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# AGAWAM

## ADVERTISER NEWS

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## Town receives \$125K to help fund school roof projects

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – With the high school project already a big undertaking on the town's budget, the school administration got some welcome news as it was informed it would that the Agawam Public Schools would be invited to participate in the Accelerated Repair Program through the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

The MSBA announced last week that 93 schools would be invited to participate in the program.

Just last month, State Sen. John Velis, D-Westfield, hosted a check presentation at William Sapelli Elementary School to award a \$125,000 earmark to the Town of Agawam for the Agawam Public Schools.

The funds will be used toward Agawam's pursuit of re-

placing roofs at not only Sapelli School, but at the town's other three elementary schools, Granger, Phelps, and Clark. With the entrance to the repair program through the MSBA, the Agawam Public Schools will be able to get the much-needed roof work done soon as all four elementary schools received the invitation to participate in the program, according to the MSBA.

State Treasurer and Receiver General Deborah B. Goldberg, Chair of the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), and Mary L. Pichetti, MSBA Executive Director/Deputy CEO, announced that the MSBA Board of Directors invited 93 schools into the Authority's Accelerated Repair Program. The program provides funding for the repair or replace-

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Agawam City Council Vice President Russo receives the Pynchon Award a few weeks ago from the Ad Club of Western Mass.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Russo receives Pynchon Award

By Brendan Rooney  
Correspondent

SPRINGFIELD – On Oct. 16, the Advertising Club of Western Massachusetts' Trustees of the Order of William Pynchon officially announced that Paul Lambert, current president and CEO of the Springfield Symphony Orchestra, and current Agawam City Council Vice President Anthony Russo, received the distinction of sharing the title of being co-recipients of the 2025 William Pynchon Medal.

In addition, the reveal came via a gathering at the Penthouse 650 in Springfield, and for those who don't know the award bears the name of Springfield's founder, whose life and achievements exemplify the ideals of promoting

RUSSO | page 10

## Leaning Lines



Utility crews were hard at work last Saturday after heavy winds caused multiple utility poles on Springfield St. to be in danger of collapsing. A part of the road near Line St. had to be closed for most of the day while the leaning poles were repaired. The poles have multiple power and utility lines on them.

TURLEY PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

## Agawam to mark Veterans Day with multiple events

AGAWAM – The Agawam Veterans' Council will be honoring all veterans at their Veterans Day Ceremony on Tuesday, Nov. 11. This year's ceremony will be held at the new Veteran's Memorial Plaza at School Street Park at 10:45 a.m. In the

case of rain, the ceremony will shift to Agawam Junior High School. The Veterans' Council will also be laying a wreath at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bridge (Strathmore Bridge) at 7 a.m.

All are welcome.

## New student council formed at Doering

By Amanda Munson  
amunson@turley.com

AGAWAM – On Oct. 28, Superintendent of Schools Sheila Martin introduced Principal of Roberta Doering Middle School Dominic Costanzi with the newly formed student council at the last school committee meeting of the month. Standing on the stage, Costanzi introduced Club Advisor/Interventionist Kristen Oberheim to the microphone and Co-Advisor/School Adjustment Counselor Karen Cree and began with a presentation from student council representatives, reviewing why peers should vote for them and sharing fun facts about them.

Oberheim shared that this is the first year the school began a student council and spoke about the process of students creating a Google slideshow for peers and teachers to vote on, with a total of 58 candidates and only two candidates between four groups being elected.

Students were involved with activities and achievements around the school like positive reminders on whiteboards in several locations of the school, listening/sharing peer concerns, reinforcing Doering's core values, creating school-wide events, collecting Doering dollars for admission to events, creating posters for advertisements, and collecting food/clothing for neighbors in need.

An example of an activity was the Doering Family Night

at the high school's boy's soccer game where over 150 students and families came out to celebrate who donned Agawam gear. Oberheim played a video titled, How to be Respectful where students reviewed how to be responsible, respectful, and ready to learn in a variety of different environments like the cafeteria and the playground.

"I would also like to thank our administrators, specifically Principal Costanzi and Assistant Principal Amber Hall, who allowed the students to be able to do this. It's been a great way to show leadership, teamwork, and pride in our school. We want to thank them for their support," said Oberheim.

A Doering student went up to the microphone and promoted a fundraiser in support of Veterans with donations that included toothbrushes and toothpaste to help them out. Following was another student who shared their favorite part of Kindness Club and shared it was the 'Jammies Jingle' which is a fundraiser for kids in need of pajamas, last year receiving over 100 pajamas.

Another student shared what the group does in student council like how they stay after school and strategize ways to make the school better, create a safer and kinder environment for all, and make events for the people in the community. For example, last year the group

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## Best Buddies Club decorates school

The Agawam High School Best Buddies Club recently did their fall pumpkin decorating in the cafeteria. More than 30 AHS students worked together on the decorating. It was such a great showing of community.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



# Senior Center announces upcoming news, events

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

## Free Veteran's Lunch

*Monday, Nov. 10*  
The Agawam Senior Center would like to extend an invitation to our Veterans to please join us on Monday, Nov. 10 a complimentary lunch at the Senior Center.

Call the Senior Center at 821-0604 by Thursday, Nov. 6 to place your reservation.

This is a great opportunity for us to honor our veterans

and say thank you for all you have done.

Lunch will be: Ziti with a Homemade Meat Sauce, Caesar Salad and a Baked Good.

## Powerback Rehab Seminar

*Monday, Nov. 10 at 1:30 p.m.*

If you have fallen within the last year or have a fear of falling, come join Powerback Rehab to You for a presentation on preventing falls. You will learn about the multiple causes of falls, discuss the consequences of the fear of falling, and learn what you can do to prevent falls in your daily life. Even if you have not

fallen, it is never too early for prevention. Call 821-0604 to register. Seminar in the Garden Room.

## Performance: My Life with Bill

*Wednesday, Nov. 12 at 1 p.m. in the Auditorium*

Many people think of Alzheimer's as a heartrending death sentence. Nick Kachulis found the disease enabled his dad to have special moments with him, to leave special gifts for his son before he passed away.

