the community of Agawam rallying against the Planning Board's approval of the lithium-ion battery storage facility, as an open forum was held this past Monday night from within the Agawam Public Library, in the Judith Clini Community Room.

The forum was organized and led by Nick and Jessica Dion, frustrated Agawam residents who have been assisting in the appeal, as revealed by a statement provided by the couple, while of-

fering a platform to provide clarity and dispel any misinformation that has been formulated as of late.

"First, Nick and I are not the ones spearheading the appeal. I have been assisting residents who are abutters to the proposed site for the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility. I work near the Springfield courthouse, and I offered to help by delivering their paperwork for filing," they said.

The Dion's then explained, "The meeting was a way to provide residents with clear, factual information about battery energy storage facilities — what they are, how they work, the potential risks, and what to

do in the event of a fire."

On July 23, residents took action and filed an appeal, which was started by a group of residents who live near 404 Silver Street, citing safety concerns, noise pollution, while others felt concerned about the lack of time being offered to get educated about the project, along with the close proximity of wetlands. The residents also provided additional context to refute the claims that the appeal was a lawsuit, which was falsely reported by noting, "Second, this is not a lawsuit and no one is 'suing' the zoning board. It is a zoning appeal that was filed in Hampden Superior Court."

However, with the appeal

now in court, this could potentially help the plan set forth by the city council. The resolution was put forth by City Councilors Anthony Russo, George Bitzas, and Peter Smus, who stated that the passage of the bill, titled "An Act requiring local approval for battery storage facility permitting," would reinforce "municipal autonomy and democratic input in land use decisions." In an attempt to fight this assignment of returning local control to cities and towns, instead of having the state mandate and dictate everything.

Bringing notice to a law that was created by the state legislation back in Novem-

ber of 2024, which ruled that the local legislation doesn't have the authority to prevent or allow the systems from being built. However, taking a stand against this was the local state legislative bodies, initially presented by state Reps. Kelly Pease (R-Westfield) and Lindsay Sabadosa (D-Northampton), two different party affiliations meeting in the middle of the aisle to ensure and allow local bodies to not only vote on the buildout of a system in their communities, but also allow municipalities to install their site requirements.

At the July 7 city council meeting, Russo said, "We're

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### A message from the Turleys

Dear Reader,

Every week a team of reporters, editors and people who assemble the paper work hard to bring readers information they need to know about their community. It's hard work and we love it.

Our goal is to provide a clear reflection of the community, and share stories about issues and events in your town as well as those about your neighbors, family and friends; in essence, a clear reflection of the community. We provide news that is difficult to find anywhere else.

Turley Publications has been doing so for 60 years now, and enjoys being an integral part of the community.

Every year we invite residents to join those who already subscribe to the *Agawam Advertiser*, so they too can be informed and join their neighbors in keeping up-to-date on so many aspects of the community. We do that by mailing an issue of *Agawam Advertiser* to everyone in Agawam, on us, so you can see for yourself what types of information we provide.

If you want to know when and why your taxes go up, who is running for election, what successes and challenges are in your school system, what others are doing to make your community a better place, and so much more, we hope you will consider subscribing.

We also value your opinions and ideas. Please let us know what's important to you by picking up the phone and calling us. Let us know if we're meeting your expectations.

You can also call us to let us know about an important event in your family's life. That's why we're here.

We love being a part of this community and maybe even, in a small way, a part of your family.

We hope to be arriving each week at your home holding up that mirror, the *Agawam Advertiser* News.

**Patrick Turley, CEO**  
**Keith Turley, President**  
*Turley Publications, Inc.*



Agawam High School will be under construction through the end of 2028.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

### Construction work continues as classes get set to begin

By **Quinn Suomala**  
Correspondent

AGAWAM — Construction is moving forward for the project as scheduled. Currently, the geothermal wells are under way, with about three going in each day.

With the 2025-2026 school year set to get underway and students attending Agawam High School set to have a construction site in their background, Mayor Christopher Johnson offered an update on the early stages of the construction.

"There are a total of 150 of [the wells] going in," Johnson said. "They are being drilled into the back of the property."

On top of the wells, Johnson was happy to report that the contractor has completed all the needed utility moves in relation to moving utilities out of the way for the construction of the new community wing.

Additionally, the town has awarded three early release bid packages to contractors, with a fourth currently out for bid. The final bid packages for the project

are expected to go out in September.

They have also submitted the 90% or final design update to the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Johnson anticipates that by the end of the month the construction team will begin to pour the foundations. After that, they will begin erecting the steel frames.

Construction on the overall project got underway just after spring vacation in April.

WORK | page 8

### Town receives grant to assist with safety

By **Gregory A. Scibelli**  
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM — In early September, the Agawam City Council will be asked to accept a grant from the Massachusetts Gaming Commission's Community Mitigation Fund.

For several years, the town of Agawam received small payments from MGM Springfield in casino mitigation funding. Now, it has applied for an received a grant from the state's mitigation fund to be used toward a couple of public safety initiatives.

Mayor Christopher Johnson filed a resolution with the city council to accept a grant for \$321,500 to be used for police, fire, and for assistance in the reconstruction of an intersection.

While the exact amounts going to each project was not disclosed, the police department would receive funding to install cameras with technology good enough to read license plates. The cameras would aid investigations looking for

specific vehicles. It is not known where those cameras would be placed.

The fire department would receive some of the grant funding for new equipment and training, and the rest of the funds would be used toward the construction of the Suffield St.-Rowley St.-Cooper St. reconstruction.

The intersection is a rare five-way intersection is currently managed by three traffic lights. The Suffield and Cooper St. intersection make up four of the ways, while Rowley St. ends at the intersection and is the fifth cog in the intersection. The intersection is dangerous in a lot of ways and also gets very congested during the 17-day Big E with traffic traveling north on Suffield St. toward the fair.

There is no timetable for reconstruction of the intersection, though the town has made a lot of progress constructing intersections during the past several years. Intersections from O'Brien's

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### Northwest Culvert project leaning toward early September completion

By **Brendan Rooney**  
Correspondent

AGAWAM — This week, Agawam Department of Public Works Superintendent Mario Mazza gave a major update on the completion of the Northwest Culvert project.

Mazza said early September is now the target date for the full re-opening of North Westfield St. Mazza said he expects full access before the Big E kicks off, which is welcome news as people look for various alternate routes to avoid Big E traffic depending on their destination.

The initial plan was for the road to be accessible by the end of August, just in time for the start of the upcoming school year. However, Mazza confirmed that may not happen, reinforcing the early September reopening.

Mazza said the original timeline started with the project being placed out to bid about three years ago. Eventually, the process was delayed due to utility pole work, which took place last summer and lasted into the fall. This forced the DPW to make a consensus decision to play the project until this past spring. Work on the cul-

vert kicked off in April.

"It's a \$2.5 million project, more or less," Mazza said of the estimated cost of the renovation. "The complete culvert replacement is going to be equipped with aluminum head walls, with riprap, which will hold everything in place with a concrete footing."

In addition, Mazza also noted besides the initial delay of the utilities needing to be addressed, the only other hindrance was just minor weather delays. He also cited similarities to the project that was renovated on North

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On the north side of the culvert project, the road is blocked off to thru traffic.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



# Polish Club hosts summer concert event

AGAWAM – On Aug. 13 Greylan James who was joined by Brian Roman. These musicians didn't let the gloomy weather stop them from bringing their charming country music to the stage for Agawam's Summerfest.

Community members gathered with friends and family at the Polish American Club to watch them perform. The event had free entry and food, and merchandise was available for purchase. Leanne Zemrock and Scott Harris of KIX 100.9 were collecting donations for St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

Opening for James was the band Lindsey Labelle, consisting of Lindsey Labelle, Jeff Demers and Ben Jon. Labelle enchanted the room with her powerful voice. The band had attendees up and dancing. James and Roman then performed. James's guitar brought his music to life. James and Roman engaged with the audience encouraging them to dance and enjoy the music. For more information about Lindsey Labelle visit <https://lindseylabelle.com/>. For more information about Greylan James visit <https://www.greylanjames.com/>.



