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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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Sapelli honored with school renaming

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Mayor William Sapelli was honored with a school renaming dedication ceremony last Tuesday, Oct. 3.

At the ceremony, many members of the community gathered to congratulate Sapelli on this accomplishment.

Throughout his years work in Agawam, Sapelli has been a coach of many different varsity and junior varsity sports teams, a teacher, an assistant principal, a principal at what is now William P. Sapelli School, the assistant superintendent, the superintendent and now the mayor.

It was for these many years of service that Gerald Smith proposed this name change and the rest of the school committee agreed to it.

“Every school committee member unanimously sponsored the resolution addressing the adoption of this name change,” School Committee Member Wendy Rua said. “It’s easy to think about why. Mr. Sapelli has been the pillar of our educational system and the source of inspiration for generations of students, faculty and educators.”

The gathered community members agreed.

“No one in the town of Agawam has given more than this gentleman sitting here,” Long-time friend of Sapelli, William Marganti said.

All speakers at the ceremony remarked on Sapelli’s dedication to Agawam. With almost 50 years in service of the town, it is no wonder that many wanted to speak in his favor.

Superintendent Sheila Hoff-



Vice Chair of the School Committee Shelley Reed introduces school committee members in attendance of the dedication: AJ Christopher, Michael Perry, Wendy Rua and Dawn Dawn DeMatteo.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA

man particularly remarked on how much of a mentor Sapelli has been for her throughout her time as superintendent.

Sapelli has given her advice

when she has sought it out, but has also always been careful not to overstep his bounds, even

SCHOOL | page 12

Welcome to Sapelli School

Together we...

- S** = Show pride & respect
- O** = Own your actions
- A** = Act responsibly
- R** = Remember safety

Squindo departs town, senior center to get new director

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Executive Director of the Senior Center Michael Squindo has resigned from his position.

After many years of serving the Agawam community, Squindo has stepped down and has moved to Westfield.

As a result, the senior center is now looking for a new executive director.

The posting for the position is up on the town webpage and the personnel office is currently collecting resumes.

The resumes will be reviewed by Personnel Director John Fitzgerald and the Interim Executive Director Christopher Sparks.

From there, they will select candidates to come in for an interview.

One or two candidates who do well in the initial interview

will be selected for a second interview with the mayor, who has the appointing authority for this position.

All involved with the hiring process are working hard to ensure that the person chosen will be the best fit for the town.

Mayor William Sapelli and members of the personnel office had a meeting with the senior center constituents in order to hear their thoughts on what sort of person they would like to take over that position.

“We met for approximately 45 minutes and came away with a good understanding of what they are looking for,” Fitzgerald said. “I am sure that will be taken into consideration during the candidate interviews.”

Any person interested in applying for this position must have a minimum of a bachelor’s degree in social services, sociology, gerontology, psychology, or re-

lated field as well as a minimum of 3 years administrative and/or supervisory experience ideally working with a senior population.

As part of their work in the position, anyone hired will be expected to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of a variety of programs, ensure the senior center is properly maintained, act as the ADA coordinator for the town, help maintain Agawam’s status as an age and dementia friendly community, and much more.

Fitzgerald hopes that any candidate who applies has experience working in a similar position to ensure a smooth transfer.

“I’m hopeful that we will receive enough qualified people that they are well versed in this and that they are coming from another municipality with a senior center, so there isn’t a learning

SQUINDO | page 6

Police headquarters is now a dropoff location for Toys for Tots

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The Agawam Police Department is now a registered toy drop-off site for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots Foundation.

This foundation helps to give gifts to children who may not receive something for the holidays otherwise.

Usually, the police department will put on a toy drive in the second week in December and donate those proceeds to the toys for tots foundation. This year they were able to register as an actual drop off location so that they can collect toys for the several months leading up to the holiday season.

“This is the first time I’ve gotten it in on time to register as a toy drop-off location, so at some point the Hampden County Toys

for Tots will list us as a toy drop-off location on their site,” Sargent Christopher Soto said.

People can drop off their toys and donations right in the donation boxes in the lobby at Agawam Police Department which is located at 681 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, MA.

All that is required of the toys is that they be unopened.

The police department is looking forward to seeing all the donations come in throughout the months.

“We’re just happy to be recipients of any donations,” Soto said.

The department is happy to be helping the community in this way.

“We’re interested in helping the community, we always participate when we can, we hand

DROP | page 6



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Banas sworn in as firefighter



Fire Chief Alan Sirois, Firefighter Kenneth Banas and Mayor William P. Sapelli. Banas is the department's newest firefighter and was recently sworn in to his new position. SUBMITTED PHOTO



The Agawam Public Library offers three story times based on age: babies, toddlers and older preschool children. Seen here is a previous Baby Story Time. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Join Story Time at the library

AGAWAM – For a lively, fun-filled story time there is no better place than the Agawam Public Library, at 750 Cooper St. The library offers a Baby Story Time for birth to 18-months-old, a Toddler Time Story Time for children 19 to 36 months, and a Story Time for ages 3-5. During each of these programs library staff and children will read books together, sing songs, and have some awesome play time.

No registration is necessary and parents and children may just drop in. Toddler Time meets every other Mondays at 10 a.m. Story Time meets every other Tuesday at 10 a.m. Baby Story Time meets every other Thursday at 10 a.m.

Why come to story time? The power of story time cannot be overstated in early childhood education. It is important for children to see the adults in their life in-

teract with books, use them, read them, hold them and value them, especially because in this increasingly digital age. That example can positively impact their attitude towards reading and get them excited to start reading on their own when they are ready for it.

Although life is busy for everyone, story time and the benefits it brings will be present in children's lives as long as parents and teachers make it a priority. And once a child gets excited about reading and starts to choose his or her own books, it might even get difficult to convince them to put those books down. But that's another story.

For more information about this program or other programs at the Agawam Public Library please visit its website at agawamlibrary.org.



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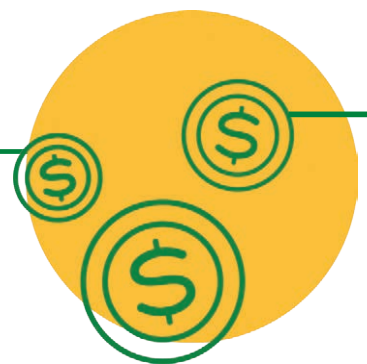
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Harvest Craft Beer and Wine Tasting Fundraiser on Oct. 13

AGAWAM – The Annual Harvest Craft Beer and Wine Tasting sponsored by McCarthy's Liquors of Agawam will take place rain or shine on Friday evening, Oct. 13, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Captain Charles Leonard House, 663 Main St. Proceeds from the event are being generously donated to the Captain Charles Leonard House by the McCarthy family to aid in the preservation of the historic structure, which was built in 1805 and has served as



Agawam's Community House since 1939.