"My dad was ... from the World War II generation,

which typically meant he didn't express those intimate feelings very much," Kachulis said. "When he moved in with us, one of the blessings of dementia was the filter was off. I heard 'I love you' from my father more times in the last four years than I probably had in the last 60." The poignant memories, the pleasures and hard challenges of living with a parent suffering from Alzheimer's — and the final loss of his dad — pushed Kachulis, a musician and writer, to stage a public celebration of Bill, his father.

The hour-long performance of songs and stories inspired a community outpouring of support. This program was funded by a Grant

from Massachusetts Cultural Council. Call 821-0604 to reserve your seat.

## Jewelry Making with Sandy

*Monday, Nov. 17 at 1 p.m.*  
Sandy brings the new pieces for you to create one-of-a-kind jewelry and you bring the creativity.

Cost is \$3 plus cost of supplies. Call Kristina to register 726-2836.

## Trivia with Cindy

*Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 5:30 p.m. in the Dining Room*

Join Cindy for a thrilling evening of Trivia and Laughs come as a single or bring a team

## Coffee Hour with Mayor Johnson

*Wednesday, Nov. 19 from 10 to 11 a.m. in the Coffee Shop*

Want to know the latest and greatest in Agawam? Have a question or concern for Mayor Johnson? Join him Wednesday, Nov. 19 at 10 a.m. in the FRIENDS Coffee Shop.

# Taste, vote, and celebrate at Food Fest West held on Nov. 13

AGAWAM — The West of the River Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce the return of Food Fest West, a community-favorite culinary celebration, on Thursday, Nov. 13 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Crestview Country Club in Agawam, MA.

This highly anticipated event showcases the region's finest eateries, offering guests the opportunity to sample a wide variety of delicious dishes and vote for their favorite restaurant of the night. From savory bites

to sweet treats, attendees will experience the very best of Western Massachusetts' local cuisine — all under one roof.

In addition to the mouth-watering food, guests will enjoy a fun-filled evening featuring a silent auction, raffles, photo booth, and cash bar. It's the perfect way to connect with friends, colleagues, and community members while supporting local businesses and restaurants.

"Food Fest West is one

of our most exciting community events of the year," said Robin Wozniak, Executive Director of the West of the River Chamber of Commerce. "It's a great opportunity to bring people together, celebrate our local dining scene, and have a great time doing it."

Tickets are available now through the West of the River Chamber of Commerce. Don't miss your chance to eat, mingle, and vote for the best cuisine in Western Mass.

# HCC opens registration for winter, spring 2026 classes

HOLYOKE – Registration is now open for Wintersession and Spring 2026 semester classes at Holyoke Community College.

HCC's 10-day Wintersession term begins Monday, Jan. 5, and ends Friday, January 16. The Spring 2026 semester begins Tuesday, Jan. 20.

Students can earn up to four transferable credits by taking Wintersession classes in anthropology, communications, criminal justice, economics, environmental science, geography, law, management, mathematics, nutrition, psychology, social science, and sociology.

Most Wintersession classes are offered entirely online.

Full 15-week spring semester classes begin Jan. 20. HCC will also run three accelerated spring flex start sessions: Flex Start I classes begin Jan. 20 and run for seven weeks; Flex Start II classes begin Monday, Feb. 2, and run for 12 weeks; Flex Start

III classes begin Monday, March 23, and run for seven weeks.

Thanks to the state-funded MassEducate and Mass-Reconnect programs, a community college education is now free for all Massachusetts residents who have yet to earn a bachelor's degree.

"MassEducate provides an exciting opportunity for eligible students to attend college without the concern or weight of how to pay for it," said Mark Hudgik, HCC dean of strategic recruitment initiatives, admissions, and financial aid. "There has never been a better time to enroll."

Eligible students who want to earn a certificate or degree need only to complete the standard HCC application, complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) for the 2025-2026 school year, and register for at least six credits (typically two classes).

Students who were ad-

mitted for the fall 2025 semester but unable to begin classes for any reason do not need to reapply for spring. They can make an appointment with the HCC Advising Center to register for classes by going to [hcc.edu/act](http://hcc.edu/act).

"Our admissions counselors, academic advisers, and financial aid staff are available to make sure prospective students get all the assistance they need," said Hudgik.

Class schedules for both Wintersession and Spring 2026 semester classes can be found on the HCC website: [hcc.edu](http://hcc.edu).

To enroll, please go to [hcc.edu/admissions](http://hcc.edu/admissions).

HCC Admissions and Financial Aid offices are open Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Fridays, 1-4:30 p.m. The Advising, Career, and Transfer center is open Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

# Agawam High School set to hold 'Stakeholder Summit' on Nov. 24

AGAWAM – On Monday, Nov. 24, Agawam High School is hosting the first of three Stakeholder Summits this year. The summits include teachers, students, parents, and community members. It will take place at AHS and the tentative agenda includes an alumni panel, focus groups (led by our current students), and

even a tour of our outdoor classroom with an activity hosted by two of our Survival Science instructors. The goal of the summit is to get feedback on instructional vision, gauge progress over the last two years, and to find opportunities for future growth. Last March the high school hosted a larger Summit with over eighty stu-

dents off campus, and it was met with great appreciation. Hosting three smaller events this year will allow us to listen to more stakeholders to help chart a path forward for improved outcomes for our students.

The plan is for roughly 40 students, 10 parents, 10 teachers, and community members to attend.

# 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 Congrega-

tional Church at 745 Main St. Agawam. The group is for all children from birth to five-years-old.

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# Inked in symbolism: A Tattoo talk with Donnabelle Casis

HOLYOKE — Wistariahurst Museum is excited to announce an upcoming presentation with Donnabelle Casis, corresponding with the museum's Current exhibit: Identity in Ink: The Art of Tattooing. This talk will dive into the history of Filipino tattooing. Visitors will learn about symbolism found in common tattoos and the practice of hand-tapped tattooing. This method of tattooing is touched upon in the exhibit, but Casis will dive deeper, sharing her own connections to tattooing.

