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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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Residents to participate in the 37th Annual Jimmy Fund Walk

AGAWAM – Two residents from Agawam will participate in the 2025 Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai on Sunday, Oct. 5.

James Paulin and Kathy Paulin, along with thousands of other walkers, will participate in the iconic annual event that will unite the community to raise funds to support all forms of adult and pediatric care and research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The Jimmy Fund Walk will aim to raise \$9.5 million this year in the effort to prevent, treat, and defy cancer.

“For 36 years, the Jimmy Fund Walk has been a cornerstone of support for lifesaving cancer research and patient care at Dana-Farber,” said Caitlin Fink, vice president of The Jimmy Fund. “Every participant contributes directly to advancing lifesaving research and critically important cancer care. Walk Day is more than just an event—it’s a celebration of hope and the shared commitment of the Jimmy Fund community.”

The Jimmy Fund Walk takes place along the famed Boston Marathon course, and participants have the flexibility to choose from four distance options: 5K walk (from Dana-Farber’s

Longwood Medical Campus); 10K walk (from Newton); Half Marathon walk (from Wellesley); and Marathon walk (from Hopkinton). Walkers who prefer to participate virtually can complete their chosen distance from any location.

Whatever route participants choose, they will be supported by hundreds of volunteers and treated to refueling stations with refreshments throughout the course. Walkers will be motivated by poster-sized photographs of Walk Heroes that appear along the course as inspiration. All routes will conclude at the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line Powered by Schneider Electric at Boston Common, by the corner of Charles and Beacon Street. Finish line activities will include a celebration with food, entertainment, and more.

To register for the Walk (#JimmyFundWalk) or to support a walker, visit www.JimmyFundWalk.org or call 866-531-9255. Registrants can enter the promo code NEWS for \$5 off the registration fee. All registered walkers will receive a bib, medal, and a Jimmy Fund Walk T-shirt. You can also sign up to volunteer on Walk day.

Happy Birthday

Lillian



Lillian Haidermenos, a resident of Feeding Hills, celebrated her 100th birthday last week. Part of that celebration included a visit from Mayor Christopher Johnson, who presented her with a proclamation congratulating her on reaching the milestone birthday. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Students share summer experiences

By Amanda Munson
amunson@turley.com

AGAWAM – On Sept. 9, Agawam High School students visited the school committee to share their summer experiences and what they have been up to since the last day of school. Principal Jim Blain welcomed back the committee and congratulated new School Committee Representative Aiden Therrien from the student body, who was one of eleven applicants and endured several rounds of interviews.

Blain stated that the students do amazing things throughout the summer and shared a small sample of those experiences directly from their education at Agawam High School. Blain continued, “It’s beyond books, it’s about compassion, integrity, dignity, and putting yourself out there in ways of taking risks that nine out of the 10 students never take. I first want to introduce Maya. I first met Maya last year on a zoom all the way from Madrid. Maya is a foreign exchange student starting eleventh grade,” said Blain.

“I’m from Spain and I am 16 years old, and I am a junior at Agawam High School. My dream since I was a kid was to be an exchange student in the United States. I’m so grateful for the opportunity, thanks to all the teachers and students for welcoming me so well!” said Maya.

Blain introduced Dawood from the Agawam High School soccer team who’s a senior and known from the social media accounts for the school and ‘Gwam Athletics. Last year, Dawood went through a rigorous process to be named an MIAA (Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association) student advisory committee, which comprises around 20 students state-wide.

Blain stated that when he received the call from the MIAA, Dawood was complemented as being special and introduced Dawood to share his leadership retreat and his role.

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Culvert on N. Westfield St. re-opens just in time for Big E traffic

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – As previously promised by town officials, a culvert repair that caused a major disruption in traffic flow in the north side of Feeding Hills has re-opened to regular traffic.

Last Friday, motorists found detour signs at the intersection of North Westfield St. and North St. as well as North West St. and North Westfield St., removed, and traffic free to pass through North Westfield St. on the road to Westfield.

The town had been making major repairs to the culvert since the construction season began. The repairs required the closure of the



The culvert on North Westfield St. has been completely repaired and re-established and is now open for traffic.

TURLEY PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

road and a multi-mile detour for motorists wishing to go to Westfield. The other option for motorists was to cross Front St. and the train tracks and head to Westfield through West Springfield and Rte. 20.

Like many road construction projects, the repair experienced some delays due to materials and other outside factors. But as August came to an end, Department of Public Works Director Mario Mazza pledged that work was completing and the road would be passable in time for the Big E, which began last Friday, Sept. 12.

Mazza did say crews would be doing some side work at the culvert to bring it to full completion, but it will

be small punch-list items before the construction zone is completely clear.

“It’s a \$2.5 million project, more or less,” Mazza said previously. “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 St, which took a bit of time to complete, due to mate-

CULVERT | page 10

Have your voice heard; what questions would you like to see the candidates answer?

AGAWAM – While the mayor is not being opposed for election this year, there are 17 candidates for 11 city council positions and seven candidates for six school committee positions. The

Agawam Advertiser News will be sending out questionnaires to all the candidates to get their views on some of the issues affecting the community. But the Advertiser would really love to hear

from you in the community. What would you like to see the Advertiser ask the candidates? What issues are important to you?

If you have any suggestions for questions we should

ask the candidates for this year’s election special to be printed in an October edition of the paper, please email the suggested questions to the Advertiser’s email, aan@turley.com. With the questions,

please submit why you are asking the question and why you believe it is important for the community to know where the candidates stand on the issue.

Please note that not all

questions will be used in the questionnaires and some may need to be modified for form and clarity.

Please submit your question suggestions to aan@turley.com by Sept. 30.



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The Last Time is Now



On Sept. 15, professional wrestling fans from all over the region got a rare treat as the popular television show Monday Night RAW was held at the MassMutual Center in Springfield. The show was held to honor the retiring multi-time world champion John Cena, who attended Springfield College in Western Massachusetts and is now retiring from competition after 23 years in the WWE. TURLEY PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Upcoming events at Agawam Senior Center

AGAWAM – Here are some of the upcoming activities and events being held at the Agawam Senior Center.

Hearing Checks Available Thursday, Sept. 18

The next New Ears hearing care clinic will take place on Thursday, Sept. 18. 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.

“The Power of Self-Discipline: Taking Control of Your Life”

Thursday, Sept. 25 at 1 p.m.

Join Guest Speaker, Raymond Rose, for an engaging and practical 45-minute seminar that explores the life-changing benefits of self-discipline.

Whether you're looking to improve your health, finances, relationships, or productivity, this event will give you tools and motivation to stay focused and achieve your goals. Join us on Thursday, Sept. 25 1 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center's Garden Room at 954 Main Street.

- Learn practical strategies to build better habits and break bad ones
- Discover how self-discipline impacts success in every area of life
- Receive tools to manage time, resist distractions, and stay motivated
- Walk away with a personal action plan you can implement immediately

TD BANK Safe Security Awareness
Monday, Sept. 29 at 1 p.m.
Please join us for an informational session on strategies to avoid scams and financial exploitations. It is important to protect yourself from financial fraud and identity theft. Hear about the latest scams and how to protect yourself. Keep your assets safe. Call 821-0604 to register.

ACC welcomes new members to playgroup

AGAWAM – Come join the Agawam Congregational Church Family Playgroup - where we will play, learn and grow together.

Every Tuesday from 10 to 11 a.m. starting on Tuesday, Sept. 16, Agawam Congregational Church at 745 Main St. Agawam.

The group is for all children from birth to five-years-old.

Come meet the candidates in person on Sept. 25

AGAWAM – Curious about who's on the ballot this year? Come meet them in person at Candidate's Night hosted by Agawam Public Library on Thursday, Sept. 25, from 6 to 8 p.m.

This special community event is your chance to connect directly with candidates for public office, hear about their priorities, and ask the questions that matter most

to you. It's an open, friendly forum designed to help neighbors learn together and feel confident heading into the upcoming election.

“Libraries bring people together, and Candidate's Night is a wonderful way to do just that,” said Library Director, Nancy Siegel. “We're excited to welcome the community for an evening of conversation and

civic engagement.”

Each candidate will have a separate table so community members can visit with everyone individually to ask questions and have informal conversations.

Everyone is welcome, and there's no cost to attend. No registration is required—just stop by, bring your questions, and be part of the conversation.

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 conniebeau-dette@yahoo.com for any questions. There is also a Facebook page dedicated to the reunion, “Agawam Class of 75 Reunion.”

Habitat ‘Day of fun’ coming Oct. 5

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) is excited to announce its inaugural Habitat Family Fun Fest, taking place Sunday, October 5, 2025, from 12 to 4 p.m. at Morgan Road Pavilion in West Springfield. This free, family-friendly event invites the entire community to come together for an afternoon of fun, food, and festivities—all while supporting Habitat's mission of building strength, stability, and self-reliance through affordable housing.