Tickets to the event are \$45 per person in advance and are available at McCarthy's Liquors, 430 Main Street, Agawam, and Nicky's Pizzeria, 1000 Main Street, Agawam. Guest must be at least 21 years old to attend this event. This event is supported in part by a grant from the Agawam Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

The event will feature a variety of wines and craft beers, including new and popular offerings. A range of price points will be represented, and beer and wine distributor's representatives will be on hand to present the selections and answer questions. Food will be prepared by Nicky's Pizzeria. All food and beverages are included in the \$45 ticket price. A selection of door prizes will be raffled the night of the tasting. Trustees of the Captain Leonard House will also be on hand to provide tours of the house, which is available to rent for business and social functions.

Congregational Church offering Veterans Day turkey dinner

AGAWAM – On Veterans Day, Nov. 11, Agawam Congregational Church is pleased to, once again, host its popular, delicious, sit-down, turkey dinner. Doors will open at 5 p.m. and tickets are \$17.

"This is the first turkey dinner to be held in Bryan Hall since COVID-19," said Dale Melanson, chair of the church's catering committee. "We're thrilled. Folks have been asking when we would be hosting one of our special turkey meals served by church members."

The meal will include turkey, stuffing, yummy gravy, butternut squash, roll with butter, cranberry sauce, a gingerbread square with whipped cream coffee, tea and water.

All ticket orders and payments with a check, money order or cash must be received by Wednesday, Nov. 8, at noon,

in the church office, which is open from 8 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday. Take-out orders will also be available with prepayment. There will be no walk-in orders.

The church hall will have festive, fall decorations at all the tables. In addition, each attendee will receive a small American flag honoring all veterans and an amusing Thanksgiving sticker.

Everyone will also see other holiday decorations in preparation for the church's Holly Wreath Bazaar to be held Saturday, Nov. 18, starting at 9 a.m.

For more information, contact the church at 413-786-7111 or email at office@AgawamCong.com

The church is located in the Historic District of Agawam, at 745 Main St., and is handicapped accessible with a large parking lot.

Real estate, personal property tax bills due by Nov. 1

AGAWAM – The second quarter preliminary real estate and personal property tax bills for fiscal year 2024 are due in the Tax Collector's office by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 1. Bills may be paid online @ www.agawam.ma.us, by mail in the envelope provided or the drop box that is provided outside Town Hall may be used.

Second quarter payment notices were mailed Sept. 28. By law, bills were mailed to owners of record as of Jan. 1. Any new homeowner or anyone who has not received their real estate or personal property tax bill should contact the Collector's office immediately to obtain the bill amount. The telephone number is 413-786-0400, ext. 8218.

Benefit concert for Veterans Memorial Cemetery on Sunday

AGAWAM – The public is invited to attend a benefit concert sponsored by The Friends of the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Agawam on Sunday, Oct. 15, from noon to 4 p.m., at the Sons of Erin, 22 William St., in Westfield. Admittance is available for a \$15 donation.

The concert will feature Billy Eagen and The Rising. Eagen has been playing for over 20 years, from Boston to New York. He was the founding member of the Rising Band. He will be playing everyone's Irish Pub favorites, keeping the Irish culture alive and well. This family-friendly event will be a fun time for all.

Come and be part of what will be a moving tribute to veterans as well as a high-energy performance. Sit in the pavilion of bring a lawn chair and sit in the open air.

Food trucks from North Elm Butcher Block and The Saucy Mama, as well as Patty Cakes will satisfy all pallets. In

addition to a cash bar, craft beer from Loophole and Easy Company breweries will be available. Ice cream will be served by the "Ice Cream Emergency" from their mobile Ice Cream Parlor.

The grand prizes will include two tickets to the Patriots-Jets game on Jan. 7, 2024, a Smith & Wesson 9 mm Shield EZ, a four-pack of tickets for the Thunderbirds, handmade cornhole boards and a pair of Adirondack chairs. There will be a raffle table with over 50 awesome prizes, most valued at over \$100, and a 50/50 raffle.

Come see the Veteran Dragon Boat, Hampden County Sheriff Department's Mounted Patrol and Boomer the Springfield Thunderbird's mascot. Participate in the bean bag toss sponsored by Soapy Mobi and more.

The Friends is a nonprofit organization that raises funds to enhance the hallowed grounds at the cemetery and honor to the veterans interred there.

Tag and bake sale to benefit the Community Grange Oct. 28

FEEDING HILLS – Community Grange #382 of Feeding Hills, located at 47 North West St., will hold a multi-family indoor fall tag and bake sale on Saturday, Oct. 28, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The tag sale will include fur-

niture, household items and crafts among others, and the bake sale will include Halloween-themed baked goods. Soup to go will also be available.

Proceeds will benefit the building fund

Westfield library offers Tri-Town History event to be held on Oct. 14

WESTFIELD – More than a year ago the various sites in the Westfield area got together to talk about collaborative projects. Since all are dedicated to presenting the history of this region, it made sense to coordinate efforts and the first event, The Tri-Town History Trail, on Saturday, Oct. 14, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., grew out of those first conversations.

As one of the five participants, the Westfield Athenaeum, at 6 Elm St., will be featuring its history exhibits located in its Reed Room. This room includes an extensive exhibit covering the history of Westfield from its founding in 1669 to the present day. There is also a large exhibit on the history of military service in West-

field featuring the stories of a number of Westfield veterans. Both of these displays include many artifacts from the museum and archives collections. The Athenaeum will also open its newly-renovated Smith Room, which features a recreation of a colonial kitchen, displays of Victorian era artifacts and a display on the history of childhood in New England. For this special day there will be docents on hand to answer questions about the displays and activities for the kids.

This event is an opportunity for families interested in the history of the region to sample the exhibits and historic sites that are part of the tri-town area. In addition to the history displays at the Athenaeum,

families will be able to see the Old Burying Ground, at 45 Mechanic St., one of the oldest cemeteries in its original location in the United States. At one time there were more than 1,600 graves. Some 1,100 gravestones can still be seen today, featuring unique carvings and beautiful epitaphs.

Another stop on the trail will be the Dewey House at 87 South Maple St. This house, built around 1735, was owned by Joseph Dewey, who operated a saw mill on the river just across the street. By visiting this house, viewers will be able to experience what it was like to live in an 18th century home.

In Granville, participants will be able to visit the Noble and Cooley Center for His-

toric Preservation at 42 Water St.. At this site families will be able see the oldest drum factory in the United States and experience demonstrations of original machinery. Participants will also have the chance to see a Civil War drum picked up off the battlefield at Gettysburg.

In Southwick, families will be able to see two historic sites owned and operated by the Southwick Historical Society. The Joseph Moore House, built in 1751, features the story of Moore, who later served and died fighting in the Revolutionary War. The second site is the Charles Gillett Cigar Factory, built in 1872, and is the only remaining site documenting the tobacco industry in the Connecticut River Valley.

Westfield Homeless Cat Project holding clinics, in need of donations

WESTFIELD – Westfield Homeless Cat Project is holding adoption clinics every Tuesday from 5 to 7 p.m., Wednesday from 1 to 4 p.m., Thursday from 3 to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m. at 1124 East Mountain Road. WHCP is also seeking wonderful foster families willing to provide loving temporary homes to our wonderful cats and kittens during their stay. For more information, please contact Denise at denisesinico@hotmail.com.