Donnabelle Casis is an artist, psychic medium, Reiki Master Teacher, sound therapy practitioner, and intuitive development mentor through my practice, SonorousLight, LLC. Her visual art practice involves painting and kinetic sculpture. About her work, Casis says,

"I draw inspiration from my Filipino heritage, particularly the symbols and patterns found in tribal tattoos and textiles. These designs are deeply rooted in storytelling, identity, and spiritual connection."

Identity in Ink merges modern tattooing with the history of the art form. The art of tattooing is one of the ancient traditions in human history. Etching pictures and symbols into skin has been around for thousands of years and has held countless meanings throughout different cultures and times. Some are still rooted in tradition and rituals, but tattoos have evolved into powerful symbols of self-expression, storytelling, and identity. Casis's presentation will be the perfect way to celebrate this exhibit.

Inked in Symbolism will take place on November

10th, 2025, from 6pm-7pm. Registration is encouraged, but not required. Register for this event on Wistariahurst's Eventbrite page. We hope to see you for this exciting talk to close out the exhibit.

Identity in Ink: The Art of Tattooing is on view through Nov. 11. Open gallery hours for this exhibit will be on Mondays (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) and Tuesdays (4:30 to 6:30 p.m.). These gallery hours are open and free to the public, so that all of our community members can stop by to explore this exhibit, discover unique artistry, and engage with educational information surrounding the history of tattoos. This program is funded in part by a grant from the Holyoke Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Mass Cultural Council.

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INFLATION

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USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS PORTERHOUSE T'BONE STEAK ..... **\$9.89** lb

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# Food Bank issues statement on SNAP benefits

As the federal government shutdown continues with no end in sight, millions of Americans are days away from losing access to the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)—the nation's most effective anti-hunger program. Without immediate federal action, November benefits will not be issued until the government reopens, leaving millions without funds to buy food.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), which administers SNAP, has an existing contingency fund that can and should be used to issue next month's benefits. Yet the Trump Administration

has chosen not to release these funds. If that decision stands, SNAP benefits will not be distributed at the beginning of November.

"This will be a devastating blow, not only to families who rely on SNAP, but to the grocers, farmers, and local economies that depend on this federal investment in local communities across the country," said Andrew Morehouse, Executive Director of the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. "SNAP brings \$35 million every month into Western Massachusetts. Losing this economic stimulus for even one month will ripple across every community. The USDA must release con-

tingency funds immediately to ensure people can put food on their tables and local economies can grow."

In Western Massachusetts alone, more than 191,000 people depend on SNAP to put food on the table. If benefits are halted, thousands will turn to the region's food assistance network—including the Food Bank's 199-member pantries, meal programs, and shelters, as well as its own 75 Mobile Food Bank and Brown Bag: Food for Elders sites.

Without SNAP benefits, the scale of demand for food assistance will be impossible to supply. "For every one meal we provide, SNAP pro-

vides nine," said Morehouse. "Food banks cannot replace SNAP."

The Food Bank is activating its emergency response plan to increase food supply, ramp up direct distributions, and expand deliveries to member food pantries in the region. The Food Bank is also collaborating with other Massachusetts food banks and anti-hunger coalitions to urge Governor Healey and the state legislature to allocate emergency funding through the Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP) and to consider using other state resources to cover November SNAP benefits if the federal

government does not act.

"Massachusetts has a proud history of leading in moments of federal failure," said Morehouse. "We call on our state leaders to step up once again to ensure that no child, elder, or working family goes hungry because Washington refused to do its job."

How the public can help:

1. Call your federal congressmen and senators. Thank them for pressuring the USDA to release SNAP contingency funds immediately.

2. Donate to the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts or a local food pantry or meal site. Every contribution

helps the Food Bank and its partners respond to this crisis. Donations to the Food Bank can be made online at [foodbankwma.org/give](http://foodbankwma.org/give) or by mail.

3. Join the 16th Annual March for the Food Bank as a marcher or sponsor, with the largest fundraising goal in the event's history of \$650,000.

4. Support local grocers and farmers. Buying locally strengthens the local economy. [buylocalfood.org](http://buylocalfood.org)

Share accurate information. Let people know where to find food assistance at [foodbankwma.org](http://foodbankwma.org), and follow the Food Bank on social media for updates.

## WMass' connection to governor arrested for drug trafficking

SPRINGFIELD - Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni announced Wednesday that an ongoing investigation has resulted in the arrest of LaMar Cook, 45, of Springfield.

The investigation is being conducted by the Massachusetts State Police Commonwealth Interstate Narcotics Reduction Enforcement Team (CINRET West), the Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit assigned to the Hampden District Attorney, with assistance from Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and other partner agencies.

To date, investigators have seized multiple parcels containing a combined total of approximately 21 kilograms of suspected cocaine, including approximately 8 kilograms that were intercepted on Saturday, October 25, 2025, during a controlled delivery operation in Spring-

field.

The controlled delivery took place at 436 Dwight St., the Springfield State Office Building, where the suspect was employed. On Monday night, October 27, 2025, investigators executed a search warrant of the suspect's former office within the office building.

LaMar Cook was arrested on Tuesday, Oct. 29 in the evening while operating his vehicle in Springfield. He has been charged with Cocaine, Trafficking in, 200 grams or more (in relation to the approximately 8 kilograms seized from the Springfield State Office Building operation); Unlawful Possession of a Firearm; Unlawful Possession of Ammunition; and is expected to be arraigned in Springfield District Court today, Oct. 29, 2025. Cook is presumed innocent of all allegations until proven guilty.

The investigation stems

from two prior seizures conducted by law enforcement earlier this month. On October 10, 2025, investigators intercepted and searched two suspicious packages at Hotel UMass in Amherst, which were found to contain approximately 13 kilograms of suspected cocaine. Evidence collected during that operation was consistent with the narcotics recovered during the most recent controlled delivery in Springfield. The investigation into the UMass seizure remains ongoing and may result in additional charges related to the prior shipments in Hampshire County.

This investigation is ongoing and active.