The Habitat Family Fun Fest will feature:

- Free kids' activities to keep little ones entertained
- Raffles with great prizes
- Live community atmosphere for all ages to enjoy
- A variety of food trucks
- Local craft beer for adult guests

adult guests

- Craft vendors and community resource tables

There is no admission fee, making the event free to attend.

“We're thrilled to host an event that brings people together in a joyful, family-friendly way,” said Aimee Giroux, GSHFH executive director. “The Habitat Family Fun Fest will not only provide a day of fun for our community but also highlight the importance of affordable housing and how everyone can play a part in making that vision possible.”

GSHFH is currently seeking:

- Event Sponsors who want to showcase their support for affordable housing while connecting with hundreds of local families.
- Community resources

to share helpful information with attendees.

- Craft vendors to make the day even more festive.

Businesses and organizations interested in participating or sponsoring can visit habitatspringfield.org/fun-fest for details.

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.

Committee considering Velis wiretap modernization legislation

BOSTON –

On Tuesday, the Joint Committee on the Judiciary held a public hearing to review several pieces of legislation including Senator John C. Velis's refiled legislation to modernize the Commonwealth's antiquated wire tap statute. Over the last several years Senator Velis has been leading the charge to update the law to enable law enforcement to better investigate and solve serious crimes in Massachusetts.



Senator John Velis

1968. Due to the nature of how crimes differed in 1968, the law limits prosecutor's ability to seek a wiretap warrant unless it is specifically related to organized crime, a factor that prohibits law

enforcement for seeking a wiretap in many cases. Velis's legislation seeks to expand the list of designated offenses that law enforcement can request a wiretap for to include the unlawful use or possession of a firearm and murder in the first degree. In 2017, then Attorney General Healey shared support for updating wiretap statute alongside local law enforcement and many

of the states district attorneys.

“At the end of the day, this is all about keeping our communities safe. It is absolutely irrefutable that not only has the nature of crime changed drastically since this statute was created, but also that technology has evolved in countless ways over the past 57 years,” Senator Velis said. “Not only has law enforcement advocated for the Legislature to revisit this statute, but our very own Justices have also shared concerns of how this antiquated law severely impedes investigations for some of the most heinous crimes.”

Senator Velis said that he is hopeful that the legislation will receive a favorable report by the Committee.

Fall Festival coming to St. Paul's

HOLYOKE – St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 485 Appleton Street, Holyoke will hold their Fall Festival on Saturday, Sept. 27 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Parish Hall

and on the Church grounds.

There will be something for everyone: Gift basket raffles, \$5 fun raising raffle, vendors, plants, bake sale, a cafe, and outdoor activities.

Free ample parking is located behind the church and all are welcome.

For more information, please call the church office at 413-532-5060.

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Residents challenged to bake history at Apple Pie Contest

AGAWAM – Area residents are encouraged to enter the Agawam Historical Association's annual Apple Pie Contest, to be held on Saturday, Oct. 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Thomas Smith House, 251 North West Street, Feeding Hills. The National Register-listed Smith House and its preserved 1920s garage will also be open for tours.

The contest is open to the public (amateur bakers only, please) and entrants may use their own favorite recipe, using either a homemade or store-bought, full, top and bottom, double (rolled) crust. Fresh apples must be

used; no store-bought fillings, tarts, or crisps are allowed. Pies must be baked in a 9" or 10" disposable pie plate and be at room temperature when delivered. No identification is allowed on the pie tin. Pies will not be returned.

Participants must register on or before Wednesday, Oct. 1 by texting Katy at (413) 297-4967 or emailing 1855@agawamhistory.org. Pies must be dropped off by 12:30 pm on Saturday, Oct. 4 at: Thomas Smith House, 251 North West Street, Feeding Hills, Mass.

Judging will begin at 1:30 p.m. by Don Anderson, Agawam Historical Association



Residents are encouraged to enter the Agawam Historical Association's Pie Contest coming up on Oct. 4. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Board Member Emeritus; Sarah Curran, 2024 AHA Apple Pie Contest First Place Winner; and Agawam Mayor Christopher Johnson, who will judge entries on flavor, filling, crust and overall appearance, and creativity. The decisions of the judges are final. In addition to bragging rights, the first place winner will receive a blue ribbon and an apron hand-sewn by AHA board member Charlotte Fields.

The Agawam High School Marching Band will make their Smith House debut at noon and perform stand tunes and pieces from their 2025 field show, and local

historian and "Whips of Westfield" author Bruce Cortis will be on hand during the open house to discuss the industry that powered the Westfield economy during the late 18th century.

Signed copies of the historical association's new Images of America title, Around Agawam and Feeding Hills will also be available for purchase. The book features more than 200 historic photos depicting Agawam and Feeding Hills' rich history. Proceeds from the sales of the book will benefit the Agawam Historical Association. This event is free and open to the public.

Feline Friends charity express deep appreciation for recent supply drive

AGAWAM – Feline Friends, which operates a charity that helps care for cats, recently expressed gratitude to the community for their recent support. They stated: We are incredibly grateful for the response to our appeal for help with supplies. We have received packages at the dental office at 532 Springfield St. (at the corner of Cleveland St.) in Feeding Hills and at the Agawam Public Library. Financial donations have arrived by check at P.O. Box 174, Feeding Hills 01030 as well as PayPal: @FelineFriendsRaf-

fle. Venmo: @Feline-Friends. Please include name/ contact information with donations if you would like an acknowledgment. Venmo donations do not provide addresses or email information.

We are grateful for every single donation. Local pickup is available by calling 786-5019.

We will have a table with raffle baskets at the Feeding Hills Grange Fair on Saturday, October 25 from 9:30 to 2:00. The address is 47 North West Street in Feeding Hills.

Thank you to everyone who donated goods or mon-

etary donations over the summer. Your generosity is appreciated by the cats and their humans.

Feline Friends Inc. is a community-based, nonprofit 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 or our Facebook page at Feline Friends Cat Sanctuary. Contact us with questions at info@felinefriendsinc.org or by phone at 413-786-5019.

Celebrate Quabbin Days Oct. 10-13

BELCHERTOWN – This fall, the Friends of the Quabbin invite residents and visitors alike to discover the beauty, history, and importance of the Quabbin Reservoir during Quabbin Days (www.quabbindays.org), a celebration of the region's role as both a critical drinking water supply and one of New England's most scenic outdoor destinations. Quabbin Days will be held the holiday weekend of Oct. 10 to 13.

Taking place in the Quabbin Region (www.quabbindays.org/quabbinregion), which is made up of the dozen towns in the Quabbin Watershed, Quabbin Days is a

community-driven initiative designed to raise awareness about the Quabbin as the primary water source for 2.7 million Massachusetts residents, and a breathtaking landscape that offers world-class hiking, fishing, birdwatching, and photography opportunities.

"Most people don't realize that one of the most pristine and carefully protected water supplies in the country is also an incredible place to explore," said Ed Comeau of the Friends of the Quabbin. "Quabbin Days is about encouraging people to connect with this resource as a place of remarkable natural beauty and cultural history by exploring the Quabbin Trail(w-

ww.quabbindays.org/quabbintrail) that connects these towns."

Held during the peak of fall foliage season, October 10 to 13, Quabbin Days encourages towns, businesses, and organizations within the Quabbin Region to host events, walks, tours, and open houses that spotlight what this area has to offer. Participation is informal and flexible: anyone can contribute an event, and visitors can plan their own adventures through www.QuabbinDays.org, which offers a growing calendar and interactive map of the region.

To learn more, plan your visit, or submit an event, visit www.QuabbinDays.org.

Sheriff Shuffle 5K survives stormy weather

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – Last Saturday, Sept. 7, more than 500 people braced the elements to take part in Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi's 'Sheriff Shuffle 5K' to raise awareness and funds for domestic abuse. However, the night before, the Paper City experienced an unforeseen microburst storm that almost led to the initial cancellation of the event, as the extreme weather left the Elks Lodge property and adjacent areas covered in massive downed trees and the facility without power. Despite the challenges, perseverance prevailed as the 26th annual road race carried on, and it was a resounding success.

Reflecting on the Herculean effort put forth by all

first responders and calling upon the vast wealth of resources from the Hampden County Sheriff's office, while spotlighting the leadership of Holyoke's resources and the part they played in assisting in cleanup efforts, was Cocchi.

"At around 6 p.m. on Saturday, this road race wasn't going to happen," he said. "And I got a phone call, and they said, 'Hey, I think you have to think about postponing the event'." Cocchi quickly responded by noting, "The Sheriff's office doesn't quit." Cocchi then revealed he deployed the Hampden County Sheriff's Office Arborist Program, the Hampden County Sheriff's Workforce Initiative, along with the Community Restitution Crew to assist in the ongoing restoration efforts. "They worked

around the clock and are still working right now to clear all of the debris, all the brush, and to take down the dangerous trees," Cocchi said. "And I have to tell you, Holyoke Gas and Electric (HG&E), Holyoke Water, and the Holyoke DPW were phenomenal across the board."