Band Lindsey Labelle playing at the KIX 100.9 Country Show last week. TURLEY PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA



Diane Neill, Kathy Salvatore and Judy Archible enjoying the show.



Greylan James and Brian Roman wow the crowd at the KIX 100.9 Country Show.



Scott Harris and Leanne Zemrock gathering donations for St. Jude's Children's Hospital at the Polish American Club.



Sandy Lacresse, Jeri Koshe and Lindsey Labelle at the Lindsey Labelle merchandise stand.



Robert and Kathleen Keenan at the KIX 100.9 Country Show.



Joesph and Nanette Buonagurio at the KIX 100.9 Country Show.



Amanda Lfleche and Arianna Labarre at the KIX 100.9 Country Show.

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# New police department headquarters nearing completion

By Quinn Suomala  
Correspondent

AGAWAM — The new Agawam Police Department is supposed to open up sometime this fall for full operations, and after an 8 to 10-week moving process, Mayor Christopher Johnson said earlier this week.

The new headquarters, which will be located at 1070 Suffield St., has been undergoing numerous renovations and reconstruction after the building was purchased by the town from the former HUB International Insurance

Company.

“At this point the contractor is working on the punch items to finish the station,” Johnson said. “The fiber optic connection is being made this week and they are finishing up irrigation and installation of sprinklers.”

Work is also being done to balance the HVAC system, the air conditioning and the heating system in the building.

The Department of Public Health came by as well to inspect the cells. They will be sharing their feedback with the contractors shortly.

“Believe it or not the cells are more highly regulated than the rest of the building,” Johnson said.

Given the feedback from the DPH, the contractors will make any adjustments they need to to ensure the safety of any who would be in the cells.

Additionally, the state is working on installing the wiring for 911 calls as well as the dispatch system.

“We have had State 911 in to do their wiring,” Johnson said. “A dispatch panel should be there shortly, as that also has to be wired in

by the state folks.”

Johnson anticipates that all the work will be done by the end of August. After that, the focus will shift to moving from the current station to the new one.

“We expect it to take a month or longer to effectuate the move,” Johnson said. “They have to move dispatch, patrol, records and last, but not least, evidence.”

The most difficult part of the move will be transferring over the evidence from the old police station to this new one, as the police have to follow a specific procedure to

ensure the evidence is properly handled.

Johnson shared that he and the police department are eager for the upgrades to evidence storage that will be available at the new station.

“When you get in to see the final product you will see how much records and evidence storage there is in the new facility,” Johnson said. “It is frankly staggering in size.”

Not only is there more space for storage, Johnson shared that all the evidence will also be kept in one area with one cataloguing system, unlike the previous station

which had four rooms for evidence.

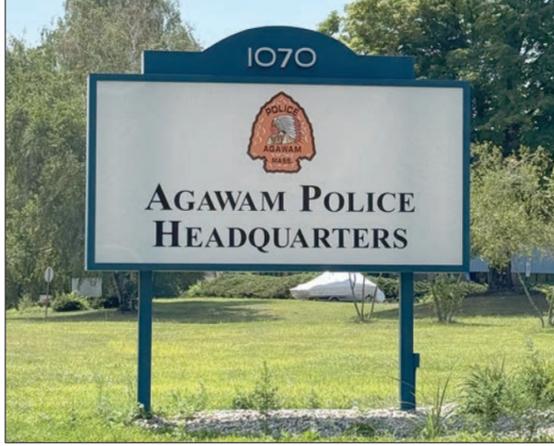
This will help the police to more easily be able to track and locate their evidence.

Additionally, this upgrade will allow the department to keep the evidence that needs to be refrigerated in the same area as the rest of the evidence, another improvement from the old station.

Johnson and the police are eager to see this project completed. The station has been under construction since the fall of 2023, and all involved are excited to see their efforts come to fruition.



New paving has been completed in the parking lot. Handicapped access signage must still be installed.



The new police headquarters sign is shown near the side at the road of the 1070 Suffield St. location.



The new Agawam Police headquarters is nearing completion with a fall opening expected.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

## Parish Cupboard to hold pickleball fundraiser

AGAWAM / WEST SPRINGFIELD – West Springfield Agawam Parish Cupboard 3rd Annual Pickleball FUNdraiser will be held Saturday, Sept. 13 at Mittin-



eague Park in West Springfield. All ages welcome – Recreational and Competitive play divisions. For info or to register: [www.theparishcupboard.org](http://www.theparishcupboard.org) or call 413-734-7969.

## DPW announces Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day set for Sept. 6

AGAWAM – The Agawam Department of Public Works is planning to hold its annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Saturday, Sept. 6 at the DPW Annex, 1000 Suffield Street between 9 a.m. and 12 noon. Although

this event is free to Agawam residents, pre-registration is required. Appointments may be scheduled by calling the DPW at 821-0600 ext.4 or 821-0624 beginning Monday, Aug. 19. Participants should remain in their vehicle and

place all waste in the trunk, rear cargo area, or truck bed.

This program offers residents a safe, economical way to dispose of household items that are flammable, reactive, corrosive or toxic. Solvents, pesticides, caustic cleaners,

and oil-based paints are some examples of the different types of items that will be accepted. Latex paint will not be accepted at this event. For a more detailed list of acceptable materials visit the town website at [www.agawam.ma.us](http://www.agawam.ma.us).

# Quick. Convenient. Coming Soon.

Agawam's new home for urgent care is opening at 27 Suffield Street.



Learn more at [convenientmd.com](http://convenientmd.com)



# Opinion

## From the Editor

### Here in your homes, working for the community

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
Editor

Hello, once again, and thank you for picking up and reading this week's *Agawam Advertiser News*.

We are so thrilled to have our publication direct-mailed to every home in the community you just a sample of what we have to offer here at the *Advertiser News*.

Every year is different, in terms of what is happening, what kinds of issues people are monitoring, and the current climate, which is so volatile.

But here in Agawam and at the *Advertiser*, we are hyper focused on the kind of news we know you need to be reading about.

In this week's edition, that huge issue regarding the lithium-ion storage facility is at the forefront of people's attention. No matter which way you land on this issue, we know it matters to you and our reporters are covering the appeal that is now in the hands of land court, and an informational meeting that was set to occur earlier this week. Check out next week's edition to hear about about that meeting.

And as always, we would love to hear from you. Letters to the editor are not only welcome regarding the things that are going on right here in Agawam, but they are very much encouraged.

As is customary every odd year, we are in the midst of election season now, and your mayor, city councilors, and school committee members will be up for election.

In next week's edition, you will find out the confirmed list of those who are

up for election and re-election to those seats. In the coming weeks, the *Advertiser* will give all of those candidates an opportunity to answer questions about what it is important them and to the community as they try to earn your vote.

If there is an issue or a question you would like to see us ask the candidates about, please email [aan@turley.com](mailto:aan@turley.com) and we can consider your questions for this year's election issue, which will come out in mid-to-late October.

In the coming weeks, school will get back underway and like usual, there will be lots of activity happening throughout the community as back-to-school activities get going, boards and committee start to pick up their activities, and fall sports high school get back underway, including the return of Friday (and sometimes Thursday) night football.

We promise to bring you as much as of the action as we can as the fall gets underway.

And like always, the *Advertiser* needs your help. Please let us know of activities happening within the community or the schools that you would like to see make it in our publication. We want to highlight the achievements of students, and teachers, and all of the various civic groups that do such great work in the community.

And if there's something we are not aware of that is happening, please write in to us and let us know and we will do our best to get out there and cover it.

The *Agawam Advertiser News* is here for you and we hope you will consider picking up our paper every week going forward. Thanks again for reading.



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

## Guest Column

### Rust is no joke

This time of year I always get a few questions from gardeners who wonder what type of disease is afflicting their treasured hollyhocks.

Sadly, it's affecting mine too. Read on for more information on this malady.

Two years ago I planted Hollyhock seeds indoors. The plants grew wonderfully that first year with nice deep green basal foliage.