Cook served as the Western Massachusetts deputy director of Gov. Maura Healey's office since 2023 and was terminated from his position, effective immediately, after his arrest.

## Annual wreath bazaar to be held on Nov. 22

AGAWAM - The Agawam Congregational Church will once again host its Holly Wreath Bazaar this Christmas season, taking place on Saturday, Nov. 22 from 9 a.m. to 2

p.m. Browse a variety of goods from our talented crafters and stop by our country store and bakery for fresh vegetables, pies, bars, cookies, and candy. Try your luck at our raffle

table—plus, one lucky visitor will win a door prize. Before you head out, treat yourself to lunch at our hot lunch café. We look forward to welcoming you on Nov. 22.



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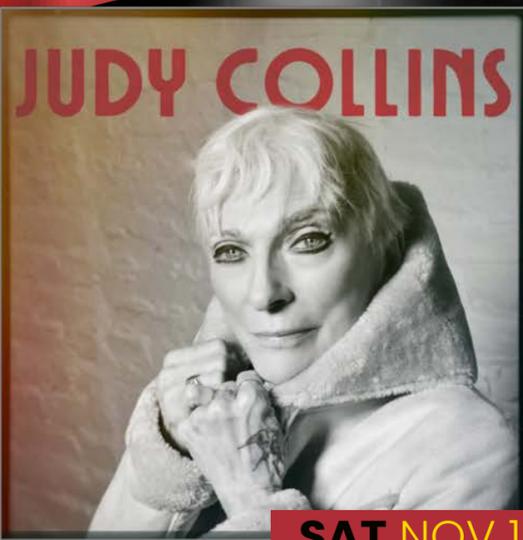
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# LIVE IN SPRINGFIELD

## NOVEMBER & DECEMBER EVENTS



**JUDY COLLINS**

**SAT NOV 1**



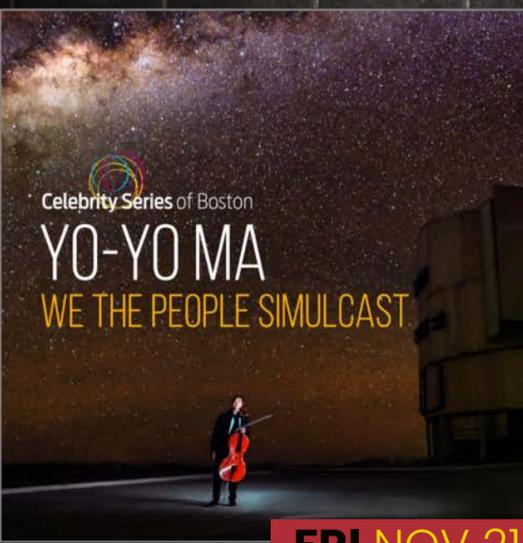
**EAST FOREST**

**SAT NOV 8**



**ARTURO SANDOVAL**

**FRI NOV 14**



Celebrity Series of Boston  
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 WE THE PEOPLE SIMULCAST

**FRI NOV 21**



**The Irish Tenors**

**FRI NOV 28**



**TAKE 6**

**THU DEC 11**



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# Opinion

## Guest Column



### Should I ask for retroactive benefits?

**Dear Rusty:**

I turn 70 next month, Oct. 3 and am making an application for Social Security benefits to begin in January 2026.

I want the maximum Delayed Retirement Credits and the highest permanent monthly benefit. I do not want to leave money on the table, so should I request six months of retroactive benefits or at least retroactive to October when I turn 70? If I do this, will I lose DRCs and adversely impact my ongoing monthly benefit after February 2026?

**Signed: Turning 70**

**Dear Turning 70:**

I must ask why claim your Social Security to start in January? You are entitled to your maximum SS monthly benefit in the month you reach 70 years of age, so waiting until January doesn't gain you anything. You could apply in August, specifying you wish your benefits to start in October, and you would get the maximum age 70 benefit you are entitled to (e.g., the maximum Delayed Retirement Credits available to you, and the highest possible monthly benefit).

Since you are looking for your maximum DRC's, to prevent SSA from giving you any retroactive benefits, which would permanently lower your monthly amount) you should enter in the "Remarks" section of

your application that "I do not wish to receive retroactive benefits. I want my maximum monthly benefit effective with the month I turn 70 years of age."

If, however, for some reason you still wish to claim effective with January 2026, you should indicate in the "Remarks" section of your SS application that you only wish three months of retroactive benefits, for the months of October, November and December 2025. This is to prevent you from losing the money you would miss by waiting beyond October to claim. If you ask for benefits retroactive to any month earlier than the month you turn 70, your monthly benefit will be permanently reduced.

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



I miss the days of carving pumpkins with the kids. Last year was the first year time got away from us and we just didn't get around to doing it.

I guess the rituals aren't quite as important as they used to be when the girls were younger. Alas, time marches on.

I still got a kick out of decorating the porch with pumpkins, big and small, orange and white. Not a Jack-o'-Lantern to be seen, just a pretty autumnal scene.

It is safe to say that we New Englanders have a fond affection for the pumpkin. And by the look of the neighborhood, we enjoy this fruit

(yes, fruit) more on our doorsteps these days than we do in our kitchens.

This wasn't always the case; in fact, the pumpkin was a staple in the diets of Native Americans long before the pilgrims set foot on Plymouth Rock.

The pumpkin is thought to have originated in Mexico. Seeds found there of a distant Cucurbit relative were dated all the way back to 7000 to 5500 B.C.! In our more recent past, Native Americans taught colonists how to plant pumpkins; soon they became indispensable

BACKYARD | page 4



### Garden Lady followup

Martha wrote in after my column on Stinging Nettle. As you may recall, a reader had reached out about this plant and how it had begun to grow rampant in her field.

She was nervous about coming in contact with it, and nervous for her dog, as well, who likes to run in the tall grass. Her main concern was eradicating it, and although I gave her some advice on how to do that, I should have also given the plant a little more well-deserved recognition.