Cocchi also touched upon the indomitable spirit of the citizens of Hampden County by revealing that everyone who participated would be part of establishing a 'movement' in support of the victims and survivors of domestic violence, while

shedding light on the families affected by the initial tragedy.

"It's not about looking at the obstacle that was put in front of us with the microburst; it's about looking at how we can make a difference today, and supporting the men and women who are the victims of domestic violence," he said. "We're taking a stand, and I want to make it clear that this behavior is not ok, and we're going to continue to support the YWCA and the work being done by Liz

SHERIFF | page 10

COLLEGE NOTES

HCC announces Summer Dean's List

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is proud to recognize the students who earned Dean's List honors for Summer 2025. Each term, HCC recognizes superior scholarship through the Dean's List. A student is placed on the Dean's List if their G.P.A. is 3.2 or higher. The students listed below have earned Dean's List

honors for the Summer 2025 term.

Agawam:

Cassandra Lynn Blanchard, Aidan Henry Cavanaugh, Andrea Graziano, Cha Lor.

Feeding Hills:

Lauren Bland, Madison Braska, Jose Francisco Dejesus, Zakia Hussain, Nick Edward Laviolette.

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Agawam Advertiser News
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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.



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Opinion

Letter to the Editor

Residents encourage to use voice with vote in the upcoming election on Tuesday, Nov. 4

Dear Editor:

As our election draws near, I am reminded of a letter to the editor in this newspaper from a citizen who had concerns and a lack of faith in a jaded democracy. The sad truth is that he is not alone. There are a growing number of adults who have little or no confidence in the federal, state or local government. Although, there is a wealth of ideas about what's gone wrong, real or imagined; however, little remains how to fix it. The one thing we do know is that everything is impacted by the

lack of trust – and the driver of this declining trust is the heads of our government. Trust cannot be repaired without truth – which has been in short supply over the last few years...

We have now entered into a new era, a new truth. We are being told again and again by talking heads alleging of wholesale corruption, and denouncing our institutions – sadly there are those Americans that are eager to stand in line to buy this so called “new truth”. Whether these assertions are true or not true, is entirely irrelevant.

It's all meaningless fluff, to quiet our sense of reality, to instill fears and to promote divisiveness by a specter of fanatics rampaging across the country not for the good of the country, but for the good of their own self serving megalomaniac(s).

Democracy in America today with its advanced citizenship is not easy, it's not only our right to question our elected officials, it's our responsibility! We the people are supposed to rule. But, that's not the premise that seems to underline our America's political system

today; it seems that somewhere along the way we lost our focus. People feel jaded mostly because they believe elected officials cannot be trusted. They view a huge divide between Democrats and Republicans and a social media that allows people to air dirty laundry; all of which has taken a toll on the hearts of their fellow citizens and how we interact with one another. So, what is the truth?

I believe that Americans have become wedded less to democracy than they are to familiarity. We tend to accept those undemocratic

flaws of our government in general because we have become accustomed to them; and to value things as they are, we become complacent and therefore, irrelevant. We seemed to have lost that focus that tells us that if there is a separation of liberty, justice and truth, nothing is safe, and that is the greatest danger we face to our democratic way of life. You don't need to look far to see what our country is becoming with all the divisiveness, uncertainty, protests and

VOTE | page 5

Guest Column



I'd like to retire early, but don't want my Social Security reduced

Dear Rusty:

I will be 65 this year and my husband is 72 (he retired in 2019 at age 66).

I would like to retire and enjoy some time with him before he gets too much older. I do not want to have my benefits cut by retiring earlier, but I don't see a way to be able to do that. My benefit will be \$1,343 on my Full Retirement Age.

If I took half his retirement when he retired, it would be less than mine. If I take early retirement and he passes away before me, would I get his full benefit as his survivor or will it be cut? We are trying to figure it out. His current benefit (before Medicare Part B) is \$2,978. It's very confusing.

Signed: Confused and Wondering

Dear Confused:

Whenever any Social Security benefit is claimed earlier than Full Retirement Age, the monthly amount is permanently reduced. If you were to retire at age 65, your Social Security benefit would be reduced by about 13% - in other words, if your FRA (age 67) amount is \$1,343, at 65 you would get about \$1,164. And at age 66 you would get about \$1,253 per month.

Whether you would be entitled to a “spousal boost” from your husband depends on how your FRA amount compares to 50% of his FRA entitlement. If your FRA amount is less than 50% of his FRA amount, then you would get a “spousal boost,” but the amount of that boost would also be reduced if you claim before your FRA. Note: from the numbers you provided, you may be entitled to a spousal boost and, if so, it would be applied by Social Security when you claim.

Also, FYI, if you take SS before your FRA and are still working, Social Security has an annual earnings

test which limits how much you can earn while collecting early benefits. If you earn more than \$23,400 in 2025, you will likely not get all of your monthly SS payments (SS will take away some monthly benefits if you exceed the earnings limit). Of course, if you retire from working, this will not be a problem, because earnings before you claim SS won't count toward the limit.

When you claim your SS retirement benefit now will not affect your survivor benefit from your husband later. If your husband passes first, your benefit as a surviving spouse would be based on the amount your husband was receiving at his death. But if you were to claim your widow's benefit prior to your FRA, your survivor benefit would also be reduced (the amount of reduction depends on how much before your FRA you claim your survivor benefit). If you claim your widow's benefit at or after you FRA, you will get 100% of the amount your husband was receiving at his death instead of your own smaller amount. It will only be reduced if you claim before your full retirement age.

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 ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



Guest Column

Plant exodus, coming soon

Just this past week I put a call in to the herb gardeners at Old Sturbridge Village where I work part time.

I asked them to let me know they'd like me to deliver the pots and soil for the annual “exodus.” We will be moving the tender perennials from their summer residence in the herb garden to my domain, the maintenance department's greenhouse.

There are some wonderful and very familiar plants in our living collection: rosemary, bay, lemon verbena and scented geraniums are some of my personal favorites.

Before the interpreters dig up the plants, I always ask that they give them a bath to cut down on the number of insects that will be brought into the greenhouse. For the home gardener this is equally important.

I say “bath” because my pesticide of choice is a natural and fairly benign one-made of potassium salts of fatty acids (soap) that weaken the insect's outer shell and cause dehydration. It is sprayed on leaves and stems until they are soaked, and can be reapplied every seven-10 days as needed.

This product is especially effective on insects that make their home on herbs and houseplants: whitefly, aphids

and mealy bugs.

Once the insects have been eradicated, it is time to get out the shovel and get to work digging up and repotting the plants. You will be amazed at how large some of them can become after only a few months in the ground.

It is important to salvage as much of the root ball as possible to minimize the shock of being potted up. To do this, position your shovel along the “drip line” of the plant and dig straight down, completely around its circumference. After you've made your way around, get your shovel underneath and lift.

Have a pot ready – one that is an inch or two bigger than

the root ball is sufficient, and will allow for minimal winter growth. My container of choice is always plastic, but glazed pottery is fine too. I steer clear of clay; it dries out too quickly.

I usually put a couple of inches of moist potting soil into the container, set the plant and then fill in with more as needed before watering well. Oftentimes I leave the plants outside until a frost threatens, then I bring them in and back out until the weather turns decidedly cold.

Home gardeners often ask how to overwinter their favorite herbs without a greenhouse.

Perhaps the most cherished of all tender herbs is Rosemary (*Rosemarinus officinalis*), the herb of remembrance. The key to growing it successfully indoors is “cool but sunny.”

My old house affords me many such microclimates. If you aren't as lucky, try for a sunny window away from dry heat, in other words far from heat vents,



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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.

GARDEN | page 5

Election

Candidate Statement

Peter Smus announces re-election bid for City Councilor

Editor's Note: This campaign statement is being re-published due to an error omitting part of the statement in last week's edition. We apologize for the error.

AGAWAM – Peter Smus has officially announced his candidacy for re-election to the Agawam City Council. Peter has completed his first two years in office and would like to continue to represent the Agawam residents. Peter said, "I have worked with the Sand for Seniors Program, sponsored by Anthony Russo and the sheriff's department, to aid the elderly residents by supplying them with sand in the winter months." Smus went on to say, "I have supported our towns youth programs, and I have been available to the students and parents to listen to

their needs." Councilor Smus has proven his capabilities in his first two years as councilor. He is always willing to be available to the Agawam residents to hear their concerns. Some of Councilor Smus' accomplishments are:

- Veterans Advocate – Support the veterans with the relocation of the veterans green. Backer to the Friends of the Veterans. Promotes the Wreaths Across America program.

- Education & Youth – Strongly supported and educated fellow Agawam residents about the value of a new high school building.

- Tax/Water/Sewer – Without exception always voted to keep property taxes low and aiding our Agawam residents who might need some help with property tax exemptions.

- Councilor Smus

co-sponsored a resolution supporting the passage of House bill No 4557, requiring local approval of battery storage facilities to protect the Agawam neighborhoods.