Being biennial in nature, year two is when they came into their glory with incredibly beautiful pink flowers on towering six to seven foot spikes. Now it's year three – a gift when biennials are concerned.

The plants started out fine and then I noticed a few raised orange-brown spots on the leaves. By season's end, the plants are pale in color and covered with the rusty orange spots.

Most of the lower foliage has been destroyed and has dropped to the ground.

My hollyhocks are suffering from a fungal problem by the name of rust. It first appears as waxy orange blisters, known as "pustules" on the undersides of the lower most foliage. On the surface of the leaves small, orange-yellow spots form.

Hollyhock rust rarely kills its host, but it can make plants look quite unsightly. In a severe infestation like

er to allow for good air flow.

In the case of hollyhocks, I'd recommend about 18 inches. We can't control when it rains, but when we supply the moisture timing and application count. Water around the base of the plants, without it touching the foliage, and do so early in the morning so that leaves have a chance to dry before nightfall.

Apply new bark mulch each spring to cover spores that may be waiting in the soil. And lastly, when planting new seedlings, locate them as far away as possible from previously grown plants even if they didn't have a serious infestation.

Although I've never tried this myself, I have read a few testimonials from gardeners who had luck applying corn meal to their soil in an effort to control soil borne fungal diseases such as rust. Reportedly it stimulates beneficial organisms that feed on pathogens. Two pounds per one hundred square feet is recommended.

Even if it doesn't work, it probably won't hurt!

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



## Guest Column



### I'm still confused about Medicare Part A and Part B enrollment

Dear Rusty:

I'm 64 and still working full time, and plan to continue working at least until I'm 70 ~ it's a good job, and I enjoy it.

My job comes with health insurance, so I don't really need additional coverage, but I understand I will be required to sign up for Medicare Part A anyway when I turn 65 next year. What I don't understand is Part B: A colleague of mine, who is a little older than I am, said she signed up for Part B because a penalty will be incurred if we wait until we retire from our jobs and actually need

the additional insurance. I'm not sure she's right. Can you explain what I should do?

Signed: Confused About Medicare

Dear Confused:

We're happy to assist you with understanding this. First, enrolling in Medicare Part A (coverage for inpatient hospitalization service) is mandatory to collect Social Security after age 65. If you do not plan to take your Social Security benefits yet, you can defer enrolling in Part A until you claim

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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](mailto:aan@turley.com). Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that

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

### Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper

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

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



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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters.

All letters are subject to editing for content and length. The deadline is Monday at noon. Please send letters to Agawam Advertiser News, care of Turley Publications Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, or e-mail [aan@turley.com](mailto:aan@turley.com).



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## Upcoming activities at Agawam Senior Center

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

### Continuing Sessions with Glenn Olsen

Aug. 22 at 1 p.m. in the Conference Room

A little about me, I was a long term successful Physical Science Special Educator. In January of 2010 I had a severely disabling stroke. For the past 15 years I have focused on rehabilitation from my injuries with both traditional and non-traditional methods.

We have discussed topics essential to living a healthy life style such as foods, nutrition, and vitamins. We will continue to talk about fascinating topics such as muscle testing, energy levels, orbs, the significance of color and more. I look forward to having you a part of our discussion.

### Michelle A. Mccarthy, RMT – The heart-to-heart healing connection

Monday, Aug. 25 at 12 noon  
Must sign up in advance.

Reiki is a Japanese stress reduction and relaxation technique. It is based on the idea that a "Life Force Energy" flows through each of us. When your Life Force Energy is low, you are more likely to feel the effects of stress or to feel ill. Reiki is a "hands on" method of reducing stress, promoting relaxation and creating balance in ourselves and our actions. Appointments on Monday, Aug. 25 beginning at 12 noon. Call Kristina at 726-2836 to book your appointment. Cost is \$20 per 20-minute session in the library.

### Jewelry Making with Sandy

Agawam Senior Center Computer Tech & Support Club

Aug. 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. 26.

## Veterans Green to be relocated

By Quinn Suomala  
Correspondent

AGAWAM – Mayor Christopher Johnson came before the city council on Aug. 4 to provide them with an update on paving and community projects in town.

One major project Johnson discussed is the Veteran's Green project. This project will involve moving Veteran's Green from in front of Phelps to School Street Park.

"It will involve constructing a very nice plaza area at School Street Park, moving all the monuments over and, we added to the project, constructing a new bell tower," Johnson said.

The goal of this project is to improve the spaces the town has in place for people to honor and celebrate our veterans.

Johnson shared that the town had prepared a contract to go out to bid for the project, and he just needed the council's approval of the use of Community Protection Act funding for the project to move forward.

City Councilor Anthony Suffriti was particularly excited about the possibilities for this project.

"I saw the drawings for this," Suffriti said. "It is beautiful, it is really going to make the ceremonies nicer, it is going to make it a more comfortable area, and it is going to be a real staple point of School Street Park."

He also shared that part of the project will allow people to purchase a paver to memorialize a veteran's name

"You can keep your family's and loved one's names alive who served this country," Suffriti said.

The council was eager to approve this project, and voted unanimously in favor of the motion to use CPA funding to support the process.

During his presentation, Johnson also shared the town's work on paving and roadway improvements.

For example, Johnson shared that the town has received state approval to convert the Pine and Berry

Street intersection into a four-way stop in the hopes of improving the safety of that area.

Additionally, at the Suffield, Cooper and Riley Street Intersection, the town will be replacing the signals and adding a left turn lane coming North on 75.

"The signals are over 70 years old, so they need to be replaced," Johnson said. "Also, what happens in the intersection now is if someone is turning left, you might be stuck waiting for the cycle again for them to turn."

Johnson shared that he is hopeful that this project will be done towards the middle or two-thirds of the way through 2026.

The town will also be doing a full reclamation on Anthony Street, Valentine Street, Valentine Terrace, Arrowwood Drive and Cottonwood Lane.

"Some of them are in really poor condition and some had utility work done on them, so there will be a full-depth reclamation on all of them," Johnson said.

Furthermore, about 30 different streets will be receiving fog sealing, crack sealing and delta misting through the end of September.

Johnson shared that in this past year, Agawam has put more funding into paving than ever before. The total comes to almost \$3 million.

"We have been getting some extra money from the state and the council has appropriated some funds," Johnson said. "When you look at what we have spent over the last 10 years, we are doing more now than we have in the past."

He felt this demonstrated the town's dedication to improving the quality of life in Agawam.

To keep up to date on different town projects, go to Agawam Media to watch the city council meetings.

City Council President Rosemary Sandlin shared she plans to have Johnson in at the beginning of each month to present on various projects.

## Library offers 80 beers program

AGAWAM – This Monday, Agawam Public Library will host "Around the World in 80 Beers" in the Judith Clini Community Room. Join Advanced Cicerone, author, cartoonist and international

beer judge, Em Sauter, for a fully illustrated guide to the world of beer from its long history to myriad styles and more. We'll travel throughout the world to

see how different cultures enjoy beer -- after all it is one of the most popular beverages on earth.

This event is sponsored by the Agawam Center Library Association.

## AFD to host annual 9/11 ceremony

AGAWAM – The Town of Agawam will be conducting a brief September 11th remembrance ceremony on Thursday Sept. 11 at 9 a.m. in front of Agawam Fire Department Headquarters,

800 Main Street, Agawam.

The ceremony will honor those who lost their lives in the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Speaking in remembrance at the ceremony will be: Agawam Fire Chief

Alan Sirois, Agawam Mayor Christopher Johnson, Father Bill Hamilton, Agawam Fire Department Chaplain, Pastor Daniel Cohen, Agawam Congregational Church

### SECURITY ■ from page 4

Social Security. But Medicare Part A is also free to those eligible for Social Security, so there is little reason not to enroll in Part A at age 65 and, when you claim Social Security, you will be automatically enrolled.