WHCP is urgently seeking volunteers to help organize and manage tag sales at our 1124 East Mountain Road location. If interested, please contact Denise at denisesinico@hotmail.com for more infor-

mation. WHCP will also begin collecting gently used household goods and furnishings for upcoming tag sales in the near future. Please follow the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/westfieldhomelesscatprojectadoptions for more information regarding donation drop-off and tag sale dates.

With the cooler weather approaching, WHCP anticipates a dramatic increase in requests for assisting homeless and abandoned cats which creates an urgent need for monetary donations and supplies. At this time WHCP especially needs the following items: cans of KMR Replacement Milk for Kittens Stage 1, towels, small

blankets, potty pads, paper towels, bleach, cat and kitten food*, kitten feeding bottles, facecloths and warming discs as well as canned Friskies and Fancy Feast and Royal Canin Baby Cat and Mama and Baby Cat formulas. Monetary donations would also be most appreciated. Donated items can be sent to or dropped off at 1124 East Mountain Road at any time. WHCP thanks the community for their support.

Every day is laundry day here at WHCP and are seeking individuals who can assist with washing towels and small blankets and throws. Dirty laundry can be picked up at any time at 1124 East Mountain Road.



Opinion

Guest Column

How do disability programs affect Social Security's budget?



Dear Rusty

I read with interest an analysis of the history, reasons, and financial costs of the Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance programs. My question is, specifically, what portion of the Social Security budget goes toward SSI and SSDI vs. for regular SS retirement income for those who paid into the fund during their working lives? How are the costs of SSI and SSDI covered by the federal government? When did these two sections of the budget enter the law and what was the impetus behind them?

Signed: An Inquiring Mind

Dear Inquiring Mind

No part of Social Security's "budget" is used to pay Supplemental Security Income. SSI is a means-tested general assistance program for disadvantaged children and needy disabled adults and aged seniors who have very little income and very few assets. Federal SSI benefits are paid from the government's General Treasury, not from Social Security Trust Funds.

SSI is jointly administered by the person's state of residence and the Social Security Administration, and the state usually provides additional benefits to supplement the financial assistance provided by the federal government

under the SSI program. The Social Security Administration only administers the SSI program, it does not fund it.

By contrast, Social Security Disability Insurance benefits are for employed Americans, who become disabled and unable to work full time. SSDI benefits are meant to provide limited income replacement for the disabled worker and those benefits are paid from a separate Social Security Disability Insurance Trust Fund.

The DI fund receives a portion (0.9%) of the FICA SS payroll taxes every American worker pays on their earnings and is used to pay disability benefits to eligible American workers, who are unable to perform "substantial gainful activity" for a year or more. The eligibility criteria to collect SSDI are very strict, but those approved receive their benefits from this separate DI trust fund, not from Social Security's Old Age and Survivors Trust Fund.

Payroll taxes collected for disability purposes are deposited in the DI Trust Fund as interest-bearing government bonds, and those DI assets are redeemed as needed to pay SSDI benefits. FYI, SSDI (disability) benefits stop when the person reaches full retirement age, at which point the beneficiary is automatically switched to regular SS retirement and after which their benefits are paid from the regular Old Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund.

"Regular" Social Security retirement benefits, spousal benefits, dependent benefits and survivor benefits are paid from Social Security's OASI Trust Fund, which receives most 5.3% of the 6.2% FICA Social Security tax withheld from the paychecks of American workers. As of the end of

2022, the OASI Trust Fund held about \$2.7 trillion in interest bearing government bonds.

Neither SSI or SSDI affect this "regular" OASI Trust Fund - only true SS retirement benefits and benefits for dependents of the retiree are paid from the OASI Trust Fund. As an aside, Social Security reform is needed to prevent the OASI Trust Fund from being fully depleted in 2033.

To answer your last questions, the Social Security Disability Insurance Trust Fund was established in 1956, after which SSDI benefit payments to eligible disabled American workers began. Federal "Supplemental Security Income" assistance was codified into law in 1974. And, as you likely know, Social Security retirement, spousal and dependent benefits were enacted in the 1930s, before the first monthly Social Security check was mailed in January 1940. The impetus behind these programs? Avoiding poverty for the neediest among us. Without these programs, at least 22 million more Americans would be living below the poverty line.

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 Se-

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters. All letters are subject to editing for content and length. The deadline is Monday at noon. Please send letters to Agawam Advertiser News, care of Turley Publications Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, or e-mail aan@turley.com.

Planning ahead for raised beds!



My friend Jacquie is very proud of the tomato plants she grows each year. She squeezes them into the little garden adjacent to the front door of her condo, and has even grown some in hanging containers. I received this question from her via text a few weeks back, and by the sound of it she wants to expand her gardening endeavors:

"For those of us that like to plan ahead, what are the pros and cons of raised bed gardens, and if you decide to go that route, what is the process?"

There are several advantages to gardening in raised beds. If the ground you would normally garden in is too sandy or too clayey, you can stop dealing with those troubles when you switch to

raised beds!

You can carefully choose the soil that you fill the beds with. I personally love the Coast of Maine brand Raised Bed Mix, but I am sure there are resources online for mixing your own blends.

You can also plant more intensively, meaning fewer weeds! Concentrate fertilizers, lime and compost right where you need them, saving money along the way.

You can start working the ground earlier in the spring because it warms up quicker in raised beds. You don't have to worry about soil compaction as much either, because rarely, if ever, will you have to step into the beds.

You no longer have to weed the rows like you would in a normal garden, or will you have to worry about mulch or other materials to cover the rows with.

One drawback might be the cost to get started. Between the edging materials and the mix, you end up filling the bed with, it could get darn expensive.

First, you have to decide on what type of material you'll use to edge the beds with. There are pros and cons there too, but more on that in a bit.

A minimum depth of one foot is needed for most crops barring corn; that crop would need a deeper bed. On the flip side, if the ground beneath the raised beds is usable (i.e., not contaminated or pavement etc.) then you could potentially make the beds not as quite as deep, figuring plant roots will penetrate out from the walls.

Wood, stone, brick, pavers and cinder blocks are all possible edge materials. Simple raised beds can even be made within hay bales!

Beds made from pine slabs may only last a few seasons; rock type edging will last indefinitely.

One drawback to beds made out of hard-scape materials might be the fact that they dry out more readily. Although that would not have been an issue this year, it could be down the road.

I had a number of raised beds that I made in an old tennis court on my property. They were edged in field stone because I had an endless supply on my property.

Free, yes! Beautiful, yes! But practical, not so much.

On a hot summer day, I was sometimes out there watering two or more times!

The new galvanized metal raised beds seem to be rising in popularity. I know very little about them or how readily they dry out in between waterings.

As far as bed width goes, usually no more than four feet wide is recommended. That way you can reach inside comfortably.

I have been very successful growing peppers, zucchini and onions in my raised beds. Flowers and herbs also seem to do very well.

Tomatoes perform okay, but for me, green beans seem to be unhappy. There isn't enough room for winter squash, and I've never attempted corn.

Refresh your soil each year with the addition of compost and fertilizer. Because the bed is like a big container, the soil can get exhausted after a season of use.

I would say gardening in raised beds is worth the investment. Start out small and expand if you feel you enjoy having more to take care of.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



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Town announces fall yard waste pick up days

AGAWAM – The Town of Agawam residential fall yard waste collections will take place on the following weeks as noted on the 2023 route collection schedule.