- Councilor Smus co-sponsored a noise/contractor ordinance regulating machinery noise in our community to adhere to our small-town values and qualities.

Councilor Smus said, "I would like the opportunity to continue to work with all Agawam residents and my fellow city councilors to improve our city's infrastructure, support new and old businesses, improve our fields and parks, strengthen services for our seniors, veterans, and students."

About Peter Smus

Peter Smus has been a

lifelong resident of Agawam. His parents, Dick and Lois Smus, chose this town of Agawam to live in for the hometown qualities it offered new families. Peter would like to continue the welcoming feeling that Agawam offers newcomers to our city. Peter is a Cathedral graduate and a lifelong industrial/automotive mechanic. He continues to be an active parishioner at Sacred Heart Parish in Feeding Hills. Recently Councilor Smus was instrumental with the construction of the the new Sacred Heart electronic sign. He is an active member of: St. Martha's Guild, Knights of Columbus, Polish American Club of Agawam, Agawam Senior Center. He is married with 2 adult children and is the proud dziadziu (jaju) of 2 grandchildren.

Candidate Statement

Christine Rickmon challenges for spot on City Council

AGAWAM – Agawam City Council candidate Christine Rickmon issued the following statement on her candidacy:

"I'm running for City Council because I want to work with residents and town officials to bring practical, results-driven solutions that strengthen our entire community.

Clear communication is key to good government. If I'm elected, I'll make it easier for residents to stay informed by sharing short video updates, advocating for a simple, quarterly newsletter written in plain language, and pushing for a town website that's easier to navigate.

I want to create a Problem-Solver Committee—a place where residents can bring concerns and work with town officials to find

solutions, not just talk. Whether the issue is parks, traffic, public safety, or adding a fence around the splash pad, residents deserve action and follow-through.

As a mom of three small children, I'm deeply invested in Agawam's future. I will advocate for programs that strengthen our community—like expanded summer camps and high-interest classes—because strong connections between neighbors make our town safer, more resilient, and a better place to raise a family.

I'm ready to listen, communicate openly, and work hard to get results for Agawam. I respectfully ask for your vote. Learn more about my priorities at www.ChristineRickmon.com—and share your ideas with me.

Candidate Statement

Peter McNair makes case for City Council seat

AGAWAM – Agawam City Council candidate Peter McNair issued the following statement on his candidacy:

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I'm not a politician. As a father and homeowner, I understand the burden of increasing property taxes and household expenses have on working families and seniors.

As a small business owner, I will bring private sector restraint to our city council.

I'm concerned about the challenges facing our community. First, we are now considered a "lithium Battery Storage" community. Is this really a good business model for Agawam? Next, do you remember "Games and Lanes", "The Roller Rink" or "Sand Trap"? I would promote positive, safe family friendly businesses that would be welcomed.

I will be the fiscal "watchdog" on the city council and

fight for reductions in our budgets and taxes. It's time to lower the costs in our community for single moms, seniors and the businesses that remain.

Agawam can do better. If there has ever been a time your vote matters, now is the time. In order to win a seat on city council, I need your help and ask for your vote on Nov. 4.

Please vote for Peter McNair.

VOTE ■ from page 4

unrest; all stemming from what I believe the new truth spewing out of the mouths of the talking heads leading this country.

History lessons are often incredibly simple and blunt; yet, for all our powers of reason, we often miss the most basic and uncomplicated of points. Peace-loving, hard

working people have been made irrelevant by the fanatics, made irrelevant by their silence.

Watching all this unfolds, we (the people) must pay attention, and we must be resilient. Public discourse is a tool the American people should embrace, not shy away, we must hold and demand those we empower to be accountable, to protect

our democracy, and those things that we hold most sacred, but it must be done peacefully and purposefully using your greatest tool **YOU'RE VOTE!** Vote your values;

You might just find the world a little brighter and not so weary; and that is certainly something worth voting for!

Bob Rossi

GARDEN ■ from page 4

the wood stove etc.

Bay tree (*Laurus nobilis*) is another favorite and can be grown right through the winter with little or no coddling provided it is given medium to bright light and consistent watering. Do be on guard for the waxy-looking scale insect; one giveaway is leaves covered in a sticky, shiny sap called honey dew.

Try to "Q-tip" individual insects with rubbing alcohol or use insecticidal soap or horticultural oil to smother larger infestations. If the bugs have been active for awhile, sooty mold may have formed. This thick, black coating will likely need to be scrubbed off leaf by

leaf to allow the plant to photosynthesize properly.

To have success overwintering scented geraniums (*Pelargonium* spp.) indoors, situate them in bright light where daytime temperatures are 65-70 degrees, and night temps are in the 50s. Fertilize every other month during the fall and winter.

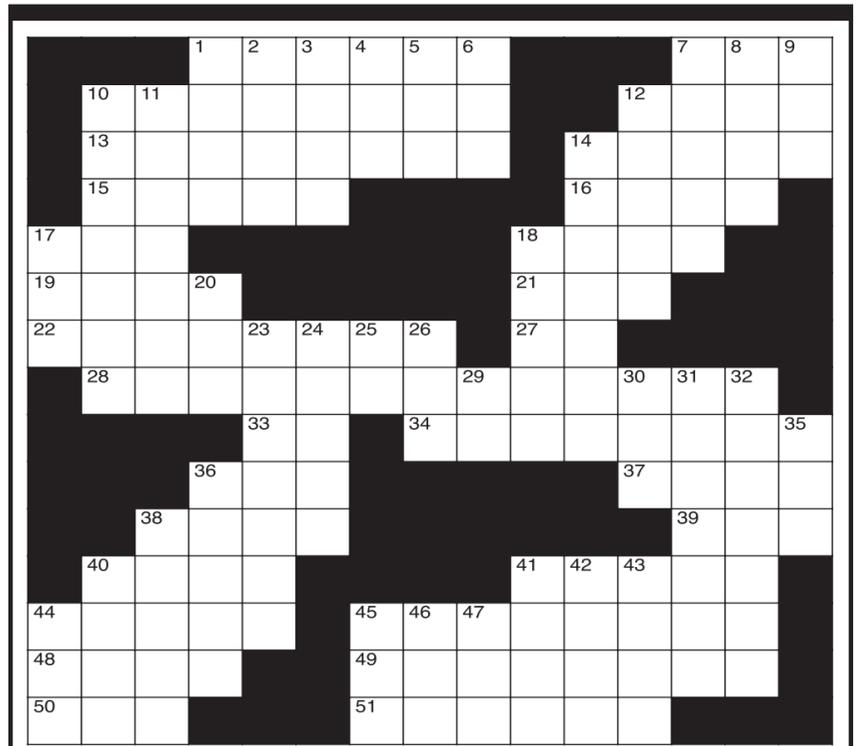
Smaller leaved varieties will be easier to manage; large leaved cultivars will get top-heavy quickly- take terminal or "tip" cuttings of these instead.

Lemon Verbena (*Aloysia triphylla*) may start out looking great, but a month or so into indoor culture will likely begin to lose its leaves. Fear not, leaf drop is completely

normal and to be expected! You may be tempted to throw it out; instead, position in a sunny spot, water as needed and await new growth in the spring.

Enjoy your favorite tender herbs over the winter and again come springtime and summer when they return to the garden.

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.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Carved into
7. ___ Rogers, cowboy
10. Unruly locale
12. Edible mushroom
13. Influential noblemen
14. Rattling breaths
15. David ___ George, Brit. P.M.
16. Musician Clapton
17. Small Eurasian deer
18. Invests in little enterprises
19. Perimeter
21. Chicago ballplayer
22. Animal body part
27. It's everywhere these days
28. Fictional ad exec
33. Mr. T character

CLUES DOWN

1. Root of taro plant
2. Those ones
3. Appliances have one
4. A way to sing
5. Midway between east and southeast
6. Animal dwelling
7. An object that as survived from the past
8. Oil cartel
9. Affirmative
10. Foul smell
11. Brisk tempo
12. S. American indigenous person
14. Restored
17. Official
18. Skin lesions
20. Electro-encephalograph
23. Middle Eastern country
24. Extremely angry

CLUES ACROSS

25. Title used before a woman's name
26. British thermal unit
29. By the way (abbr.)
30. Anger
31. Nullifies
32. Ones who acquire
35. Time zone
36. Arabic name
38. Protein in mucus
40. Ballpoint pen
41. Mimics
42. Humans have a lot of it
43. Expressions of good wishes
44. Cool!
45. One point east of due south
46. City of Angels football team (abbr.)
47. A way to save for retirement

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 8

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USDA INSP. STOREMADE BONELESS KOREAN BBQ MARINATED PORK BUTT STRIPS **\$3.35** lb

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USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF CHUCK STEAK ROAST **\$6.49** lb
USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF **\$3.99** 7 LB BAG

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USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 10 LB BAG **77c** lb
USDA INSP. FROZEN POPPY'S PIEROGIES 13 OZ BAG **\$2.49** ea
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SPORTS

SOCCER

Brownies, Falcons battle to scoreless draw

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - The Agawam and Minnechaug Regional boys' varsity soccer teams entered last Thursday night's Churchill Division match-up, which was held at Minnechaug's Falcon Field, looking to celebrate a victory

for the first time this season. It was a hard-fought battle for the entire 80 minutes, but the contest ended in a 0-0 tie, as neither team could put the ball into the back of the net. "Both teams needed a win coming into tonight's game, but neither team could score a goal" said Tom



Nathan Bassette heads the ball.