Part B, which is coverage for outpatient healthcare services (doctors, medical tests, etc.), is different. Part B is always optional because there is a premium associated with it (standard premium is \$185/month in 2025), but nearly everyone over age 65 requires

healthcare coverage. If, however, you are employed and have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your employer ("creditable" is a group plan with more than 20 participants), then you can defer enrolling in Medicare Part B until your creditable employer coverage ends. And you can do so without incurring a "late enrollment penalty" for enrolling in Part B outside of your Initial Enrollment Period. When your creditable coverage from your employer ends, you will enter an 8-month Medicare "Special Enrollment Period," which

permits you to enroll in Part B without penalty.

Thus, as long as your employer coverage is "creditable," you can defer enrolling in Part B without penalty. FYI, you can also enroll in Part B a couple of months prior to your employer coverage ending, asking that your Part B coverage starts when your employer coverage ends, to avoid any gap in healthcare coverage. Note you will likely need your employer to provide you with proof of creditable coverage when you later enroll in Part B.

A couple of extra thoughts:

If you require prescription drug coverage when your employer coverage ends after age 65, you only have 63 days to acquire that drug coverage without incurring a "Part D" (drug plan) late enrollment penalty. So, if needed, you should not wait to get insurance coverage for prescription drugs after you employer coverage ends.

If you now have a Health Savings Account through your employer, you should discontinue any HSA contributions well before (perhaps as much as six months before) your enrollment in Medicare

Part A. That's because Part A is not considered a "high deductible" insurance plan (a "high deductible" plan is a requirement for having a Health Savings Account). If you do not have an HSA, you need not be concerned about this. If you do, we can also provide you with more info on this.

I hope this answers your questions, but we are always here to assist if you need anything further. Contact us at SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org or at (800-750-2622).

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with

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

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## EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of LABOR DAY, there will be an **EARLY AD DEADLINE** To advertise, place your ad no later than **NOON Thursday, August 28**

– Thank you!

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# Arts festival set for this weekend

AGAWAM – The Agawam Community Artists and Artisans will hold its Fifth Annual Pioneer Valley Art Festival on Saturday, Aug. 23 and Sunday, Aug. 24 at the Polish American Club, 139 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

There will be 75 artists and artisans participating in the festival. The featured event, The New England Mosaic, a 120-foot wall of art composed of 170 canvases painted by community members, will be on display.

The canvases will be sold at the festival, with net proceeds benefiting the Gloria McLellan Art Scholarship. This past May, as a result of the Mosaic, ACAA awarded three \$1,200 scholarships to area students pursuing a degree in the visual arts.

This year there will also be a Children's Mosaic made up of 40 canvases painted by

children directed by members of the Agawam Public Library, the West Springfield Public Library and the Red Thread Art Network of West Springfield.

In 2026 our nation will be marking the 250th year of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. At this year's festival, we will begin celebrating this event with our own "Art Walk Through History" exhibit. In commemoration, members of the Pioneer Valley Historical Network will be attending the festival. Historical societies will present their "History On the Go" program initiative that brings historical institutions together for a coordinated "trail" of history-themed visits that allows the public to explore local history. In addition, Rob Keenan of Agawam and The 25th Continental Regiment will parade through

the festival. David Cecchi of Agawam, Robert Madison of Agawam, and Bruce Cortis of Feeding Hills, authors of local history, will be signing their books.

The Warrior's Art Room, a non-profit organization that was co-founded by Steve Jones, will be in attendance at the festival. Steve, a veteran of the United States Marine Corps, served in Iraq from 2001-2009. The non-profit provides a therapeutic environment to help veterans cope with invisible wounds of war through artistic expression. The center, located in the Keystone Building in Easthampton, provides space for the veter-

ans and their families to display and sell their artwork. The veterans will bring art that expresses their healing. The art will be available for purchase.

Agawam Rocks will be hosting free rock painting for everyone. Agawam resident Jen Baginski Pronovost and her committee members volunteer to instruct rock painting classes throughout Agawam. The rocks display scenes of happiness, gratitude and fun. She was given a rock garden at School Street Park in Agawam and in the memory of her brother Frank, continues to add rocks with loving inspirational messages on them.

# Supplies running short for cat sanctuary

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

Just a reminder that we have a donation bin at the Agawam Public Library. Please include contact information with donations if you would like an acknowl-

edgement. We are grateful for every donation. Local pick up is available by calling 786-5019.

Thank you to everyone who donated goods or monetary donations in July. Your generosity is appreciated by the cats and their humans. We are still looking for a location for a food drive.

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

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

# Agawam Senior Center announces new trips

AGAWAM – Insider's Travel, in collaboration with the Agawam Senior Center, has added two new one-day bus trips to its fall lineup for active seniors:

- **Tuesday, Sept. 9** – WatersEdge Spa Luncheon and Clinton Outlets - Enjoy a relaxing lunch at this oceanfront spa plus outlet shopping.

- **Tuesday, Oct. 14** – Aqua Turf's "Legends of Las Vegas" Show and Evergreen Walk - A fabulous Vegas-style performance and time to stroll or shop.

- **Thursday, Nov. 6** – Mystery Trip - A surprise destination filled with fun and discovery.

- **Wednesday, November 19** – Radio City Rockettes 100th Anniversary Spectacular - Celebrate the season with this once-

in-a-century New York holiday tradition.

- **Thursday, Dec. 4** – Encore Casino OR New England Aquarium - Choose your day—try your luck or explore underwater wonders.

New Standby Seating Now Available! Want to travel but keep it flexible? Now offering Standby Seating for all Insider's Travel bus trips! No commitment • Free to sign up • Pick your trips & save up to 25% with last-minute pricing • Perfect for spontaneous travelers looking for a great deal and a little adventure

All Trips depart from the Agawam Senior Center. Seats are limited—Call Jo at (413) 478-4698 or Email: [Insiderstravel2025@gmail.com](mailto:Insiderstravel2025@gmail.com).

# AHS Athletic Hall announces inductees

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School Athletic Hall of Fame Committee proudly announces the inductees for 2025. All of these individuals represent significant athletic achievement.

This year's inductees include the following individuals: Riley Hellstein (Class of 2013) lacrosse and All-American soccer; Anthony Klenakis (Class of 1959) football, hockey, baseball; Kristen (Schmaelzle) Labelle (Class of 1995) soccer, basketball, softball; Bill Polopek (Class of 1966) football, basketball, baseball; Francis Rosso (Class of 1938) baseball, football,

hockey; and Rielly Wieners (Class of 2013) multi-award winning softball catcher.

Also to be inducted is the 2003 Western Mass champion baseball team.

This year's luncheon and induction ceremony will be held at Agawam High School on October 18th beginning at noon. Tickets are \$30 each and can be purchased by sending a check with the number of tickets wanted to Rosemary Stratton, 120 Pineview Circle, Agawam, MA 01001 (413) 786-7692 or by contacting the AHS Athletic Department. All are welcome to attend.

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## LPVEC going electric

AGAWAM – The Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative is proud to announce the addition of electric school buses to its fleet beginning with the 2025-2026 school year. This move marks a significant step toward cleaner, quieter, and more energy-efficient school transportation for our students.

Join the LPVEC for an information session on Tuesday, Aug. 25 at 6 p.m. at Agawam Junior High School.

### What to expect:

- A comprehensive overview of electric school buses
- Learn about their en-

gines, battery systems, and technology

- Compare electric buses to diesel, gas, and propane options

- Get a first-hand look at an electric bus before the 2025-2026 school year begins

- Ask questions and share your thoughts with LPVEC and BlueBird representatives

### Why Electric Buses?

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If you have questions, call (413) 735-2200 or email [evbus@lpvec.org](mailto:evbus@lpvec.org).