Yard waste includes grass clippings, leaves, weeds, shrub trimmings, and brush or limbs under 3" in diameter. Limbs under 3" in diameter must be tied in bundles, no greater than 3' in length, weighing no more than 40lbs. Yard waste may be placed in a 30 gallon 2-ply kraft paper bag

Yard waste may be placed in trash containers, no larger than 32 gallon, with handles. Containers must be labeled as Yard Waste to be collected. Bags and barrels may not exceed 40 lbs in weight for collection. Bags or barrels in excess of 40 lbs or too heavy to be lifted by one person will be left behind. Wet broken bags, due to the

weather, are not the responsibility of the hauler to clean up. It is encouraged that residents cover bags during rain events to prevent broken bags

A Week Streets will be collected on their recycling collection day on the following weeks:

- October 16-20
- October 30-November 3
- November 13-17
- November 27-December 1

B Week Streets will be collected on their recycling collection day on the following weeks:

- October 9-13
- October 23-27
- November 6-10
- November 20-25 (holiday week)

In an effort to keep yard waste out of the

streets Agawam is encouraging residents to bag yard waste and to not blow leaves or grass clippings into the streets, sidewalks or storm drains.

Street sweeping services are designed to handle natural leaf and debris removal on public streets. Leaves and grass clippings blown in the streets disrupt the efficiency of the street sweeping process.

Fall leaves are an important ingredient to a compost pile. Which is a great alternative to blowing leaves into public ways. Without leaves, a compost pile may become too wet and create odors. Layer compost piles with equal parts dry leaves to food waste/grass clippings materials. It's the mixture of the two, the carbon to nitrogen ratio, that activates hard working soil microbes.



SECURITY | from page 4

curity advisor for AMAC. Celebrate Joke Days at the Agawam Library

AGAWAM – The Agawam Library will now have Joke Days on Wednesdays and Fridays. People of all ages, including children, teens and adults, can come to the Agawam Library on Joke Days and tell a joke to the librarian in the Children's Room.

After that, the joke-tellers may then pick out a rubber ducky to keep, just for telling a joke. For those who may have trouble thinking of a joke, a librarian can point the way to the joke books. All joke formats are welcome. It is not necessary to make the librarian laugh, but that is fairly likely as they love jokes.

The Agawam Library is open on Mondays through Thursdays, 9 a.m.- 9 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Rotary Club to hold Harvest Festival Saturday

AGAWAM – The Agawam Rotary Club will hold its annual Harvest Festival and Family Fund Day on Saturday, Oct. 14, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at School Street Park. A classic car show will be held in conjunction with the event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The rain date is Sunday, Oct. 15.

The festival will offer all types of crafts and gifts, from candles to floral arrangements to Christmas ornaments and so much more. There will be music, demonstrations by Rosie Robotics and food for sale.

Agawam Rotary Club, sponsor of the event is a local service club whose motto

is Service Above Self.

All proceeds from the festival will be used to better the community and region, providing scholarships, leadership opportunities, and most recently, developing a pollinator garden at Agawam High School, in honor of its teachers and educational staff.

Author Donna-Marie O'Boyle is leading retreat

AGAWAM – Author, international speaker, and EWTN television Host, Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle, will lead a half day retreat at St. John the Evangelist Parish, Saturday, Oct. 28, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The event will take place in the parish

center at 833 Main St.

O'Boyle will present eucharistic history and teaching, and share secrets from many devoted saints. O'Boyle's books and DVDs will be available for purchase and autographing.

The cost is \$35 per person if registered and paid by Sept. 28, or \$45 per person from Sept. 29 through Oct. 28. Register online at StJohnAgawam.com, or call the parish office Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 413-786-8105.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Information	38. Numbers cruncher	2. Greek mythological figure	29. North American native people
5. Seaport (abbr.)	41. Mexican beers	3. Scarlett's home	34. It says "moo"
8. Agricultural disease (abbr.)	43. Lawyers say you can indict one	4. Assist	35. Folk singer Di Franco
11. Riding horses	45. Capital of South Australia	5. More doleful	36. Resinlike substance of certain insects
13. Boxing's GOAT	47. Wings	6. Premeditated	37. Residue
14. Hurt or discomfort	49. Drug used to treat HIV/AIDS	7. Dish featuring minced food	39. Grand homes
15. A small sharp knife to trim vegetables	50. Fencing sword	8. San Diego ball-player	40. Popinjays
16. A beaver builds one	55. Capital of Qatar	9. Eight	41. Man who behaves dishonorably
17. Horizontal passage into a mine	56. Portable bed	10. Unwelcome picnic guests	42. Figures
18. Self-immolation by fire rituals	57. Afflicted	12. Human gene	44. One who watches over children
20. Chain bar with lots of games (abbr.)	59. Lying down	14. Bucket	45. Expressed pleasure
21. Goo Goo Dolls' hit	60. Midway between northeast and east	19. Make full	46. No longer living
22. Agreeable	61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation	23. Dirt	47. Hebrew calendar month
25. In an early way	62. Inflamed	24. Person cited as ideal example	48. Part of the ear
30. In a way, struck	63. Soviet Socialist Republic	25. A part of (abbr.)	51. Swiss river
31. It's there in the morning	64. Impudence	26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet	52. Prejudice
32. County in the S. Pacific		27. Very long period of time	53. Italian Island
33. Central Florida city		28. Gas usage measurement	54. Resist authority (slang)

CLUES DOWN

1. A way to fish

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 9

Schools & Youth

Lions awarded scholarships



On June 7, 2023 the Agawam Lions District 33Y awarded scholarships to seven students from Agawam High School, Jacob Barber, Thomas Cascio, Sophia Consoloni, Christopher Rondinelli, Lynn Hang, Megan, Perrot and Marissa Rufo. This was done during a meeting in their honor. Shown in the picture are the students and Lions Members President Chris Woods and William Egan.

TURLEY PHOTO SUBMITTED

COLLEGE NOTES

Elms College names local summer graduates

CHICOPEE – College of Our Lady of the Elms congratulates the following students who graduated after the conclusion of the summer semester.

They include Mary Michaud, of Agawam, who earned a bachelor of science in nursing, and

Ariana Korcz, of Feeding Hills, who earned a master of business administration in accounting.

They were among 75 students who received their degrees this summer.

Elms College is a co-educational Catholic college offering a liberal arts curriculum.

Local students named peer advisors at WNEU

SPRINGFIELD – Two local students have been named Peer Advisors for the 2023-2024 academic year at Western New England University.

They are Haley Hinshaw, who is working toward a bachelor of science in pharmacy studies, and Jayden Montagna is working toward a bachelor of science and engineering. They are both from Agawam.

Western New England University is a private institution in Springfield on a 21-acre campus that serves more than 3,700 students, including over 2,500 full-time undergraduates.

DROP ■ from page 1

out candy on Halloween, we do food drives, we do the toy drive—we just enjoy our positive interactions with the public,” Soto said.

There is no deadline for handing over toys. Even if you find a toy after the holiday season, Soto said that the police department will still accept them and just hold onto them until next year.