Herbalists and others interested in the nutritional value of nettle often plant it "on purpose." This is what Martha had to say: "I did, indeed, plant nettles; they are in a part of the yard where their growth will be somewhat controlled. But are they not an excellent source of calcium, and have plenty of other health benefits, besides? It seems we are quick to 'eradicate' the less tame plants, which, upon investigation, can prove to be beneficial."

Martha, your point is well-taken! I guess it goes along with the old saying, "one person's trash is another person's treasure." Or better yet, how about "one person's weed is another person's medicine?"

Along similar lines, this question came in from Steven, who lives in Becket. He wrote to the Garden Lady curious about the late blooming perennial, Monkshood.



few flowers that do bloom in blue shades, and it blooms towards the end of summer, when few other plants are in their glory.

Due to the unique flower shape, the plant is mainly pollinated by "long tongued" bumble bees, who pry open the flower to get at the pollen. With all this said, the plant sounds great!

Now here comes the "but..." Caution should indeed be exercised around Monkshood. It goes by other common names that are more telling of its true nature, Wolfsbane and Devil's Helmet among others.

The plant contains a deadly toxins, aconitine and diterpene alkaloids that can result in death if ingested. It is even advised to use gloves when handling the plant, even its roots if you were to dig it up, because of absorption that can occur through the skin.

Most experts recommend not growing it in gardens that pets or children may frequent. I hope this answers your question, Steven. I do think that you were on target to be concerned, especially because of your dog.

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

### American Legion Hosts 'The Greatest Generation: A Tribute to the Heroes of World War II'

WEST SPRINGFIELD – The West Springfield American Legion will host Small Planet Dancers performing "The Greatest Generation: A Tribute to the Heroes of World War II." The free program will be presented on Sunday, Nov. 16 at 2 p.m. Small Planet Dancers is a performance group headquartered in Westfield. The troupe is composed of 18 men and women and is under the direction of Jose-

phine Sarnelli, Artistic Director and choreographer.

The 90-minute program commemorates the history of the war through dance routines set to Big Band music and performed in authentic military and 1940's dress. Included are readings about the Tuskegee Airmen, the Navajo Code Talkers and the 442nd Infantry. Familiar songs of the era are sung and accompanied on piano.

The program has been co-

ordinated by Marc Massey, Director of Veteran Services for the Town of West Springfield. The American Legion is located at 83 Park Avenue, West Springfield, MA.

This program is funded through a grant from the West Springfield Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. For more information write [info@SmallPlanetDancers.org](mailto:info@SmallPlanetDancers.org) or call (413) 746-9067.

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

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



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



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### AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS TEAM



**EDITOR/SPORTS**  
Greg Scibelli  
[aan@turley.com](mailto:aan@turley.com)  
[sports@turley.com](mailto:sports@turley.com)



**ADVERTISING SALES**  
Wendy Delcamp  
[wdelcamp@turley.com](mailto:wdelcamp@turley.com)

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### Agawam Advertiser News welcomes letters to the editor

The *Agawam Advertiser News* welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to the *Agawam Advertiser News*, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to [aan@turley.com](mailto:aan@turley.com). Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for

that Thursday'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



Horned Lark

**BACKYARD** ■ from page 4

in their diets.

The hard outer skin of the pumpkin allowed it to be stored for a long period of time, sustaining the community throughout the winter months. It was also versatile, used in stews, bread baking, and even in desserts.

Historians speculate that the pumpkin pie may have evolved from the century's long practice of removing the top of a pumpkin, straining out the seeds and more stringy flesh, adding milk, honey and spices and baking it for hours in hot coals. Today, we continue to enjoy pumpkin pie, but mainly as a holiday treat.

When carving pumpkins became more and more trendy, breeders concentrated their efforts on large, elongated, hard-skinned and sturdy pumpkins, in other words, those that would lend themselves best to a spooky face. These, however, may not be the most satisfying to our taste buds.

The smaller, "sugar-type" pumpkin is more appetizing in texture and taste.

Many of you already know that pumpkins are good for you too! The dark orange color of the flesh is a giveaway that, just like carrots, yams and winter squash, the pumpkin is packed with beta carotene, the precursor to vitamin A.

Researchers have long been touting the benefits of beta carotene to ward off infection and some types of cancer. It may also slow the aging process.

Besides that, pumpkins contain a healthy dose of potassium and fiber, are low in sodium and are fat free. Incidentally, pumpkin seeds when consumed regularly have shown to keep the prostate healthy.

They also contain a healthy dose of magnesium.

Did you ever wonder where the tradition of carving Jack-o'-Lanterns originated? It is thanks in part to an the Irish folk tale of Stingy Jack, an unsavory figure who unwelcome in Heaven, outsmarted the devil and was left to roam the earth with only a burning coal to light his way. According to the legend, Jack put the coal in a carved out turnip (which he was fond of stealing!) and has been roaming ever since.

"Jack of the Lantern" has become simply "Jack-o'-Lantern." In Scotland and Ireland people made their own Jack-o'-Lanterns out of turnips or potatoes. In England, large beets were used. The tradition came with the immigrants to America; here they found the pumpkin perfect for carving. And so it has continued! Maybe I will have to carve one myself, just for old time's sake.

*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*

# Should you challenge a medical bill?

Estimates suggest that up to 80 percent of medical bills contain at least one error. That's why I always recommend to my clients that they not pay a medical or hospital bill until they have received an itemized bill and carefully reviewed it.

There are a lot of reasons for mistakes in medical billings, which can cause you to incur a bigger-than-expected bill or your insurance to be denied, as I wrote recently.

Some common types of medical billing errors include:

- **Incorrect diagnostic codes:** For example, an administrator might enter the wrong code, indicating that a patient had an X-ray on both legs when only one leg was imaged.

- **Typos:** A typo can cause a single saline drip to be registered as many more.

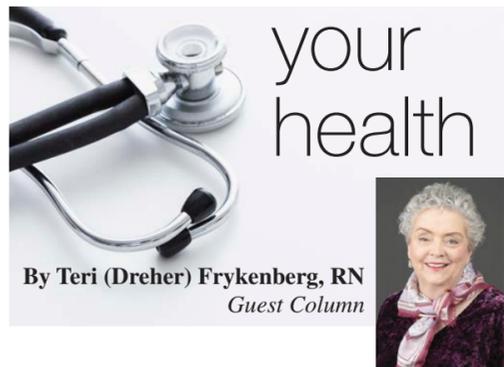
- **Incomplete or incorrect information:** Information for a patient or provider might be entered incorrectly or incompletely.