## AJHS Maze Day and New Student Orientation

AGAWAM – The Agawam Junior High School faculty and administration cordially invite you to attend our Maze Day and the “Seventh Grade and new 8th Grade Student Orientation” on Thursday, Aug. 28 in the AJHS Auditorium. There will only be one Maze Day this year and we will invite our returning 8th grade students to join us from 3 to 5 pm. and incoming seventh and new eighth grade students and families to AJHS from 5 to 7 p.m. These times are windows and families do not have to be here for the entire two hours. “Orientation” is open to all seventh-grade students, new to 8th grade AJHS stu-

dents, and their parents/guardians. We will have two orientation sessions for flexibility for families to attend. The first session will be at 5 p.m. and the second session will start at 6 p.m. Orientation sessions will last approximately 30 minutes and provide important details for families about AJHS expectations and routines. Both orientation sessions are the same and you only need to attend one. If you are unable to attend your scheduled Maze Day window you may attend the other session but will need to check in with the registration table so you are directed to the correct grade level section of the cafeteria.

During the “Maze” portion of the event, you will receive and complete important paperwork, sign up for school activities and clubs and get more information regarding particular programs offered at the junior high school. In addition, our PTO will also be on hand to provide information on upcoming events and activities being offered to the students, as well as get your input and ideas you’d like shared with the school and student body. After completing the Maze Days paperwork, students will be provided their Homeroom (first period)/team assignments for the upcoming school year. The

process should not take more than 30 minutes to complete and, you will be able to complete the google form packet that will be emailed and also available on our website ([www.agawamed.org](http://www.agawamed.org)), and submit it before going into the Student Orientation meeting at 5 or 6 p.m. Our school nurse will also be here to answer questions, collect physical forms, medication and any health-related paperwork. There will be Chromebooks available for families to complete the form during Maze Days as well. Students will also pick up their Chromebooks from Mrs. Bruno-Santaniello in the library during Maze Day.

## Freshman and new student orientation scheduled Thursday

AGAWAM – Agawam High School’s Grade 9 and new student orientation will take place on Thursday, Aug. 28 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. All students new to AHS are encouraged to attend.

This is a student only event, and is an opportunity for students to meet new friends, school administrators, current AHS student leaders, and school staff.

Chromebooks will be distributed and students will tour the building, and access their schedule through the Powerschool App.

Our Student Leaders are called “Chiefs”, and will bring them on a tour around the building where they will have time to learn and meet with students who participate in a wide variety of extracurricular

clubs and sports.

Transportation will be available for students. There will be a bus picking up and returning students from the Feeding Hills section and another from the Agawam section. The bus schedules are posted on the Agawam High School website and are attached below. We look forward to seeing freshmen on Thursday, Aug. 28.

## Veterans Cemetery friends group holding golf tournament Aug. 31

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.

This exciting event promises a day of camaraderie, remembrance, and community support. 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.

Event Details: 18 Holes of Golf with a cart, lunch, dinner and a raffle entry.

**Location:** Agawam Municipal Golf Course

**Date:** Aug. 31

**Time:** 12 noon

**Registration Options:**

- Individual Golfer: \$125

- Team of Four: \$450

- Dinner Only: \$30

**Tea Sponsor:** \$100

(Company or “In Memory of” dedication)

Other Sponsorship Opportunities Available

**Payments Accepted:**

- Check (payable to FM-VMCA, PO Box 03, Feeding

Hills, MA 01030)

- Venmo

- Credit Card (by phone)

**To Register or Sponsor:**

Contact Marline Cla-

remont at 413-221-9548

or email [wreathfriends@gmail.com](mailto:wreathfriends@gmail.com).

Registration forms are

available upon request.

Join us in honoring

those who served with a round of golf, good food, and great company—all for a noble cause.



## AHS Class of 1975 to hold reunion Oct. 4

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 [connie-beaudette@yahoo.com](mailto:connie-beaudette@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.”

### GRANT ■ from page 1

corner to the Morgan-Sullivan Bridge have been reconstructed in recent years. The state has also completely reconstructed Feeding Hills Center with multiple dedicated turn lanes. All of the intersections have gotten Complete Streets treatment with dedicated bike lanes and new traffic signals and crosswalks at all of the locations.

## Grange holding open house

AGAWAM – Community Grange #382 of Feeding Hills will hold an Open House on Saturday, Sept. 6 from 12 to 2 p.m. in honor of our 100th

Anniversary. The Grange Hall is located at 47 North West Street. Stop in, say hello and enjoy some light refreshments.

## Chamber to host business expo

AGAWAM – The West of the River Chamber of Commerce will hold the Western Mass. Small Business Expos on Wednesday,

Oct. 8 from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Carriage House at Storowton Tavern on the fairgrounds of Eastern States Exposition.

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4. Each completed delivery using the promo code **BIGE** between now and Sept. 9, 2025, will automatically earn you one (1) entry into the sweepstakes. Limit one entry via this method per person, per day.

### Free Mail-in Entry NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN

BlazeXpress “Big E Blaze to Win” Sweepstakes, PO Box 6403, Holyoke, MA 01041. Mail-in entries must be postmarked by Sept. 9, 2025, and received by September 10th, 2025. Limit one mail-in entry per person.

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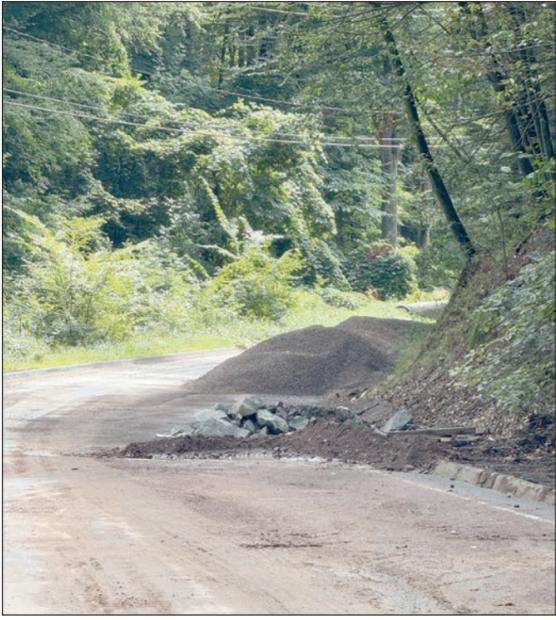
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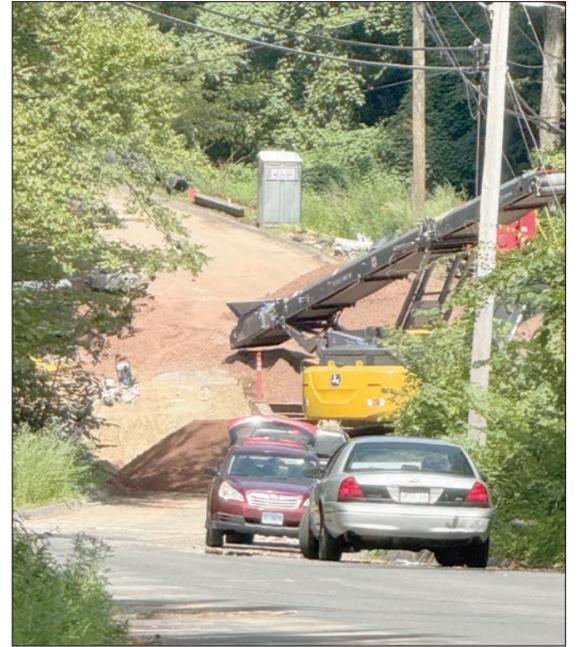
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Gravel from the road project is piled closer to the actual construction site. This portion of North Westfield St. has been closed for months.



Old signage is gathered on the south side of the culvert as crews work to restore the Northwest Culvert.



DPW Superintendent Mario Mazza is reporting work should be completed by early September. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

**CULVERTY** ■ from page 1

St, which took a bit of time to complete, due to materials being substituted out; however felt overall positive about how everything has gone.

“Overall, I think the project has been on schedule, but more or less, no complaints,” Mazza said. He also noted that the North St. project and Northwest were ‘sister assignments’ they were looking at, and in the end, working on the first, helped pave the way for a smooth transition.