If you or someone you know is in need of toys this year, applications will open on the Toys for Tots website on Oct. 15.

To learn more about this foundation go to <https://www.toysfortots.org/>.

If you have further questions about how the toy drive will look in Agawam, call the police department and ask for Sgt. Soto, he will be happy to answer any questions.

This toy drive is not the only activity the police department has coming up. They also plan to be at the Fitness First Trunk or Treat and the Agawam Congregational Trunk or Treat and to have a food drive the weekend before Thanksgiving.

“People can just come and visit our trunks at these events,” Soto said.

Both of the Trunk or Treats should be open to the public and, should someone be interested in registering a car they can just reach out to those different organizations.

If not interested in registering a car, then people are just welcome to come and stop by and enjoy the event.

To remain updated on the events the police department will be holding or participating in, go to their facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068864394248>.

SQUINDO ■ from page 1

curve at all,” Fitzgerald said.

Ideally, they hope to have a new person hired by early November, though this timeline will be dependent on the number and quality of the candidates.

“The timeline is driven by the quality of the candidates we receive and they will likely have to give notice to their current employer, so at best we’re probably looking at early November,” Fitzgerald said. “We would like to have someone in place prior to the beginning of the new year.”

While waiting for the hiring decision to be made, Sparks will serve as the interim executive director. Sparks has had to serve in an interim capacity twice before, so he will do well in the position until the permanent candidate is found.

If you are interested in this position, you can apply on the town website at <https://www.agawam.ma.us/Jobs.aspx?UniqueId=98&From=All&CommunityJobs=False&JobID=Executive-Director-of-the-Senior-Center-89> where you can find instructions on how to apply as well as a job description or you can physically send in a resume to the personnel office.

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 — Beth from Belchertown

“Everyone loved it. Absolutely perfect. I was planning on stopping by between now and Christmas to thank you. You beat me to it. We’ll definitely see you next year.”
 — Greg from West Springfield

“It was absolutely AMAZING! This was the first time ever bringing a turkey and then I followed your cooking directions on your website. It was perfect cooking it low and slow.”
 — Kelly from Ludlow

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 Kevin Sullivan
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SPORTS

Offense explodes in Brownies win

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – When the Agawam football team made trip to Northampton High School a year ago, it wasn't a very enjoyable evening for the Brownies players and coaching staff.

The Blue Devils squeaked out a 19-14 win in that contest clinching a share of the Suburban South Division title with Longmeadow for the first time since 1996.

There wasn't very much drama when the two squads met at Harmon A. Smith Field last Thursday night.

Agawam, who hadn't defeated Northampton on the gridiron since 2019, scored the first of their six rushing touchdowns

less than three minutes into the first quarter en route to a 42-0 shutout victory. It also snapped the Brownies' two game losing streak.

"Northampton beat us in a close game last year which gave them a share of the league title with Longmeadow," said Agawam senior captain Ethan Danek. "We really wanted to beat them in tonight's game. We're still hoping to win a piece of the league title this year."

After their first shutout of the 2023 campaign, Agawam has a 3-2 overall record and a 1-1 league record.

"This is a very big win for us," said Agawam sophomore Benjamin Tokarev, who made all six of his extra point attempts. "We just

need to continue playing well for the rest of the season."

The Brownies, who celebrated a 48-0 shutout win against Putnam a year ago, are currently tied for second place in the league standings with East Longmeadow.

Amherst and West Springfield, who are both 2-0 against league opponents, are tied for first place.

The Blue Devils (0-4,0-2) are sitting in last place in the league standings.

The only thing that Agawam head coach John Benjamin was upset about following last Thursday night's game was the turnovers.



Benjamin Tokarev kicks a point-after for the Brownies.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

BROWNIES | page 8



Dennis Nesen keeps the ball in play and heads up the right side.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Lucas Ritson is pressured as he attempts to turn play around.



Patrick Keating tries to clear the ball out of Agawam's end.



Frank Decaro clears the ball away.



Andrew Regnier tries to settle the ball as he runs through pressure.



Cooper Gabriel-Achorn follows through on a free kick into the box.

Brownies fall to Terriers

AGAWAM – Last Wednesday night, Agawam boys soccer fell 2-0 against neighboring West Springfield. The loss was Agawam's third this season, as the Brownies possessed the ball plenty, but could not finish on

any of their opportunities. Agawam would rebound to get a 5-2 win over Mt. Greylock on the road. The Brownies are now 5-3 this season with Hampshire Regional and Pope Francis coming up on their schedule.

Struggles for Agawam girls soccer

AGAWAM – After winning three of their first four games, the Agawam High School girls soccer team has had a very rough go of it the past few weeks, with six consecutive

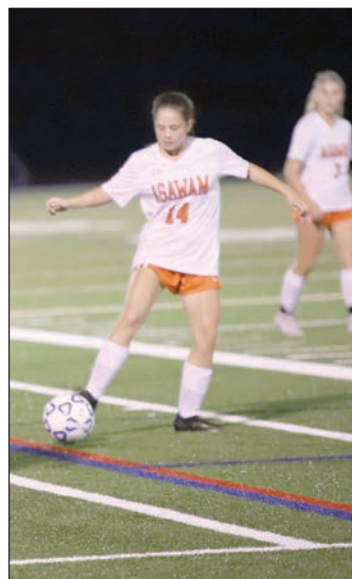
losses to fall to 3-7 for the season.

Last Wednesday evening, the Brownies were defeated on the road at West Springfield 3-0.

Joanne Schmuck would make

five saves for the Brownies. Agawam also had a loss against Pope Francis last Thursday.

The Brownies hope to change their luck when they face Pittsfield on Oct. 12 at home.



Megan Fitzgerald sends a quick pass away.



Ella Wood tries to beat an opponent to the ball.



Kylie Warner tries to fake out a West Springfield player.



McKenna Podworski makes a throw-in.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Sports



After taking a handoff, Nicholas Ugolini makes another handoff.



The Agawam defensive line makes blocks.



Rhein Ingham goes for a tackle.



Quarterback Max Holloway fires a quick pass right after the snap.



Ryan Litz shoots up the middle on a carry.

BROWNIES ■ from page 7

"We did turn the ball over too many times tonight," Benjamin said. "Other than that, we played very well on both sides of the ball."

The Brownies only needed five plays to take a 7-0 lead.

Starting from their own 35, senior Nick Ugolini carried the ball into Northampton territory on a 17-yard run on first down. Ugolini rushed for a total of 53 yards on five carries during the first half.

On the fifth play of the game's opening drive, Agawam junior quarterback Maxwell Holloway plowed into the endzone behind sophomore center Tyler Gervais from the one-yard line with 9:30 remaining

in the first quarter.

The other members of the Brownies offensive line are senior Shane Typroicz, senior Colin Circosta-Aspinall, junior Michael Sibilia, and sophomore Domenic Tourigny.

Besides being an outstanding field goal kicker, Tokarev also made a key defensive play. He punched the ball out of the arms of Northampton senior Marcus Oquendo and the fumble was recovered by Danek at the Brownies 43.

Eleven plays later, Ugolini scored the Brownies second one-yard touchdown of the opening quarter.

On the ensuing kickoff, Danek forced another fumble, which was recovered by senior Matt DiLullo.