- **Duplicate billing:** The same service might be billed for more than once.

When you receive an unexpectedly large medical bill, the first thing to do is take a deep breath, ask for an itemized bill (which you are legally entitled to), and review it for errors. If you think there are errors – or the bill is just too big for you to handle – the worst thing to do is to ignore it.

Instead, challenge it. A study just published in JAMA Health Forum found that it's worthwhile.

Erin Duffy, a research scientist at the University of Southern California's Shaefler Center for Health Policy and Economics, surveyed a



cross-section of health consumers and found that one in five – fully 20 percent – reported that their household had received a medical bill that they could not afford or didn't agree with.

Most of them didn't reach out to the health-care provider because they didn't think it would make a difference. But, she wrote, "the experiences of those who did reach out provide evidence to the contrary."

"Most respondents who reached out reported at least one form of financial relief, bill corrections, or better understanding of the bill," she wrote. "These findings suggest that patients benefit from reaching out to the billing office on receiving a problematic bill, and those who do not reach out may be missing financially advantageous opportunities."

The study found few differences in the households reporting problem bills – the residents had different levels of income and education. But these factors did affect a person's willingness to call about their medical bill.

"Those who were uninsured, Medicare insured, and less educated were less likely to reach out to the billing of-

ice," Duffy reported. "These differences in self-advocacy may be widening the gap in financial burden of health care between those with higher and lower socioeconomic status."

Self-advocacy is not easy, and challenging a medical bill can be time-consuming and frustrating. Some of the people in Duffy's study said they had spent five hours or more contesting a bill, and quite a few said they didn't feel the people in charge were respectful to them.

But if the outcome is a reduced bill or a payment plan, it can be worth the effort. It's estimated that Americans are carrying more than \$200 billion in medical debt, the majority of it by people who owe \$10,000 or more. While the three major credit agencies no longer include medical debts under \$500 on credit reports, it can still impact credit scores if the health organization reports it to the credit agencies.

Tellingly, only 3.5 percent of the respondents sought help from an advocacy organization to contact the billing office, Duffy said. The time burden plus the fact that many of the people surveyed didn't reach out to all

indicates "there may be an unmet need for formal assistance navigating bills," she wrote.

Patient advocates are one source of such formal assistance. They navigate the intricacies of the health-care system itself and its mind-boggling billing systems, too. A medically trained patient advocate can look at an itemized medical bill and spot duplications and inconsistencies that a lay advocate may miss.

To avoid mistakes and misunderstandings, understand your health insurance coverage; ask questions when you don't. Know what your deductibles, coinsurance, copays and out-of-pocket maximums are. Ask why your doctor is ordering certain tests or procedures. Call your insurer in advance to find out how much you'll be asked to pay. Always document the answers you receive, who you spoke to, and when. Get promises in writing. And if you're uninsured, be upfront about it.

After all that, if you still receive a bill you think has errors, advocate for yourself and you may save yourself some money.

*Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of Northshore Patient Advocates LLC (NShore). She is also founder and CEO of Nurse Advocate Entrepreneur, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com.*

## Local dentist seeks leftover candy to send to the troops

AGAWAM – For more than 20 years, Dr. Michael Calabrese of Feeding Hills has been accepting donations of unwanted Halloween candy from Agawam residents that gets sent to military men and women serving overseas.

This year's candy collec-

tion will kick-off on Saturday, Nov. 1 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at his dental office at 850 Springfield Street, Suite 2, Feeding Hills.

The Event Chair is his Dental Hygienist, Cecilia Calabrese, and our Coordinator for school children collection is Agawam Mom,

Lisa Wild.

Aldo Mancini of the Marine Corps League handles logistics of getting the candy distributed to the troops.

As a special incentive, anyone bringing in candy donations on Nov. 1 between 10 a.m. to 12 noon will be entered into a drawing for

dinner and a movie: \$100 gift certificate to Kaptain Jimmy's Restaurant and movie passes to Agawam Cinemall you are unable to get to the office on Nov. 1 we will continue to accept donations during regular office hours (Tuesday – Friday) ending Nov. 7.

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 Pick up at Partners Restaurant on Wednesday, November 26th - 8:00am- 1:00pm.  
 Order Online using our Contact Form at [www.partnersrestaurant.com/thanksgiving-menu](http://www.partnersrestaurant.com/thanksgiving-menu)  
 Order in person at Partners Restaurant, 485 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA or call (413) 786-0975.

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**CLUES ACROSS**  
 1. Difficult  
 5. Coarsely ground corn  
 9. There's one for the "world"  
 11. Loved Romeo  
 13. Sticky situation  
 15. Pelvic areas  
 16. An informal debt instrument  
 17. Cannot be repaired surgically  
 19. A device attached to a workbench  
 21. Related on the mother's side  
 22. Sound unit  
 23. \_\_\_ Sagan, astronomer  
 25. Utah city  
 26. A disappointing effort  
 27. Steal goods during

a riot  
 29. Wakes up  
 31. Hair salon service  
 33. Serenaded  
 34. Looked intensely  
 36. U.S. Air Force expert Robert F.  
 38. A type of cast  
 39. One's duty  
 41. Where golfers begin  
 43. Make a mistake  
 44. Semitic sun god  
 46. Ancient Greek City  
 48. Having had the head cut off  
 52. A place to stay  
 53. Unwise  
 54. Most unnatural  
 56. Dennis is a notable one  
 57. Ointments  
 58. Students' exam  
 59. Leaked blood