“Both needed to be done,” Mazza noted. “When we did the other

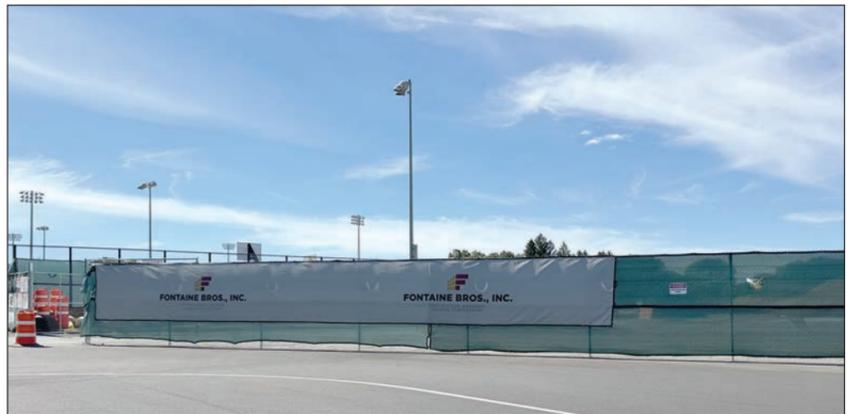
one (North St.) a couple of years ago, there were a lot of issues with that we were able to learn from it, and in the end it allowed us to update the specifications, before we started this culvert replacement, so lesson learned, and this project has gone a lot smoother than its predecessor.”

The final thing Mazza touched upon was putting out a call to the public to be a bit patient, and to understand their frustrations were heard, and the project is nearing completion.

“We know it’s been closed for a while, and we know the detour has caused folks to avoid that

area for several months now, but we are nearly at the end of the project, and we thank you for your understanding and patience as we wrap it up,” said Mazza.

The thru-traffic that travels from Feeding Hills center through to Westfield’s Little River Rd and toward the Westfield Shops has been the most affected. Most have utilized North St. Ext. and North West St. as the main detour while others have accessed Westfield by crossing the train tracks into West Springfield and heading west on Rte. 20 to get to Westfield.



There are two entrances now to the Mill St. parking lot at Agawam High. One is a separate entrance to the construction site. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

**WORK** ■ from page 1

Johnson shared as well that the town is lucky that the contractor signed for the steel uses only United States steel, meaning the steel prices will not be subject to tariffs.

“We did not want to be in a situation where we award a bid and a contractor says, ‘well today it is 50% so here is my bid based on it being 50%’ but then by the time they actually procure the materials it is down to 20% or 10%,” Johnson said. “But the provider we picked uses only U.S. steel, so the price is good.”

So far, all of the con-

struction has been entirely on schedule and on budget, which is good news for the progression of the project.

“So far we have awarded \$85 million of the project; not \$85 million of work has been completed, but \$85 million has been awarded,” Johnson said. “So it is moving forward.”

Should that remain the same, the project is anticipated to be complete by December 2028.

The current portion of the project that is under way is the community wing of the new building and the related parking. It is anticipated that this portion of the project

will be complete by December 2026.

Following that phase of the project construction will begin on the academic wing of the new building and the associated parking for that area. That portion of the project should be complete by June of 2028.

The final phase of the project will be demolition of the current building and completion of the athletic fields, which is anticipated to take through December 2028.

To keep updated on the progress of this project, go to the website at <https://agawamhsproject.com/>.



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# SPORTS

## Cyclones capture quarters win



Bella Gauthier gets the layup.

AGAWAM – The Agawam Cyclones, a 5-6 B girls summer basketball team, made it to the Spec Pond Summer Basketball League playoffs earlier this month. The Cyclones would defeat Flamingo Motorsports in the opening round on Aug. 4 29-20, but lost in the semifinals against the East Longmeadow Spartans 25-21. The Cyclones had a 3-7 regular season.



Yvie Whitley gets a big block.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY  
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Kara Hutchison drives past midcourt.



Cece Whitley goes for the free throw.



Isla Paulo gets the jumping shot.

## Youth football preparation underway

AGAWAM – The Agawam Youth Football Association continues to field three teams in the Suburban Amateur Football League.

Practices have been taking place for the last few weeks in advance of the reg-

ular season opener, set to take place during Labor Day weekend.

Youth football plays an eight-game regular season schedule with playoffs taking place near the end of October and early November.



Cole Smith looks to avoid being tackled.



Andrew St. Jean holds the ball while practicing a run.



Gavin Minalga, a Seniors team member, does a running play.



Olivia Averill takes a snap.



Youth football practices are ongoing at Kirk Parker Field.



Members of the Juniors team warm up.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Leart Preniqi takes a handoff.



Members of the Seniors team receive instructions from the coaching staff.

## Short-handed Villa FC captures PVSSL Men's Championship

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – After being forced to play the final 20 minutes of regulation with only ten players, the chances of winning the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League men's championship title for the second consecutive year didn't look very promising for third-seeded Villa FC.

The defending champions, who were trailing 1-0, managed to tie the match against top-seeded Cap & Hitch of New England with less than a minute remaining in the second half.

The score remained tied during the two 10-minute overtime periods.

During the ninth round

of the penalty shootout, Villa goalie Lucas Morales-Fernandez made an outstanding diving save giving his team an exciting 1-1 (9-8 PK's) win over Cap & Hitch at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow earlier this month.

"This is our second championship in a year, and it feels excellent," said Villa player/coach Mike Lima following the match, which lasted more than two hours. "We're one of the better teams in this league, so everybody always wants to be beat us. We were trailing late in second half, but we were able to battle back."

Lima, who shared the coaching duties with Ruben



Villa FC captured the PVSSL Men's Championship earlier this month.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

# Sports

**PVSSL ■ from page 9**

Sousa, is one of the Villa FC players who graduated from Ludlow High School.

The other former Ludlow High School soccer players listed on the Villa FC roster are Kyle Tomas, who received a red card during the 60th minute, Brandon McCarthy and Enzo Botta.

A year ago, Villa FC, who plays their home matches at Minnechaug Regional, defeated Lusitano White in the men's finals. They also took home the championship trophy in 2017 with a 3-2 win over Pros Malaca.

Anthony Basile was select-

ed as this year's MVP award winner. He was also the M.V.P. of the 2017 championship match.

"This is a very special team with a lot of very special players," said Basile, who's from East Longmeadow. "I'm very happy that I'm still able to be a part of it."

Villa FC, who finished the regular season with a 9-1-2 record, advanced into this year's finals after defeating sixth-seeded STCC Alum in a penalty shootout in the quarterfinals, and Lusitano Red, 6-2, in the semifinals.

Cap & Hitch (11-1) joined the prestigious summer league a year ago. They dis-



Kamer Nuhui, of Agawam, possesses the ball for Cap & Hitch.



Anthony Basile, an Agawam High School graduate, poses with the trophy and league co-president Dianna Kolodziey.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

patched eighth-seeded Empower Health, 5-0, in the quarterfinals and the White's 6-2 in the semifinals.

"This was just an unbelievable match by both teams. It's tough that someone had to lose," said Cap & Hitch head coach Bennett Walsh. "I've never been involved in a match where they were 18 shots in the penalty shootout. I'm very proud of my guys."

Both teams had chances to

take the lead during the first half, which was 40 minutes long.

Cap & Hitch had the first opportunity during the 26th minute.

Ethan Czaporowski, who played soccer at Belchertown High School, weaved around a couple of defenders inside the box before firing a shot that deflected off the crossbar.

Another former Belchertown player listed on the Cap

& Hitch roster is Shay O'Neill, who's father, Devin, is the longtime men's soccer coach at Western New England University.

A minute later, Gabriel Ganzer, who plays for Villa, had a breakaway opportunity, but his shot attempt bounced off the left post.

Ganzer, who's a former member of the Western Mass. Pioneers, recorded a hat-trick in last year's finals. He was also selected as the 2024 MVP winner.

This year's championship match was still scoreless at the half.

Cap & Hitch was given a penalty shot by referee Fabio Cardoso following a foul in the box twenty minutes into the second half.

Kamer Nuhui, who graduated from Agawam High School, stepped up to the line and fired a shot into the net past Morales-Fernandez.