Aiden Monaghan settles the ball.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY

Smith, who's beginning his 19th season as the Agawam boys' varsity soccer coach. "I thought both teams worked very hard, and it was a physical battle."

The Brownies, who played a 2-2 home tie against Monument Mountain at the beginning of last week, entered this week's action with a 0-2-2 overall record and a 0-1-1 league mark. They began the regular season with back-to-back losses to West Springfield (3-1) and to league rival Amherst (3-2).

"Our record isn't what we want it to be right now, but

my team is getting better," Smith said. "We're going to be a challenging opponent for teams to play down the road."

The Falcons, who also had a 0-2-2 overall record and a 0-1-2 league mark, are one of the three new teams competing in the Churchill Division this fall.

Four of the Minnechaug starters sat out the game against Agawam due to injuries.

"We're a little bit banged up right now," said John O'Keefe, who's beginning his 16th season as the Min-

nechaug boys' varsity soccer coach. "We had some guys step up in tonight's game. Putting the ball in the net was a very difficult thing for both teams to do."

One of the Falcons injured players is senior tri-captain Jediah Stewart.

Minnechaug, who tied Pittsfield, 1-1, in their previous game, started the regular season with a pair of 2-1 road losses against Longmeadow and Monument Mountain.

"There are a lot of very good teams in our new

BROWNIES | page 7

FOOTBALL

Early deficit hurts Brownies

EAST LONGMEADOW - Last Friday night, Agawam High School football opened up its regular season scheduled with an independent matchup against East Longmeadow. The Spartans scored three touchdowns in the second quarter and had a 21-6 lead.

The Brownies got back into the game with a touchdown in the third quarter to cut the lead to seven points, but that was as close as they would get. East Longmeadow would add a fourth quarter touchdown to ice the game.

Quarterback Dom Pisano had 11 completed passes for 107 yards. He had one touchdown pass and one interception.

Cole Ingham led Agawam rushing 40 yards and one touchdown. Joe Duffy had Agawam's receiving touchdown and finished three catches for 20 yards. Yasiel Cruz had three catches for 23 yards.

Agawam will face South Hadley in an independent matchup on Friday, Sept. 19 at 7 p.m. on the road. Their first home game is Sept. 26 against Holyoke.



Johnny Carra fights with a Falcons defender for the ball.

SOCCER

Brownies suffer shutout at home

AGAWAM - Last Friday night, Minnechaug Regional High School girls soccer defeated Agawam 2-0 last Friday night on the road.

Brooklyn Manning and Carson Humphries had the goals for the Falcons while Isabel Horne scored her first shutout with 10 saves.

Agawam got 14 saves from Kayleen Sullivan.

Minnechaug 1-2-1 on the young season while Agawam fell to 1-3 this year.



Megan Fitzgerald eyes an open teammate further up the field.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Makayla Parolo looks to get to the open ball first.



Gabriella Ramos makes a throw-in.



Bella Santaniello is pressured by a defender.



Maya Gingeruha looks to get the ball before it goes out of bounds.



Olivia Izzo makes a play off her side.

Sports

Westfield State football falls to Bridgewater in opener

WESTFIELD – Eric Lovell's 80-yard interception return for a touchdown highlighted Westfield State's efforts as the Owls dropped a hard-fought 29-16 decision to Bridgewater State University in the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference football opener for both teams.

Westfield is now 0-2 overall and 0-1 in the MASCAC, while Bridgewater is 1-1 and 1-0 in the league.

The Owls fell behind 9-0 at the half.

Lovell picked off a pass on the right side of the field and outsprinted everyone to the endzone midway through the third quarter, and Dino Stella converted the extra point for the Owls to trim the Bears' lead to 9-7.

Bridgewater answered with a 29-yard field goal from Joey Naso, and then capitalized on an Owls turnover, as Lucas Lambert returned an interception 23 yards to the Owls 21, and a penalty on the tackle set the Bears up

1st and 10 at the Westfield 11. Bridgewater QB Shamus Whiting found Jack McCarthy for an 11-yard TD pass on the next play to extend the lead to 19-7.

Westfield got two points back on a safety, after a 52-yard Brian Carlin punt pinned the Bears back on their own one-yard line, and Justyn Gardener sacked Whiting in the end zone to cut the lead to 19-9 with 1:26 left in the third quarter.

On the ensuing drive,

Westfield marched 75 yards on eight plays, capped by an 18-yard scoring strike from Westfield QB Miles Foerster to Will Brewster that trimmed the lead to 19-16 after the extra point with 12:57 left in the game.

Bridgewater responded with a sharp 6-play, 60-yard drive of their own, with Whiting connecting with Josh Registre for 34-yard TD to boost the lead to 26-16. The Owls answered by driving the ball to the Bears 7-yard line, but

a bad snap and hold foiled a field goal attempt.

A late 42-yard field goal from Naso late in the fourth quarter capped the scoring and effectively ended the Owls comeback chances.

Foerster finished 10-26 passing for 94 yards, a TD and an interception, and ran for 57 more yards. Manny Mengata led the Owls with 63 yards on 22 carries. Brewster caught five passes for 56 yards.

For Bridgewater, Whiting

finished 8-19 for 158 yards with two 2tds and 2 int's, and Joseph-Dube Garrett threw a TD pass as well. Isaiah Wright carried 20 times for 74 yards, and Registre caught three balls for 75 yards and a TD. Bridgewater held a 327-263 margin in total offense, and led 19-18 in first downs. Westfield held a slight 30:58 to 29:02 edge in time of possession.

Budder Ferreira led westfield with eight tackles, Lovell added seven.

Kessy re-signs with Thunderbirds

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds announced today they have re-signed forward Kale Kessy to a one-year AHL contract extension.

Kessy, 32, is entering his 13th professional season and has logged 359 regular season games of AHL expe-

rience, posting 43 points (21g, 22a) and 961 penalty minutes. He has additionally skated in 13 Calder Cup playoff contests, including all three games of the Thunderbirds' postseason series against the Providence Bruins last April.

Originally a fourth-

round pick by the Phoenix Coyotes in the 2011 NHL Draft, Kessy has also dressed in the AHL for the Oklahoma City Barons, Bakersfield Condors, Manitoba Moose, Cleveland Monsters, Colorado Eagles, Hershey Bears, Iowa Wild, and Syracuse Crunch.

Stafford hosts responder race

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT – Stafford Speedway hosted USNE First Responder Friday on Sept. 12 with the TC 13 Shootout joining Stafford's five weekly divisions in feature action. The SK Modified* division ran their regularly scheduled 40-lap feature as well as the 3rd Annual TC 13 Shootout, a 13 lap race contested between the top-13 finishers from the 40-lap feature. Michael Christopher, Jr. was the big winner of the night taking home the TC 13 Shootout trophy and the \$1,313 to win TC 13 Shootout. Also as part of the TC 13 Shootout festivities, the Ted Christopher Safety Initiative, orchestrated by Quinn Christopher, donated a Bell helmet with the winner determined by the winner of the TC 13 Shootout drawing from a list of the five drivers who finished in 13th place in their respective feature events. Christopher drew the Street Stock division which made Bill Cote the winner of the Bell helmet for his 13th place finish in the Street Stock feature.

In the 40-lap SK Modified* feature event, Michael Gervais, Jr. took the early lead with Anthony Flannery and Todd Owen going wheel to wheel for second. Owen took second on lap-2 with Andrew Molleur going around Flannery to move into third on lap-3. Flannery was able to get back in

line in fourth, just in front of Cory DiMatteo and Alexander Pearl, who were side by side fighting for fifth place.

Molleur made a move to the inside of Owen on lap-6 to take second with Michael Christopher, Jr. getting around Pearl for sixth. Molleur took the lead from Gervais on lap-8 with DiMatteo moving into third on lap-9. With 10 laps complete the order was now Molleur, Gervais, DiMatteo, Owen, and Christopher, Flannery was sixth followed by Pearl, Marcello Ruffano, Tyler Chapman, and Jon Puleo.

DiMatteo streaked by Molleur to take over the lead on lap-13. Gervais was third behind DiMatteo and Molleur with Christopher fourth and Owen fifth. Christopher took third from Gervais on lap-16 and then took second from Molleur on lap-17. Wesley Prucker spun on the backstretch to bring the caution flag out with 18 laps complete.