**CLUES DOWN**  
 1. Brave  
 2. Act of awakening  
 3. Jest at  
 4. Sandwich store  
 5. Chapter of the Koran  
 6. Dismounted  
 7. Small vehicle  
 8. Irked  
 9. One who earns by disreputable dealings  
 10. Monetary unit of Samoa  
 11. Long, mournful lamentation  
 12. Weight unit  
 14. Alone, single  
 15. Decreases  
 18. Indicates beside  
 20. Worn by exposure to the weather  
 24. A body of traditions  
 26. College students'

ultimate goal  
 28. Amino acid  
 30. Nasal mucus  
 32. US government entity  
 34. Swinish  
 35. Legislative body in Russia  
 37. Grant an exemption to  
 38. Put in advance  
 40. Satisfy  
 42. Felt  
 43. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls  
 45. Witnesses  
 47. Picnic invaders  
 49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two  
 50. Ancient person of Scotland  
 51. Cheerless  
 55. Unwell

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 10**

# A lot happening in November at Agawam Public Library

There is something for everyone this November at the Agawam Public Library! Our annual Bizarre Bazaar returns this month and is a great chance to stock up on decorations just in time for the holidays. Donate your gently used holiday decor and holiday themed items to the library between now and Saturday, Nov. 8. Items can be related to any major holiday and can include all kinds of decor (wreaths, wall hangings, signs, statues, flags, ornaments, gift wrap, etc.). We will organize all of the donations for our Bizarre Bazaar, which runs Friday, Nov. 21 from 1 to 3 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or the public to browse and "shop". Bags will be provided.

The virtual Career Workshops and Networking Group continues this month for two informational sessions. Join this vibrant group of networking professionals led by Professional Coach and MBA, Deborah Hope. Debi specializes in assisting mature job seekers and providing career and networking resources. The online group will meet on Nov. 19 to discuss Interviewing Strategies. Both presentations are

from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., but there is an opportunity for informal networking at 9 a.m. Meetings will continue through December. Registrants can sign-up online to receive the Zoom meeting links. These workshops are supported by the Agawam Center Library Association.

Looking for ways to improve wellness before the holidays arrive? The library has a few options to keep your body and mind in shape. Join yoga instructor Heidi Taberman for an hour of gentle Chair Yoga on Wednesday mornings at 9:05 a.m. in the Clini Community Room. Qigong will be offered three times this month. Exercises will focus on strengthening the breath, expanding the chest, and fortifying the immune system in preparation for winter. Chairs are available for modified movements and a yoga mat is suggested for those practicing in bare feet or socks. Join us for a morning fall qigong session on Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 10:30 a.m. in the Clini Community Room. Evening qigong will be held on Thursday, Nov. 20 at 6:30 p.m. These programs are sponsored by the Agawam Center Library Association. The APL Walk-

ing Group will meet on Saturday Nov. 8 at 9 a.m. at Still Brook Park (100 Pine St. in Feeding Hills). Meet librarian Kristen Frost at the pavilion to get your blood pumping and start the day off right! Registration is required so we know how many walkers to expect. Please note that this group will meet monthly through December and will meet at different locations in Agawam/Feeding Hills.

If you're looking for some friendly competition, then our Tea & Trivia events will be right up your street. Come by yourself or with a team and take part in a couple of rounds of Jeopardy and pub-style trivia; prizes will be awarded to the winning teams. Our evening session is Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 6:30 p.m. and our afternoon session is Wednesday, Nov. 19 at 2:30 p.m. We will use the same questions for both sessions, so register for the time you prefer and join us for some fun!

Spooky season may be over, but it's never too late to delve into the mystical and reflective world of divination. Our event Discover Guidance and Training with Oracle Cards, originally set to take place in October,

has been rescheduled for Monday, Nov. 10 at 6 p.m. Instructor Julia Nadolny will introduce the wisdom of oracle cards, explain how they can be used as a supportive practice, offer readings to participants as well as guide participants how to give each other and themselves readings. Whether you are curious about card readings, seeking insight into your own journey, or simply looking for a relaxing and enlightening evening, this program is open to all. Come with an open heart and leave with fresh perspectives and a renewed sense of connection. Please register online for this event.

Are you a writer looking to connect with other writers? Then stop by on Thursday, Nov. 20 at 6 p.m. for our monthly Writers Group, hosted by award-winning author Katherine Anderson. This in-person workshop is open to writers of all levels and genres. There will be opportunities for peer and host feedback, learning the basics of self-publishing, finding opportunities for submission to magazines, literary journals, and presses, assembling a portfolio, and the basics of a query package for submis-

sions and publications. Registration is required.

Our Library Tech Classes this month will help users get started with our digital library app Libby. We'll show you the essentials on how to find and borrow new eBooks and eAudiobooks, along with some helpful hints and tips. Feel free to bring your smart devices and/or your e-Readers with you to the class. This month's classes will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 19 at 6:30 p.m. and Tuesday, Nov. 24 at 10 a.m. Please register to attend.

The holidays have begun, which means our annual Festival of Trees will be here before you know it. Get ahead of the game – and get your creative juices flowing – at our Adult Craft Night on Monday, Nov. 24 at 6 p.m. Rather than just having folks decorate an artificial tree, we challenge you to build one from scratch. Come check out the variety of items we will have on hand for creating your own uniquely designed tree, or feel free to bring materials you have at home that you want to use. When you finish your creation, leave it here at the library to be part of our Festival of Trees celebration

in the month of December. What kind of tree will you design? Registration is required for this craft night.

Martha's Vineyard. Novelist Amanda Peters will discuss her instant bestselling novel *The Berry Pickers* on Thursday, Nov. 13 at 7 p.m. Influenced by Peters' own Mi'kmaq heritage, *The Berry Pickers* is a riveting exploration of family, grief, and the bonds we share. Get yourself primed for the holiday season and join us on Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 2 p.m. for an online conversation with Charles Duhigg. Author of the best-selling book *Supercommunicators: How to Unlock the Secret Language of Connection*, Duhigg will unveil the secret to communicating and connecting with anyone at work, home, and in life. To register to attend any of these author talks, please visit our virtual authors' events page: [library.org/agawamlibrary](http://library.org/agawamlibrary).

We will be closed on Tuesday, Nov. 11 in observance of Veterans Day. Please note that the library will close at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 26 and remain closed for Thanksgiving. We will be open normal hours Friday and Saturday.