During that sequence, Cardoso gave Tomas a red card leaving Villa with only ten players on the field.

Cardoso continued to issue yellow cards like they were parking tickets, which kept the match from getting out of control.

Basile tied the score at 1-1 after putting a shot into the net past goalie Alberto Truoiolo with only a couple seconds remaining in regulation.

"I just saw an opportunity," he said. "I just swung my foot and watched the ball roll to the back of the net. It just felt great."

At the end of the second overtime period, Bryant Keeney had a chance to be the

hero for Villa, but his line-drive shot hooked wide.

The nine Villa players that made PK's during the shootout were Andre Morrison, Joao Miranda, Shane Sewell, Andrew Ortiz, Quin Serafino, Mason Perham, Mike Willis, McCarthy, and Ganzer.

The eight PK's made by the Cap & Hitch players were Simba Pelletier, Bennett Walsh Jr., John Senn-McNally, Dominic Cirelli, Connor Westlocki, Czaporowski, O'Neill, and Nuhui.

Morales-Fernandez finally ended the match by making a save on a shot attempt by Nathan Sanchez.

It was another memorable summer for the members of Villa FC.



Mike Willis, of Ludlow, heads the ball for Villa.



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# Sports

## Basketball Hall of Fame releases enshrinement schedule

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame has announced additional details, including start times for key events, regarding the Class of 2025 Enshrinement Weekend.

The Class of 2025 celebration will culminate with the Enshrinement Ceremony on Saturday, Sept. 6, in Springfield – the Birthplace of Basketball.

Revealed in April, the Class of 2025 includes nine honorees, WNBA legends Sue Bird, Sylvia Fowles, and Maya Moore; and NBA stars Carmelo Anthony and Dwight Howard. Other inductees include two-time NCAA championship coach Billy Donovan; legendary NBA referee Danny Crawford; Miami Heat owner Micky Arison; and the 2008 USA Basketball Men's National Team.

Enshrinement Weekend will tip off at Mohegan Sun on Friday, September 5, starting with the always-popular autograph session, followed by a re-formatted Media Availability, and concluding with the headlining Tip-Off Celebration and Awards Gala. The evening will also include special recognition

for the 2025 Curt Gowdy Media Award recipients, George Blaha, Clark Kellogg, Michelle Smith, and Adrian Wojnarowski, as well as long-time Boston Celtics executive Jeff Twiss, the recipient of the John W. Bunn Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Class of 2025 and over 40 returning Hall of Famers will then journey to Springfield, Mass., for the annual celebratory events taking place at the acclaimed Marriott Springfield Downtown as well as Springfield's Symphony Hall. Fans and guests are also encouraged to tour and visit the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame on Enshrinement Weekend, where special events such as the Ice Cube Impact Award and SuperFan presentations will take place.

Details of the schedule of events for Enshrinement 2025 are as follows:

### Friday, Sept. 5

Class of 2025 Autograph Session at Mohegan Sun (Uncasville, Conn.)

11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: Meet the Class of 2025 at their first public Enshrinement Weekend event! Each ticket to this

event grants you the opportunity to receive one autograph per class member.

### Enshrinement 2025 Media Availability at Mohegan Sun

2 to 4 p.m.: The Hall of Fame will implement a new media availability format, offering structured interview stations and podium access to the inductees to facilitate in-depth coverage.

### Enshrinement Tip-Off Celebration and Awards Gala at Mohegan Sun

5:30 to 7:30 p.m.: Reception  
6:30 to 7:30 p.m.: Red Carpet

8-10 p.m.: Gala Program

The Class of 2025 and the Hall's prestigious annual award recipients will be celebrated at this televised Enshrinement event at Mohegan Sun. This event will feature the unveiling of the Class of 2025 rings, presented by Baron Championship Rings, and the awarding of the Class of 2025 Hall of Fame jackets, provided by Reveal Suits. The program will also include the presentation of the Hall's annual John W.

Bunn Lifetime Achievement Award and the Curt Gowdy Media Awards, and recognition for the National Wheelchair Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2025.

### Saturday, Sept. 6 Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Museum Hours

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Jr. NBA Clinic at Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame (Springfield, Mass.)

9 to 11 a.m.: Young athletes will take part in a high-energy Jr. NBA basketball clinic that focuses on fun, skill development, and teamwork. Participants will work with trained coaches on fundamentals such as dribbling, shooting, passing, and defense, while also learning the core values of the game, sportsmanship, respect, and effort.

Coaches Circle Presentation at Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame (Springfield, Mass.)

1 to 2 p.m.: Join us in celebrating the exceptional coaches who will be honored with benches in the Naismith Coaching Circle. Established in 2015, the Naismith Coaches Circle program was creat-

ed to pay tribute to basketball's first coach, Dr. James Naismith, and to uphold the core values he instilled in his players: teamwork, determination, self-respect, leadership, initiative, and perseverance.

Ice Cube Impact Award Presentation at Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame (Springfield, Mass.)

2 to 2:30 p.m.: Jalen Rose, former player, TV analyst, and philanthropist, will be honored in a ceremony on the Jerry Colangelo Court of Dreams. This award recognizes individuals making substantial contributions to their communities through basketball.

*Note: Ice Cube is scheduled to present the award in person*

SuperFan Presentation at Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame (Springfield, Mass.)

2:30 to 3 p.m.: Several NBA SuperFans will be honored in the James F. Goldstein SuperFan Gallery. This special space is dedicated to celebrating the most iconic and passionate fans of the game.

*NOTE: The 2025 SuperFan Class will be announced at a later date*

### Enshrinement Ceremony Reception at the Marriott Springfield Downtown

4 to 5:45 p.m.: Toast the incoming Hall of Fame Class of 2025 at the Marriott's rooftop prior to the sport's ultimate recognition. The party is limited to select ticket holders for the Enshrinement Ceremony.

### Enshrinement Ceremony Red Carpet Show at Symphony Hall

6 to 7 p.m.: The Class of 2025, returning Hall of Famers, and many of the sport's icons walk the red carpet in a live NBA TV broadcast from outside Symphony Hall and down East Columbus Avenue.

### Enshrinement Ceremony at Symphony Hall

7 to 9 p.m.: One of the most elite events on the basketball calendar, the Hall of Fame Class of 2025 will be formally enshrined into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in a nationally televised ceremony on NBA TV. The stars of basketball will gather to celebrate the newest group of the sport's iconic figures.

## Emerling takes Thompson 150 win

THOMPSON, CT – An incredible flood of fans entered Thompson Speedway on Wednesday night for the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour's annual midweek Thompson 150 with plenty of magic in the air. Along with a much anticipated visit from Geoff Bodine and the original Big Red Machine #1 from his stellar 1978 campaign, the NASCAR touring teams battled in the Tour's 750th event back where it all began in 1985.

Ron Silk got the capacity crowd on their feet during Hoosier Racing Tire qualifying as he earned the pole position by just breaking the nineteen-second mark with an 18.999-second run. Silk

launched on the start of the 750th NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour event with a rear-view mirror full of Thompson arch-rival Justin Bonsignore. The first caution flag flew on lap 14 as Eric Berndt moved up across the front bumper of Luke Baldwin at the start/finish line sending Berndt into the wall and Baldwin pitside for damage control.

Silk maintained control at the front of the field until the hard turn one wreck for Baldwin around lap 70 as the leaders jumped pitside for fresh Hoosier rubber. Jon McKennedy led the pack under the return to green and pulled away from Stephen Kopcik, Jake Johnson and point leader Austin Beers as

Silk and Bonsignore began the long march from deep in the field. A turn-two-tap between Kopcik and McKennedy rapidly took both out of the top five with Johnson stealing the show out front.

As laps wound down, Patrick Emerling made his case known as he grew ever closer to Johnson's rear bumper. Emerling pulled up on lap 124 to lead lap 125 and fortunately never had to deal with another caution period. Unspoiled, Patrick Emerling took down the Thompson 150 win in the Big Red Machine look-a-like #1 complete with Geoff Bodine in the 750th NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour victory lane celebration.