That series didn't last very long, as Northampton senior Sincere Martinez intercepted a pass in the middle of the endzone on the first down play.

The Agawam offense got the ball back with 11 seconds left in the first quarter when sophomore Joe Duffy picked off a deflected pass in front of the home bench.

Two minutes into the second stanza, Holloway scored his second touchdown on another one-yard run capping off a five-play scoring drive, which covered 31 yards.

After both teams exchanged turnovers, the Brownies took a commanding 28-0 lead following a long touchdown run by freshman Giovanni Verducci down the right sideline.

A ten-yard touchdown run by junior

Colby Mikuszewski with 1:39 left in the first half gave the Brownies a 35-0 halftime lead.

"We've been struggling offensively during the past couple of games," Benjamin said. "There are a lot of players who played well offensively tonight. Some of them were playing in a varsity football game for the first time."

Agawam's final touchdown was scored by freshman Ryan Litz on a seven-yard run with 6:46 left in the third quarter.

After Tokarev's extra point increased the lead to 42-0, the scoreboard clock was kept running for the rest of the game.

The Brownies will be looking for another victory when they face Wahconah Regional in the regular season home finale on Friday night.

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Sports

Bubar steals show in Granite Series win

LEE, N.H. – Corey Bubar was probably not the favorite to win Sunday evening's Bosowski Properties 150. But in the season finale for the Granite State Pro Stock Series, Bubar stole the show.

The Windham, Maine, racer held off Jimmy Renfrew, Jr. to claim the \$8,500 victory at Lee USA Speedway, closing out Lee USA Speedway's year-ending Russ Conway's Oktoberfest spectacular.

And well back in Bubar's mirror, fellow Pine Tree State native Travis Benjamin drove a patient race to earn the GSPSS championship.

Sunday's season finale earned intrigue before the drop of the green, with a \$2,000 bonus offered to any top-five starter who would forfeit their position on the grid if they could come back to win. Derek Griffith, the 2015 GSPSS champion, answered

the call, lining up shotgun on the 28-car field to chase the bounty.

Bubar, starting outside of Ryan Green, jumped into the lead early, building an advantage over Green in the opening stint as Griffith picked his way through traffic. When a yellow flag flew on lap 35, Griffith had already clawed his way to 12th with plenty of laps left.

On the restart, Renfrew surged to second, pursuing Bubar until a wreck in the back of the field brought out another caution on lap 47. Reigning champion Joey Doiron pitted from fifth, while Griffith cycled through to eighth for the restart. Benjamin, well ahead of challenger Brandon Barker in the title race, was tenth.

Bubar held off Renfrew's advances on the restart, but the Candia, N.H., youngster prevailed, making his way to the front

and leading at halfway. A long green-flag run allowed Renfrew to stretch the gap between himself and Bubar, but Bubar reeled Renfrew in as they diced through lapped traffic. A slow car ahead of Renfrew at just the right time gave Bubar an opening, and Bubar charged back through to take the lead.

Griffith's bid for the bounty went up in smoke with 31 laps to go, as he shredded a right-front tire running fourth. Griffith rejoined the field after a tow, but his shot at the win was all but over and he would rebound to finish eighth.

Bubar brought the field to green, and while Renfrew hassled him for a couple laps, he was able to pull away down the stretch. In his first series start of the season, Bubar raced to his second GSPSS win and his first since winning at his home track,

Beech Ridge Motor Speedway, in 2021.

Renfrew followed Bubar home in second, with Green, Dave Farrington and Angelo Belsito rounding out the top five.

And with an eleventh-place finish, Travis Benjamin completed his championship season, becoming the tenth different driver to fly the GSPSS champion's banner. The Belfast, Maine, veteran, a former NASCAR racer and multi-time regional champion, won the first two outings of the season and committed to a full-time schedule that saw him finish out of the top-five only once all year.

The Granite State Pro Stock Series and president Mike Parks extend their gratitude to the tracks, teams and sponsors that made this 2023 season possible, and hope to release details on next year's schedule soon.

Cambridge half-marathon, 5K at CambridgeSide registration open

CAMBRIDGE – Registration is open for the Cambridge Half Marathon and 5K at CambridgeSide. The races are scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 5 (race begins 7 a.m. EST) on a gorgeous new course with views of the Charles River along Memorial Drive.

• The Cambridge Half Marathon is a 13.1 mile fast and flat course featuring views of the MIT, John W. Weeks Footbridge, Harvard University Stadium, Charles River and more. The new 5K race also offers scenic views alongside the Charles River. Both courses are USATF certified and start and finish at CambridgeSide.

• Race registration includes quarter

zip pull over (half marathon participants) or long sleeve shirt (5K participants), five complimentary CambridgeSide parking passes, training plan, race bib with timing chip, and finishing medal. Register for both races at CambridgeSide.com.

Cambridge Half Marathon and 5K at CambridgeSide race proceeds benefit Cambridge Camping (CambridgeCamping.org), City of Cambridge Scholarship Fund (Cambridgema.gov/Services/CityScholarship) as well as other local charities. Cambridge Half Marathon and 5K is sponsored by Canam Group Inc. and training sponsor MYSTRYDE.

Springfield Thunderbirds fall in preseason to Providence

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – The Springfield Thunderbirds erased a 2-0 second intermission deficit before the Providence Bruins squeaked out a 3-2 overtime win in the final preseason matchup at Amica Mutual Pavilion.

Colten Ellis and Brandon Bussi kept the opposition off the board through 20 minutes before the Bruins connected for two quick goals in the second from Marc McLaughlin and Reilly Walsh respectively. Providence held the 2-0 edge into the final period of regulation.

However, the T-Birds showed some comeback magic as Drew Callin and

Hugh McGing each tallied goals of their own just 27 seconds apart, and just 4:06 into the third, the game was deadlocked, 2-2. Ellis even helped his own cause, picking up the secondary assist on Callin's marker.

Despite being outshot 35-21 in regulation, Springfield got the game to overtime thanks to 33 Ellis stops, but Providence got the last laugh as John Farinacci beat Ellis at 1:35 of OT to secure the Bruins win.

The T-Birds open their regular season slate next Saturday, Oct. 14 against Hartford, with puck drop set for 7:05 p.m. at the MassMutual Center.

Public Notices

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH WARRANT FOR 2023 GENERAL ELECTION SS.

To the Constables of the City/Town of Agawam

GREETINGS:
In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said city or town who are qualified to vote in the General Election to vote at:

Precinct 1: William P. Sapelli School (formerly Robinson Park School,) 65 Begley Street

Precinct 2: Clifford M. Granger School, 31 South Westfield Street

Precinct 3: Agawam High School, 760 Cooper

Street
Precinct 4: Roberta G. Doering School, 68 Main Street

Precinct 5: Benjamin J. Phelps School, 689 Main Street

Precinct 6: James Clark School, 65 Oxford Street

Precinct 7: Agawam Junior High School, 1305 Springfield Street

Precinct 8: James Clark School, 65 Oxford Street

On **TUESDAY, THE SEVENTH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2023**, from 8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. for the following purpose:

To cast their votes in the General Election for the candidates for the following offices:

MAYOR
CITY COUNCIL
SCHOOL COMMITTEE

QUESTION 1: PROPOSED

AMENDMENT TO THE TOWN CHARTER

“Shall an Act passed by the General Court in the year 2023 entitled ‘An Act changing the timing of preliminary elections in the city known as the town of Agawam to eight weeks preceding regular elections’ be accepted?”