Molleur spun from third place on the restart to bring the caution flag right back out. The next restart saw Gervais shoot out of line going down the backstretch and into turn 3 and his car came back up on the track and collected several cars including Curt Brainard, David Arute, Timmy Solomito, and Wade Gagner to bring the caution right back out again before a lap could be completed. Christopher

was sent to the rear of the field for making contact with Gervais.

The third lap-19 restart saw DiMatteo take the lead with Flannery in second. Puleo and Owen were wheel to wheel for third with Mikey Flynn and Tyler Chapman wheel to wheel for fifth. Flynn and Chapman touched going into turn 3 with Chapman spinning into the wall to bring the caution flag back out with 20 laps complete.

DiMatteo took the lead on the restart with Puleo moving into second. Flynn took third after a side by side lap with Flannery with Ruffano in fifth behind Flynn and Flannery. Ruffano got around Flannery to take fourth place on lap-23 and then took third from Flynn on lap-24. Puleo was looking high and low for a way around DiMatteo but DiMatteo was able to maintain the lead.

With 5 laps to go it was still DiMatteo and Puleo fighting for the win with Ruffano and Flynn fighting for third and Flannery and Keith Rocco fighting for fifth. Rocco took fifth from Flannery on lap-37 while Flynn made a move to get back by Ruffano for third on lap-39. Puleo couldn't get close enough to DiMatteo as DiMatteo took down his second win of the 2025 season. Flynn finished third with Rocco and Ruffano rounding out the top-5.



Patrick Keating looks to clear the ball away.



Dan Abrahamchuk makes a play.

BROWNIES ■ from page 6

league," O'Keefe said. "We're hoping to finish the regular season with a .500 record and qualify for the Division 2 state tournament.

Smith and O'Keefe have known each other for many years. They were teammates on a youth soccer team in Sixteen Acres, which is a neighborhood in Springfield.

"John and I grew up playing on the same soccer team together," Smith said. "We did play soccer at different high schools. It's a lot of fun competing against his team."

O'Keefe graduated from Cathedral High School and Smith graduated from Classical High School.

The two teams faced each other in the 1984 Western Mass. finals, which Cathedral won by the final score of 3-1.

"Tommy and I have known each other for a very long time," O'Keefe said. "When we were playing on the same youth soccer team, I never thought that we would be coaching against each other someday."

The previous meeting on the soccer pitch between the Agawam and Minnechaug boys' teams took place in the quarterfinals of Western Mass. Class A tournament last October. The Falcons squeaked out a 3-2 home victory.

During last Thursday's match, Agawam junior Joey Papadakis was credited with

four saves, while Minnechaug senior Chase Henderson made five saves in posting their first shutouts of the season.

Henderson and senior Nick Cianflone, who had a couple of shots on goal in the second half, are the other two Falcons captains.

The best scoring chance by either team in the first half took place in the 34th minute. That's when Agawam senior Patrick Keating booted a line-drive free kick from about 15 yards out. The ball appeared like it was going to sneak into the upper left corner of the net, but it curved in the other direction at the last second.

"I really thought that shot was definitely going into the net," Smith said. "We had several other scoring chances during the first half."

Senior Aiden Lavelle also had a shot on goal for the visiting team during the first 40 minutes of the match, but Henderson made the save.

Agawam senior co-captains Dawood Atanane and Thomas Poulin had a couple of scoring chances in the second half.

The senior duo of Ben Lopez and Nate Wesloski also had shots on goal for the home team after halftime,

but the match remained scoreless.

The two teams will be looking to celebrate a victory when they meet again at Harmon A. Smith Field in Agawam at 7 p.m. on Oct. 6.



Aiden Lavelle starts to dribble up the field.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Public Notices

Agawam Conservation Commission Legal Notice

The Agawam Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, September 25, 2025 at 6:10 PM** at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the **Notice of Intent** Application of Shah for work to be performed at 18 Springfield St, subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

By Order of
Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission
09/18/2025

Legal Ad Agawam

Conservation Commission

The Agawam Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, September 25, 2025 at 6:00 PM** at the **Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA.** The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the Notice of Intent Application of Diamond Communications LLC for work to be performed at 580 Main St, subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

By Order of
Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission
09/18/2025

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by 716 Spring Valley, LLC a/k/a 716 Spring Valley LLC to Freedom Credit Union dated January 15, 2021 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 23653, Page 189, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 a.m. on the 30th day of October, 2025, on the mortgaged premises believed to be known as 49 North Street, Agawam, Hampden County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

“Beginning at an iron pin in the southerly line of North Street, said iron pin being at the northeasterly corner of land now or formerly of one Polanczak and thence turning an angle of 78 degrees 3’ and running thence

EASTERLY by said North Street, fifty-three and 24/100 (53.24) feet to an angle point in said North Street; thence turning an external angle of 182degrees 6’ and continuing externally by said North street, forty-six and 76/100 (46.76) feet to a point at land now or formerly of one DiDonato; thence turning an internal angle of 99 degrees 53’; and running

SOUTHERLY by last mentioned land, one hundred twenty-seven and 69/100 (127.69) feet to an iron pin; thence turning an angle of 90 degrees and running

WESTERLY ninety-nine and 91/100 (99.91) feet to an iron pin; thence turning an angle of 90 degrees and running

NORTHERLY one hundred forty-nine and 415/1000 (149.415) feet to the point of beginning.

Being the same premises conveyed to 716 Spring Valley, LLC by deed recorded herewith.”

The premises will be sold subject to any and all restrictions, easements, improvements, covenants, outstanding tax titles,

municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens, and existing encumbrances of record superior to the mortgage, if any. Said premises will also be sold subject to all leases and tenancies having priority over said mortgage, to tenancies or occupation by persons on the premises now and at the time of said auction which tenancies or occupation are subject to said mortgage, to rights or claims in personal property installed by tenants or former tenants now located on the premises, also to all laws and ordinances including, but not limited to, all building and zoning laws and ordinances. It shall be the bidder’s sole responsibility to ascertain all items described in this paragraph and no representations are made concerning compliance with applicable zoning, building, sanitary or other state and/or municipal regulations.

TERMS OF SALE: TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 (\$25,000.00) DOLLARS will be required to be paid in cash, or by certified or bank cashier’s check by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance of the purchase price in connection with the sale shall be paid in cash, or by certified or bank cashier’s check within thirty (30) days of the date of the sale and the Deed transferred contemporaneously therewith. A buyer’s premium equal to five percent (5%) of the successful bid will be paid by the successful bidder and incorporated within the purchase price. The purchaser at the sale shall be required to sign a Memorandum of terms of sale containing the above terms at the Auction sale. The purchaser will be responsible for all closing costs, Massachusetts deed excise stamps and all recording fees.

The sale may be postponed or adjourned from time to time, if necessary, by the attorney for the mortgagee at the scheduled time and place of sale. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, will be announced at the sale.

Freedom Credit Union,
Present Holder of said Mortgage
By: /s/Jonathan C. Sapirstein
Jonathan C. Sapirstein
SAPIRSTEIN & SAPIRSTEIN,
P.C.
1500 Main Street, Suite 2504
P.O. Box 15408
Springfield, MA 01115-5408
(413) 827-7500
Its Attorneys
Date: September 2, 2025
09/18, 09/25, 10/02/2025

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. HD25P1861EA Estate of: Betty Anne Cesan Date of Death: 06/13/2025 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 **Paul E Cesan of Southwick, 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: **Paul E Cesan of Southwick, 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 10/06/2025. 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: September 08, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
09/18/2025

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Jasnja Realty, LLC to Freedom Credit Union dated November 26, 2019 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 22974, Page 573, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 a.m. on the 29th day of October, 2025, on the mortgaged premises believed to be known as 438 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills section of Agawam, Hampden County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

“The land in Agawam, Hampden County, Massachusetts, being known and designated as Lots #1 (one), #2 (two), #3 (three), and part of Lot #4 (four) as shown on a plan of “City View Heights”, recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds, Book of Plans L, Page 45, said lots being more particularly bounded and described in one parcel as follows:

SOUTHERLY by Springfield Street, one hundred four and 60/100 (104.60) feet;

WESTERLY by Harding Street, about two hundred nine and 19/100 (209.19) feet;

NORTHERLY by land conveyed to Caesar A. Ferranti et ux by deed dated September 29, 1956 and recorded in said Registry of Deeds, Book 2500, Page 4, about one hundred fifteen (115) feet; and

EASTERLY by the easterly line of said Lots #1, #3 and #4 about two hundred eleven and 73/100 (211.73) feet.

The northerly line of said parcel is parallel to and two hundred (200) feet north of Springfield Street, measured at right angles thereto. See Book 2775, Page 470.

Being the same premises conveyed to the Mortgagor herein by deed of BRVS, LLC, dated November 27, 2019, and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds immediately prior hereto.”