## International Volleyball Hall of Fame hosts Grass Open

HOLYOKE – Holyoke, aka Volleyball City, is the birthplace of volleyball and home to the International Volleyball Hall of Fame. Last weekend, the hall celebrated the heritage with a fun filled event for players of all ages and skill levels competing for bragging rights and amazing prizes.

The IVHF Volleyball City hosted the Grass Open last weekend Aug. 9 and 10, at the scenic Wyckoff Country Club in Holyoke, Massachusetts. Different divisions each day – Whether it was a seasoned competitor or

new to the game, there was a division for you, from elite Open-level competition to fun recreational play. Junior players were also encouraged to participate,



and teams can include both youth and adults.

Spectators were welcomed to attend for free and enjoy the full tournament atmosphere, including Center Court matches with

music. On Saturday, August 9, the event featured men's and women's triples in Open (cash prize), BB, and Legends divisions. Sunday, August 10, highlighted juniors (16U and 18U) and reverse co-ed doubles for both Open (cash prize) and BB players. All participants received free parking and passes to visit the International Volleyball Hall of Fame Museum.

Adding to the fun, was live music both days presented by Wyckoff Country Club. Food, drinks, and prizes will rounded out this festive weekend.

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# Public Notices

## Legal Notice

### Town of Agawam

The Agawam Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Thursday, September 4, 2025 at 6:00pm and the Agawam City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, September 15, 2025 at 7:00pm, both in the Veterans Hall at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of these hearings will be to hear the petition of VIP Homes & Associates, LLC for a zone change request for 430 North West Street from Business B to Residence B. City Council's public hearing will be livestreamed on the Town of Agawam's website at [www.agawam.ma.us](http://www.agawam.ma.us) and will also be televised on Cable Access Channel 15 or Channel 1074. Copies of the proposed zone change can be obtained from the Planning Department between the hours of 8:30am and 4:30pm at the Agawam DPW, 1000 Suffield Street, Agawam, MA or by emailing the Office of the City Clerk for an electronic copy at [vgioscia@agawam.ma.us](mailto:vgioscia@agawam.ma.us)

#### By Order Of:

Violet Baldwin, Chair  
Agawam Planning Board  
Rosemary Sandlin, President  
Agawam City Council  
08/21, 08/28/2025

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.  
HD23P0770EA  
Estate of:  
Brenda Lee Larsen  
Also known as:  
Brenda L Larsen  
Date of Death: 01/21/2023  
CITATION ON GENERAL PROBATE PETITION

To all interested persons:  
A Petition has been filed by: **Mary Lou Elliott of Alburg, VT** requesting the Court to Vacate the Decree for Order of Complete Settlement entered on February 20, 2025 to allow the Personal Representative to file an amended account and Complete

Settlement all as more fully set forth in said petition.

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 date of 09/18/2025. 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.

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

Date: August 13, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate  
08/21/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No.  
HD25P1676PM  
John MacMillan  
Of: Feeding Hills, MA  
RESPONDENT  
(Person to be Protected/ Minor)

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT TO

G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 & §5-405  
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by East Longmeadow Skilled Nursing of East Longmeadow, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that John MacMillan is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that Nancy Godbout of Granby, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve With Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the court to

determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of 09/10/2025. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

Witness, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: August 13, 2025

Rosemary A. Saccomani, Register of Probate  
08/21/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Division  
Docket No.  
HD25P1689EA  
Estate of:  
Terry Lee Noes  
Date of Death: 04/15/2024  
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Michael L. Noes of Westfield, MA.

Michael L. Noes of Westfield, 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.  
08/21/2025

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.  
HD25P1663EA  
Estate of:  
Philippa J Owen  
Date of Death: 05/21/2025  
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 Lawrence A White, Jr. 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: Lawrence A White, Jr. 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 09/09/2025. 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: August 12, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate  
08/21/2025

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.  
HD25P1638EA  
Estate of:  
Elaine Phyllis Smith  
Date of Death: 04/30/2025  
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 Diane E. Rys of Ludlow, 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: Diane E. Rys of Ludlow, 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 09/05/2025. 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: August 08, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate  
08/21/2025

SEE NOTICES | page 13

## SWINGING BRIDGE AUCTIONS

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# Public Notices

**NOTICES ■ from page 13**

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield MA, 01103  
Docket No. HD23P0095PM  
In the matter of: Thomas Susa  
Of: Ludlow, MA  
Protected Person/Disabled Person/Respondent  
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the **Temporary Conservator First and Final** account(s) of Nancy C Godbout of Granby, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

**You have the right to object to the account(s).** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **09/12/2025**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

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

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

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or complete-

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

Witness, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: August 08, 2025  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
08/21/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield MA, 01103  
Docket No. HD23P0095PM  
In the matter of: Thomas Susa  
Of: Ludlow, MA  
Protected Person/Disabled Person/Respondent  
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the **First** account(s) of Nancy C Godbout of Granby, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

**You have the right to object to the account(s).** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **09/12/2025**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

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Date: August 08, 2025  
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08/21/2025

**AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL AD**

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on **Thursday, August 28, 2025 at 6:00PM** at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the **Request for Determination of Applicability** of the Town of Agawam for property located at 511 School Street.

By Order of  
**Henry A. Kozloski**, Chairman  
Agawam Conservation Commission  
08/21/2025

**Town of Agawam Accepting Sealed Bids Sand & Gravel**

The Town of Agawam is requesting sealed proposals for Sand & Gravel. Packages available at 10AM 8/18/25 via email at bids@agawam.ma.us. **Due by 9/4/25 @ 3:00 PM.**  
08/21/2025

**FACILITY ■ from page 1**

sending a clear message to Boston," Before noting and addressing the elephant in the room, issuing a point of caution for the town of Agawam. Russo's comment brings a sense of clear-cut focus that the state doesn't understand the growth and identity of Western Mass and the Pioneer Valley as a whole, by confessing, "What fits in one community may not fit in another, and we should have a say when something like this comes into our community."

Their next step forward is to send the resolution to the governor, state senators, and representatives, as the Commonwealth continues to push toward energy efficiency and less reliance on fossil fuels, which despite passing 10-1 last month on July 7, will yield no substantial movement as there is a blockade holding up the measure in the state house.

However additional information validates that the appeal was submitted within the required 20-day window, along with the confirmation that certified letters have been sent to both the Agawam Planning Board and New Leaf Energy - the com-

pany behind the project, meaning the project is now being challenged in court, reinforcing that potential action could lead to a pause or stop on construction, depending on how the court rules, but this all remains to be seen.

The initial project was introduced last year during the October 17th Planning Board meeting by representatives Eric Weinstein and Luke Peregoy, from New Leaf Energy, who offered a brief presentation starting with the proposal to create a battery energy storage system (BESS) with a capacity of approximately five megawatts (four hours) at the address of 404 Silver Street in Agawam.

The initial proposal showed the prospect of associated site improvements that would include battery containers, transformers, and inverters, which will sit on concrete pads enclosed by a combined 7-ft tall chain link fence with an access gate and 10-ft. sound barrier wall. During the meeting, Weinstein went on to say, "There will be improvements to the existing access road, expanding it 20 ft."

The proposed plan is near the Silver Street substation,

and there will be an ANR(Approval not required) to subdivide the large lot into 2 lots, he stated. Weinstein also noted that Lot A will contain the existing residence, and LOT B will contain the BESS equipment. He went on to explain, "This is a renewal energy option." It was revealed that the batteries will charge during peak energy hours and be used by the utility company during seasonal peak times. Before closing the pitch by stating, "there is ample preexisting tree screening for neighbors, and the location of the BESS will be in the back portion of the parcel."

Also to note currently, towns and cities do not have the authority to vote for or against the buildout of battery storage — or BESS — systems in their respective communities, as it made distinctly clear during early spring council meeting, when Mayor Christopher Johnson said the systems have protected status under Massachusetts General Law and are part of the state's "energy sustainability universe."

In addition, a full breakdown of what occurred at the meeting will be released in a future edition.



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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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