SUMMARY

The proposed question if adopted would amend the timing of preliminary elections (also known as primaries) from four (4) weeks preceding regular (general) elections to eight (8) weeks. The proposed question would only amend a municipal election schedule, not a state or federal election. Section 7-1 of the town charter defines the municipal election schedule. The narrow time in between a municipal primary and regular election has presented challenges for the

Town to comply with the Commonwealth's early voting laws. The expansion of time between a preliminary and general election will be consistent with the state election schedule. A home rule petition on the question was submitted to the General Court. The General Court enacted H4023. Pursuant to Section 2 of H4023, this matter shall be submitted for acceptance to the qualified voters of the city known as the town of Agawam at the 2023 regular election.

A YES VOTE would enact the proposed charter amendment amending the municipal election schedule by scheduling a preliminary (primary) election from four (4) weeks to eight (8) weeks prior to the regular (general) election. The amendment would take effect for the next municipal election in 2025.

A NO VOTE would make no change to the existing charter and the municipal election schedule would remain the same.

Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of said voting.

Given under our hand this 6th day of October 2023.

Vincent F. Gioscia,
City Clerk

10/12/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD23C0287CA In the matter of: Alexis Nevaeh Wyman-Gagnon CITATION ON PETITION

TO CHANGE NAME

A **Petition to Change Name of Minor** has been filed by **Alexis Nevaeh Wyman-Gagnon of Feeding Hills, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Alexis Nevaeh Wyman

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/30/2023.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

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

Date: October 02, 2023

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate

10/12/2023

Agawam Advertiser News

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

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

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

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Call us at 413.283.8393

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Pine Valley, 281 Chauncey Walker St., Belchertown (off Rte. 21). **Saturday, Oct. 16, 9-3.** One-of-a-kind crafts, your favorite vendors, 32 vendors, indoors and out. Rain or shine.

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Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.
We load it & take it.
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Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

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Work done at your home.
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The Town of Wilbraham is now hiring for the following vacancies:

- Heavy Equipment Operator 1
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- P/T Basketball Scorekeepers
- P/T Basketball Officials
- P/T Gym Supervisor
- Public Works Skilled Worker

For application and more information please visit www.wilbraham-ma.gov. EOE

TAG SALE

NEIGHBORHOOD ESTATE SALE!
Sat and Sun 10/14-10/15, 9am to 2pm
36 Mark Dr, Agawam Ma
Furniture, art work, books, games, jewelry, pocketbooks, clothing, kitchen things, fur coats, speakers, etc.

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Full house cleanouts, attics, basements, garages, pools, hot tubs, sheds, decks. Same day service. 8am-9pm. Credit cards accepted. Free estimates on phone.
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Find archives of this local newspaper at www.newspapers.turley.com

HELP WANTED

Town of Hampden Cemetery Commission is hiring for part time administrative staff. Position requires advanced computer skills, research ability, clerical skills and reports to the Cemetery Commissioners.
Weekly hours from 12 to 16.
Send resume and letter of interest to Cemetery@HampdenMA.gov

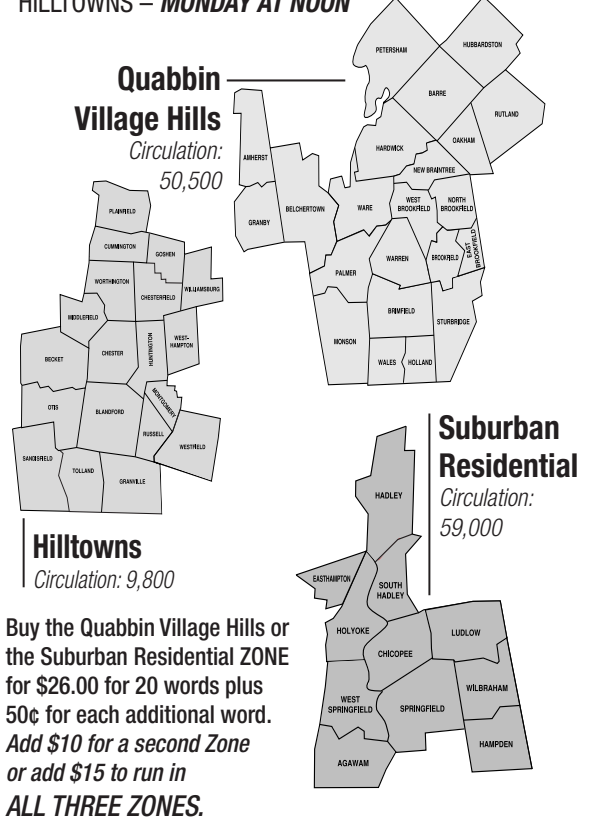
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or call: 413-283-8393

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Buy the Quabbin Village Hills or the Suburban Residential Zone for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word. Add \$10 for a second Zone or add \$15 to run in ALL THREE ZONES.

First ZONE base price _____ Includes additional words

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Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____

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Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____

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Post your job openings in our classifieds. **WE GET RESULTS!**

Volunteers needed to place flags

AGAWAM – The Agawam veterans council are seeking volunteers to help place flags on the graves of veterans on Saturday, Oct. 14. Anyone wanting to participate is to meet at 8 a.m. at Springfield Street Cemetery, 1078 Springfield St. If there is inclement weather the rain date will be on Sunday Oct. 15.

AHS Class of 1973 50th reunion celebration

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School Class of 1973 will hold a celebratory weekend for their 50th Reunion.

On Friday, Nov. 10, there will be an informal social at Casa Di Lisa bistro, located at 801 Springfield St. Agawam from 5 to 8 p.m. It will be a cash bar and hors d'ourves. RSVPs are appreciated and walk-ins welcome.

On Saturday, Nov. 11, there will be a golf event held at the The Ranch Golf Club, 65 Sunnyside Rd, Southwick. If you like to golf, Contact Steve Richter Richo777@gmail.com for details and registration. Tee time is 9 a.m. and it will be played under scramble format.

Later, the main event will begin at 6 p.m., also at The Ranch with a social hour

from 6 to 7 p.m. followed by dinner and entertainment. The cost is \$75 per person. Please RSVP and make checks out to AHS Class of 1973 or Venmo/Zelle to Paul Henault pwhenault@gmail.com. No tickets will be sold at the door.

For more information, please contact Susan Borgatti Meunier by email at smeutooz@comcast.net or call (413) 786-4789.

“Arsenic and Old Lace” has a connection to local history

SUFFIELD, CT – The Suffield Players are announcing their upcoming production of “Arsenic and Old Lace,” a darkly comedic masterpiece that has a connection to the town’s history. The play is set to grace Mapleton Hall in October, promising audiences an unforgettable evening of suspense, humor, and an intriguing glimpse into Suffield’s past.