The premises will be sold subject to any and all restrictions, easements, improvements, covenants, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens, and existing encumbrances of record superior to the mortgage, if any. Said premises will also be sold subject to all leases and tenancies having priority over said mortgage, to tenancies or occupation by persons on the premises now and at

the time of said auction which tenancies or occupation are subject to said mortgage, to rights or claims in personal property installed by tenants or former tenants now located on the premises, also to all laws and ordinances including, but not limited to, all building and zoning laws and ordinances. It shall be the bidder’s sole responsibility to ascertain all items described in this paragraph and no representations are made concerning compliance with applicable zoning, building, sanitary or other state and/or municipal regulations.

TERMS OF SALE: TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 (\$25,000.00) DOLLARS will be required to be paid in cash, or by certified or bank cashier’s check by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance of the purchase price in connection with the sale shall be paid in cash, or by certified or bank cashier’s check within thirty (30) days of the date of the sale and the Deed transferred contemporaneously therewith. A buyer’s premium equal to five percent (5%) of the successful bid will be paid by the successful bidder and incorporated within the purchase price. The purchaser at the sale shall be required to sign a Memorandum of terms of sale containing the above terms at the Auction sale. The purchaser will be responsible for all closing costs, Massachusetts deed excise stamps and all recording fees.

The sale may be postponed or adjourned from time to time, if necessary, by the attorney for the mortgagee at the scheduled time and place of sale. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, will be announced at the sale

Freedom Credit Union,
Present Holder of said Mortgage
By: /s/Jonathan C. Sapirstein
Jonathan C. Sapirstein
SAPIRSTEIN & SAPIRSTEIN,
P.C.
1500 Main Street, Suite 2504
P.O. Box 15408
Springfield, MA 01115-5408
(413) 827-7500
Its Attorneys
Date: September 2, 2025
09/18, 09/25, 10/02/2025

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Nilo-ufar Realty Trust to Freedom Credit Union dated November 26, 2019 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 22974, Page 600, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 1:00 p.m. on the 29th day of October, 2025, on the mortgaged premises believed to be known as 873 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills section of Agawam, Hampden County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

“Certain real estate situate in the part of Agawam, Hampden County, Massachusetts, known as Feeding Hills, being bounded and described as follows:

A parcel of land known and designated as Lots 44 (forty four), and 45 (forty five) and 46 (forty six) all as shown on a plan of lots recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book of Plans S, page 42, said lots being more particularly bounded and described in one parcel as follows:

NORTHERLY by Springfield Street, One Hundred Thirty Nine and 73/100 (139.73) feet;

EASTERLY by Highland Street, Two Hundred Fifty Seven and 13/100 (257.13) feet;

SOUTHERLY by Lot 47 (forty seven) as shown on said plan, One Hundred Five (105) feet; and

WESTERLY by Lot 43 (forty three) as shown on said plan, One Hundred Sixty Four and 88/100 (164.88) feet.

SUBJECT TO pole and wire rights in Highland Street, granted to Western Massachusetts Electric Company by instrument dated August 17, 1948 and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 1954, Page 4.

Being the same premises conveyed to the Mortgagor herein by deed of Robert R Koziol, dated January 14, 2015, and recorded in the Hampden County Registry

of Deeds in Book 20566, Page 409.”

The premises will be sold subject to any and all restrictions, easements, improvements, covenants, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens, and existing encumbrances of record superior to the mortgage, if any. Said premises will also be sold subject to all leases and tenancies having priority over said mortgage, to tenancies or occupation by persons on the premises now and at the time of said auction which tenancies or occupation are subject to said mortgage, to rights or claims in personal property installed by tenants or former tenants now located on the premises, also to all laws and ordinances including, but not limited to, all building and zoning laws and ordinances. It shall be the bidder’s sole responsibility to ascertain all items described in this paragraph and no representations are made concerning compliance with applicable zoning, building, sanitary or other state and/or municipal regulations.

TERMS OF SALE: TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 (\$25,000.00) DOLLARS will be required to be paid in cash, or by certified or bank cashier’s check by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance of the purchase price in connection with the sale shall be paid in cash, or by certified or bank cashier’s check within thirty (30) days of the date of the sale and the Deed transferred contemporaneously therewith. A buyer’s premium equal to five percent (5%) of the successful bid will be paid by the successful bidder and incorporated within the purchase price. The purchaser at the sale shall be required to sign a Memorandum of terms of sale containing the above terms at the Auction sale. The purchaser will be responsible for all closing costs, Massachusetts deed excise stamps and all recording fees.

The sale may be postponed or adjourned from time to time, if necessary, by the attorney for the mortgagee at the scheduled time and place of sale. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, will be announced at the sale.

Freedom Credit Union,
Present Holder of said Mortgage
By: /s/Jonathan C. Sapirstein
Jonathan C. Sapirstein
SAPIRSTEIN & SAPIRSTEIN,
P.C.
1500 Main Street, Suite 2504
P.O. Box 15408
Springfield, MA 01115-5408
(413) 827-7500
Its Attorneys
Date: September 2, 2025
09/18, 09/25, 10/02/2025

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by PCR Agawam LLC to Freedom Credit Union dated September 29, 2023 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 25173, Page 475, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 1:00 p.m. on the 30th day of October, 2025, on the mortgaged premises believed to be known as 21 Dwight Street, Agawam, Hampden County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

“Land in Agawam, Hampden County, Massachusetts, being designated as Lots 31 (thirty-one), 32 (thirty-two), 33 (thirty-three) and land Westerly of said Lot 33 (thirty-three), all as shown on the plan recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book of Plans 2, Page 163, said real estate being bounded and described in one parcel as follows:

NORTHERLY by Dwight Street, as shown on said plan, two hundred twelve (212) feet, more or less;

EASTERLY by Lot 30 (thirty), as shown on said plan, one hundred twenty (120) feet;

SOUTHERLY by Lots 36 (thirty-six), 35 (thirty-five) and 34 (thirty-four), all as shown on said plan, and land of owner unknown by a straight line, three hundred seven and 50/100

(307.50) feet, more or less; and

WESTERLY by land now or formerly of Ida Bernatchey, by an irregular line, one hundred fifty-seven (157) feet, more or less.

Being the same premises conveyed to the mortgagor herein by deed recorded herewith.”

The premises will be sold subject to any and all restrictions, easements, improvements, covenants, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens, and existing encumbrances of record superior to the mortgage, if any. Said premises will also be sold subject to all leases and tenancies having priority over said mortgage, to tenancies or occupation by persons on the premises now and at the time of said auction which tenancies or occupation are subject to said mortgage, to rights or claims in personal property installed by tenants or former tenants now located on the premises, also to all laws and ordinances including, but not limited to, all building and zoning laws and ordinances. It shall be the bidder’s sole responsibility to ascertain all items described in this paragraph and no representations are made concerning compliance with applicable zoning, building, sanitary or other state and/or municipal regulations.

TERMS OF SALE: TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 (\$25,000.00) DOLLARS will be required to be paid in cash, or by certified or bank cashier’s check by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance of the purchase price in connection with the sale shall be paid in cash, or by certified or bank cashier’s check within thirty (30) days of the date of the sale and the Deed transferred contemporaneously therewith. A buyer’s premium equal to five percent (5%) of the successful bid will be paid by the successful bidder and incorporated within the purchase price. The purchaser at the sale shall be required to sign a Memorandum of terms of sale containing the above terms at the Auction sale. The purchaser will be responsible for all closing costs, Massachusetts deed excise stamps and all recording fees.

The sale may be postponed or adjourned from time to time, if necessary, by the attorney for the mortgagee at the scheduled time and place of sale. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

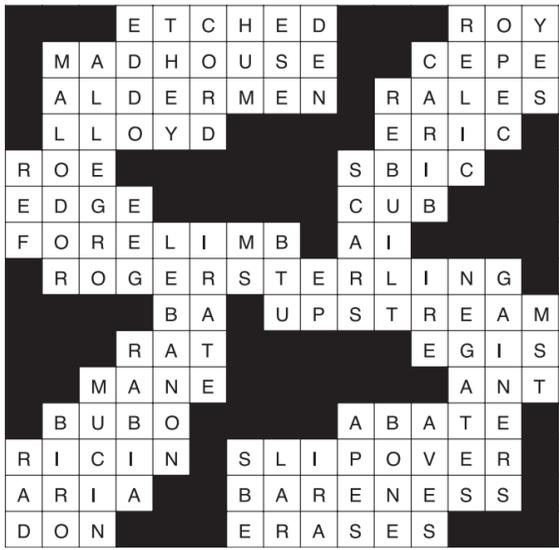
Other terms, if any, will be announced at the sale.