Inspired by the real-life crimes of Amy Archer-Gilligan, who was convicted of up to 20 murders, including two of her husbands, “Arsenic and Old Lace” takes audience members on a journey through the twisted mind of a serial killer who preyed on elderly boarders. Promising them a peaceful haven in their twilight years, Gilligan instead poisoned them for their pensions, cunningly signing over to her prior to their tragic deaths.

Connecticut State Attorney Hugh Mead Alcorn played a pivotal role in prosecuting Gilligan. A prominent lawyer with an illustrious career, Attorney Alcorn resided in Suffield with his family, including his son, Robert Hayden Alcorn, who, as a child, witnessed the unfolding drama of the Gilligan trials from 1913 to 1916.

Robert Alcorn’s life took a remarkable

turn, leading to the founding of The Suffield Players in 1952. This community theater company has since become an integral part of Suffield’s cultural landscape. In honor of Robert H. Alcorn, our Founder, one of our annual scholarships bears his name.

“Arsenic and Old Lace,” is a play that is intimately connected to the Alcorn family’s past and our community’s present. This production is a celebration of The Suffield Players enduring commitment to the arts, education, and the rich history that binds us together. For ticket information and showtimes, please visit suffieldplayers.org.

Flu clinic to be held on Oct. 19

AGAWAM – The Agawam Health Department will be offering flu clinic on Thursday, Oct. 19, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St.

Bring your insurance cards and photo id. No “Out of State” Insurance plans will be accepted. Appointments in the Health Department are also available by calling Nurse Pam at 413-726-9722.

Seminar hosted at senior center

AGAWAM – Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., is hosting a free seminar called Simple steps to a fun and easy life presented by Raymond Rose on Friday, Oct. 13, at 1 p.m. Rose will discuss having an “Intentional Life”, the importance of daily routines, how to care less about

issues that bother you, learning how to Say NO, planning your future, and health habits.

Walk-Ins are welcome or register by calling Kristina Lynch at the Senior Center at 413.821.0604 or send her an email at Klynch@agawam.ma.us.

Tax relief package supporting residents sent to governor

BOSTON – With the goal of providing financial relief to families across the state while making Massachusetts more competitive with other states, the Massachusetts Legislature overwhelmingly passed a compromise \$561.3 million bipartisan tax relief package supporting residents across all income levels on Thursday.

Sen. Velis, who filed his own tax relief legislation this session to increase the Dependent Tax Credit, the Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit, and the Estate Tax Threshold, joined his colleagues in voting for the legislation which was passed after three months of negotiations between the House and the Senate. “Like so many of my colleagues, I

continue to hear from residents in my communities about the high costs their families are dealing with, and the tangible impact that the tax reform initiatives in this bill will have on their lives,” said Senator Velis (D-Westfield).

Having passed the House of Representatives and Senate, the bill now goes to the Governor for her consideration.

Send Us Your Holiday Event Information

Turley Publications will print your holiday calendar listings FREE OF CHARGE in our Holiday Dazzler Supplement which publishes Nov. 15th.

Deadline for submissions is October 16th

Community Holiday Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

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

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

Please specify if you would like your name and number printed in the paper.

CLIP OUT AND MAIL TO:
Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
or email* them to: jamie@turley.com
***Be sure to indicate “Holiday” in the subject line of your email.**



A banner with the new design of Robbie and the new school motto "S.O.A.R." was hung above the refreshment table at the dedication ceremony of William P. Sapelli School.



Superintendent Sheila Hoffman thanked Mayor William Sapelli for all he has done to guide her throughout her years as superintendent.



Crowds of Agawam community members gathered to celebrate the renaming of Robinson Park School to William P. Sapelli School.



On behalf of State Sen. John Velis, Mark Vesser congratulated and thanked Mayor William Sapelli.



Life-long friend of Mayor William Sapelli, William Marganti emphasized the amount of work and dedication Sapelli has put toward the town of Agawam.



City Councilor Gerald Smith explained why he made the proposal to rename Robinson Park School to William P. Sapelli School.



School Principal Stephanie Harris gave her congratulations to Mayor William Sapelli and introduced the student speakers for the night.



School Committee Member Wendy Rua delivers remarks during the ceremony.



Fourth grader Jacob Wallace leads the ceremony in the Pledge of Allegiance.



Fourth grader at William P. Sapelli School Saege Holloman thanked Mayor William Sapelli for all he has done for the school.



Third grader Elizabeth Maslyanska shares her excitement over the new school name.



Second grader Nico Pisano explains the new school motto, S.O.A.R.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA



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WOMEN BUSINESS	WOMEN BUSINESS	WOMEN BUSINESS
 Rayna '22 Western New England University, Major: Law & Society, 3+3 Law Dual degree program WMA Pieria Prize winner	 Allie '16 Client Services Associate, Kathleen Collins Wealth Management B.A., Economics and Music, Wellesley College, 2020	 Maddie '23 Babson College, Major: Entrepreneurship Babson Blank Scholars Program WMA Recipient of Stephen D. Luckraft Memorial Award

Sunday, October 22, 10 a.m.

Shenkman Trading Center, Mattern Hall

Hear from recent WMA alumnae about their experiences from WMA to the boardroom. Gain new perspective about WMA's Center for Entrepreneurship, Economics & Finance and the opportunities that abound for WMA students.

RSVP by Oct. 18: www.wma.us/womeninbiz

SCHOOL | from page 1

with his great experience in the position.

"His leadership qualities have made me a better leader," Hoffman said. "He gives advice when asked...in doing so he never makes you feel inadequate or nervous for asking and he usually ends a conversation with 'I'm so glad you brought that up.' That being said, he is involved but doesn't overstep, which he so easily could do given his former positions."

Hoffman also remarked that Sapelli's greatest attribute was his ability to connect with people. That quality was made clear by the amount of people gathered to congratulate him on this achievement. From school committee members, to students and staff of William P. Sapelli School, to general Agawam community members, so many people were happy to give their support to Sapelli at this ceremony.

Sapelli was grateful for this honor and touched by the support of the community.

"As an educator, I don't think there's anything more prestigious than having them name a school after you," Sapelli said. "This is phenomenal and I am so honored and humbled by this experience and by all these friends who have showed up...it's just amazing."

However, not everyone was happy with this school's renaming. Joyce Dolat organized a protest of the renaming, as she feels the community members of Agawam did not get a proper chance to express their opinions on this name change.

Dolat said that the school committee policy did not follow their own policy for renaming school. She claimed that the committee is supposed to contact all the members of a school about a name change and yet nobody was aware that this was happening.

"They didn't contact the citizens to get any input," Dolat said. "Even the elderly that live here had no say in this and I just felt it's just all done wrong and the fact that they didn't even follow their policy is wrong."

Dolat reached out to hundreds of community members, none of whom were aware of the name change prior to the decision made on it by the school committee.

"Probably 350 citizens that lived here didn't even know this was happening, they had no clue," Dolat said.

Additionally, Dolat felt that renaming the school ignores the history of the area. According to Dolat, the land that William P. Sapelli School was built on what was once a part of the land of Robinson Park.

"This property was actually Robinson Park property," Dolat said. "So, when it was built it was named Robinson Park School."

Dolat hopes to turn the entire renaming process around in order to continue to honor the history of the school.