Freedom Credit Union,
Present Holder of said Mortgage
By: /s/Jonathan C. Sapirstein
Jonathan C. Sapirstein
SAPIRSTEIN & SAPIRSTEIN,
P.C.
1500 Main Street, Suite 2504
P.O. Box 15408
Springfield, MA 01115-5408
(413) 827-7500
Its Attorneys
Date: September 2, 2025
09/18, 09/25, 10/02/2025

Town of Agawam Legal Notice

The **Agawam Planning Board** will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, October 2, 2025 at 6:00pm** and the **Agawam City Council** will hold its public hearing on **Monday, October 6, 2025 at 7:00pm** at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of these hearings will be to hear the petition of Mayor Johnson, Councilors Russo & Smus for a proposed zoning amendment for “An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 180-8 of the Code of the City of Agawam Entitled Supplementary Regulations by Adding Paragraph N Regarding Construction Hours.” The City Council’s public hearing will be livestreamed on the Town of Agawam’s website at www.agawam.ma.us and will also be televised on Cable Access Channel 15 or Channel 1074. Copies of the proposed zoning amendment 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.

By Order Of:
Violet Baldwin, Chairman
Agawam Planning Board
Rosemary Sandlin
City Council President
09/18, 09/25/2025



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SHERIFF ■ from page 3

(Dineen) and her staff because their work is so important, and they are making an impact on people's lives." He also added, "I just want to say events like this don't happen without community support, and the fact that the Sheriff's office may be the logo on the front of the jersey, make no mistake about it, this is a community, multi-agency effort to support the men and women of our communities that have become victims, and survivors," Cocchi said. Before issuing a stern warning while raising domestic abuse awareness "As the Sheriff, I want everyone to know we're in the fight, we're not going anywhere, and we're going to continue every day to try to make a little bit of difference in moving the needle to a safer, more respectful, community because that's what everybody deserves and that's what people expect," said Cocchi.

In addition, offering similar sentiments about the resilience of the community and the Hampden County Sheriff's office was Springfield Mayor Domenic Sarno, who was one of the guests of honor at the road race. Sarno revealed that he sent over Springfield's 'forestry crews' to assist as much as possible, after a brief conversation with Holyoke Mayor Joshua A. Garcia.

"We did some mutual aid on Saturday, as we saw you guys (Holyoke) got hit pretty hard with a microburst," Sarno said. "I sent over Tom Ashe and Alex (Sherman), and they helped out with your electric light and got

everything going, and the Sheriff's crew did a hell of a job, cleaning this up."

Sarno also bestowed ample praise on the continued efforts of Cocchi to combat the battle of domestic abuse.

"The Sheriff Shuffle raises over thousands and thousands of dollars, and I commend Sheriff Nick (Cocchi), who has done a hell of a job, to help individuals and families get back on their feet," he said. "Even though every year it seems to rain a little bit, the rain has stopped, and at this time in the darkness, when you see the darkness, all of these efforts help people see the light at the end of the tunnel."

As Cocchi mentioned prior, the charity race was organized in collaboration with the YWCA of Western Massachusetts, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting victims of domestic violence through various programs. Providing a bit of further insight about the continued partnership between the Hampden County Sheriff's office and the YWCA was Tiera Wright, the V.P. of development and communications for the YWCA of Western Massachusetts.

"It's such a great partnership because it really spreads the word on how necessary it is to raise awareness about domestic violence, and as our CEO (Dineen) has stated prior, it's also great to have a male role model showing other men, because we have had increased calls of men to our hotline whenever he's (Cocchi) has come out in support, so it's just great to have law enforcement but also Sherriff Cocchi's rep-

utation behind us to raise awareness for domestic violence," Wright said. Wright also revealed that the YWCA operates four residential programs, along with featuring 20 community-based programs, and a domestic violence shelter to assist victims in need of support.

In addition, before the opening festivities of the race kicked off and the reporters sped to the starting point, Race Coordinator and Program Supervisor at the Hampden County Sheriff's Office, Davis Snow, took a moment to reflect on how everything came together, and offered a bit of history about the 'Sheriff Shuffle.'

"It's truly incredible how everyone has come together, and that's the vibe and the theme of what we're doing here, as our goal is to bring everyone, while encouraging the opportunity to extend the invitation and take a stand and raise awareness for an incredible cause," Snow said. "So this is a long, ongoing event designed, and there have been a variety of partnerships in the past, such as the Boys and Girls Club of Western Mass, the Youth Leadership Academy, but we have been selecting the YWCA of Western Mass for the past few years due to the uptick we have seen in domestic violence, which is extremely alarming." He also unveiled that there is a plethora of resources that many may not know about, and that the event is rooted and founded upon bringing the community together to break the stigma of domestic violence, and to make a sense of change for the victims and survivors affected.



A look at the runners ready to go as they continued to pile in.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY BRENDAN ROONEY

Once the runners were set at the starting point, both Cocchi and Dineen delivered memorable speeches.

"There is no quit in our game, and let it be known there will be a Sheriff Shuffle," Cocchi said as he got the crowd pumped up. "We can put events on, but make it known without you, this event means nothing, and this isn't just an event to recognize and support domestic violence survivors, it's to also remember and acknowledge the poor men and women who didn't make it, but more importantly, this is a movement of our community saying enough is enough," Cocchi said. "And we're not going to stand for it anymore because nobody has the right physically, emotionally, or mentally to get in somebody's wheelhouse and change how they live their life, and I'm so proud of my friend Liz (Dineen) and all of her staff at the YWCA because what they do makes a difference." Cocchi then set the stage for Dineen, but before she delivered her remarks, the runners offered a standing ovation.

"Thank you for all coming out, I so deeply appreciate every one of you being

here, and I need to make a shoutout to Sheriff Cocchi," Dineen said. "You (Cocchi) are amazing. You moved heaven and earth to have this event, and you mobilized the people you knew that could do this, and this is fantastic."

Dineen also delivered a sense of gratitude to Snow before touching upon the impact of domestic violence and recognizing the ongoing battle that carries on.

"Domestic violence is something that should not occur in the home, the workplace, or the community, and if you know anybody who is a survivor of domestic violence, please have them call the YWCA of Western Mass," Dineen said. "I have the most incredible team of employees who want to help, and together we can change the paradigm for the future for the woman and for her children, so call us, we want to help, and once again, thank you for being here and participating in this event, and thank you, dear Nick."

Cocchi also passed the mic to Snow, who kept his remarks short and to the point.

"It was an all-night ef-

fort that saw many hands come together to make this event and moment possible," Snow said as he delivered remarks to the runners, before delivering a sense of everlasting gratitude to all first responders across all services.

After the race came to an end, attendees then returned to the Elks community room, where live music was being played, raffle prizes were drawn, and champions were crowned as the overall 5K race champion was Joseph Harris, 32, of South Hadley, and taking home the title for the women's bracket was winner Alexandra Ferreira, 32, of Springfield.

The funds raised from the race will aid all programs and initiatives from the YWCA, furthering the organization's mission to provide critical resources and services to those affected by domestic violence.

CULVERT ■ from page 1

rials 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 last month. 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."

STUDENTS ■ from page 1

Dawood began, "During the month of August, we got all the student ambassadors together and we did a bunch of games. We went to Franklin High School and we played tag and a bunch of games as ice-breakers. We came back to the MIAA facility and talked about directives we want to work on this year, like working on athlete's mental health and how we can reduce burnout. I'm really excited to have a good year, the group this year is so willing and driven to help student athletes throughout the state. I know as a student athlete

halfway throughout the season, those who play multiple sports, school gets hard. I think that they should be recognized and deserve the support during the school year," ended Dawood.

Blain introduced the Agawam High School Junior Class President Gavin, who went to the Dominican Republic with a group called Lindos Sueños to play baseball and to rebuild homes and schools. Gavin stated, "Thank you for giving me the chance tonight to speak about my experience this summer. I first learned about this program when my mom came across it online a couple of years ago,

and at 15 I was immediately drawn to the idea of combining baseball, service, and cultural exchange. When I was 16, I knew I had to apply but the process wasn't easy. I had to write an essay, complete an interview, and then do an in-person interview. Out of all the students across New England, I was honored to be selected out of 10 by the Red Sox to take part in this incredible program. Attending Lindos Sueños was more than just playing baseball, it was about working side-by-side with kids from the Dominican Republic building homes, playing baseball, and truly being myself in another culture.

I learned firsthand how helpful teamwork can be, it extends beyond the field when it comes to helping people and lifting each other up as a community. This program changed my life," said Gavin.

Blain read aloud Student Tony's experience who is president of the Best Buddies Chapter, who attended the National Conference in Indianapolis this summer. Tony's blog stated, "I've never been to an event like this, from the moment I arrived, I felt the sense of community and inclusion. At the conference, attendees learned how to lean into their strengths and weaknesses to become a

leader of diversity and inclusivity in their schools. I met so many incredible people that all had values that aligned with mine, and the overall idea that everyone should be treated equally in a school. My favorite part about the bus trip home when I unexpectedly sat next to a woman who had intellectual and developmental disabilities. She was the keynote speaker, singer, and an advocate for individuals with disabilities; I learned so much from her. I could never be grateful enough to attend the Best Buddies Leadership Conference and it was the highlight of my summer," ended Blain.

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