# Activities ongoing for kids and teens at Agawam Public Library

AGAWAM – Here are the programs for kids & teens that will be offered at the Agawam Library this November. Some programs require registration. To register, go to our website [agawamlibrary.org](http://agawamlibrary.org) or call us at 413-789-1550 ext. 3.

**Art and Stories - For ages 3 – 5**

*Tuesday, Nov. 25 - Drop-in.*  
Join us for a short story time followed by an art project. We will explore simple art concepts and experiment with materials. Please wear clothing that can get messy!

**Baby Story Time - For birth – 18 mo.**

*Thursday, Nov. 13 - Drop-in.*  
Join us as we learn a little American Sign Language, read stories, sing, & play together.

**Bracelet Making - For grades 5-6**

*Thursday, Nov. 20 at 6 p.m. - Registration is required*  
Come design and make your own beaded bracelets! To register, go to our website

[agawamlibrary.org](http://agawamlibrary.org)

**Family Take and Make Crafts - For all ages**

*First Day of the Week & again on Thursdays - While supplies last - Drop-in and pick up.*

A new Take and Make craft will be available the first day of each week and again on Thursdays. Nov. 10 and 13: Foam Bear Ornament. Nov. 17 and 20: Colorful Chicken Craft. Nov. 24 and 26: Raccoon Hand Puppet.

**Family Trivia - For all ages**

*Wednesday, Nov. 19 at 6 p.m. - Registration is required*

Bring the family in for a pub-style trivia night! The winning team will receive a snack filled gift basket! To register, go to our website [agawamlibrary.org](http://agawamlibrary.org)

**Volunteer-run Free Family Photo Shoot - For all ages**

*Saturday, Nov. 8 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon - Drop-in.*

Have a volunteer take a picture of your family in

front of a winter backdrop. The photos will then be emailed to you. The photos could make great holiday cards.

**Grow, Play, and Learn - This program is provided by Pathways for Parents.**

*Wednesdays and Fridays Ages 0-2 at 9:30 a.m. Ages 3-5 at 10:30 a.m. - Drop-in.*

No class Friday, Nov. 28. Stories, songs and skill building, led by an Early Childhood Developmental trained staff member, guiding caregivers in strengthening interactions with their child.

**Music with Mr. Liam - All Ages**

*Saturday, Nov. 15 at 9:30 a.m. - Registration is required*

Join us for an energetic show filled with drums, the ukulele, puppets, and comedy as Mr. Liam (Liam Hurley) plays old favorites & silly parodies! This program is provided by Pathways for Parents. To register, go to our website [agawamlibrary.org](http://agawamlibrary.org).

**Pre-K Pals - For ages 3 – 5**

*Mondays in November at 11 a.m. - Registration is required.*

We will provide activities to support your child to learn by playing. This program is provided by Pathways for Parents.

**Open Lego Building - For grades 1-4**

*Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 4:30 p.m. - Registration is required*

Show off your Lego building skills. Use Legos to build something awesome. Creations will be put on display in the Children's Room. To register, go to our website [agawamlibrary.org](http://agawamlibrary.org)

**Special Saturday Craft: Clothespin Dinosaur Craft - For All Ages**

*Saturday, Nov. 29 All Day - While supplies last - Drop-in & pick up.*

Chomp, chomp! Kids will have a blast assembling these dino-mite crafts and then pressing the clothespin pieces together to open and close each dinosaur's

mouth.

**Stroller Strides with Fit4Mom - For parents and their child ages 1 month - 10 years old**

*Teen Advisory Board - For grades 7-12*

*Wednesday, Nov. 12 from 6 to 7 p.m.,*

Make plans for teen library programs and the Teen Space, and eat pizza! Members of the Teen Advisory Board can earn community service hours for their participation. If you'd like to join, contact Evan at [edelano@agawamlibrary.org](mailto:edelano@agawamlibrary.org) or 413-789-1550 extension 3.

**Teen After-School Drop-in - For grades 9-12**

*Tuesdays, Nov. 18 and 25 from 2 to 3 p.m.*

Stop by the library after school and visit the Activity Room. Play our Nintendo Switch, try out the button maker, eat snacks, or just hang out! No registration necessary.

**Teen Fall Pride Meetup - For grades 7-12**

*Saturday, Nov. 22 from*

*3:30 to 4:30 p.m.*

Celebrate LGBTQ+ Pride all year round. Mark your calendars for our Fall Pride Meetup. Hang out, do a craft, eat snacks, and play a Pride-themed trivia game. Registration on our website is optional. All are welcome, whether or not you've registered!

**Teen Take and Make Craft - For grades 7-12**

*Available starting Saturday, Nov. 1*

Stop by the Teen Space to pick up a Take and Make Craft kit! They'll be available until we run out of supplies. No registration necessary.

**Teen Trivia Thursday - For grades 7-12**

*Thursdays, Nov. 13, and 20 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.*

Visit the Teen Space and answer a trivia question to get a small prize. **Toddler Time -**

**For 19 mo. - 36 mo.**

*Mondays, Nov. 10 and 24 at 9:30 a.m. - Drop-in.*

Join us as we read stories, sing, and play together.

## Elks hosting Free Throw contest

HOLYOKE - The Holyoke Lodge of Elks #902 proudly announces its annual Elks Hoop Shoot Free Throw Contest, to be held on Saturday, Nov. 8, at the Holyoke Boys and Girls Club.

Registration begins at 9 a.m., and the contest starts promptly at 9:30 a.m.

This event is free of charge and open to all boys and girls ages 8 through 13 as of April 1, 2026. Contestants will compete within

their age and gender divisions.

Winners from the local contest will advance to the district competition, with the opportunity to continue on to the state, regional, and national levels. National champions will have their names permanently inscribed on a plaque at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts — an honor that celebrates their

dedication and achievement.

The Elks Hoop Shoot is a proud tradition that encourages youth to develop character, sportsmanship, and perseverance — one free throw at a time.

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to test your skills, have fun, and represent your community. For more information, please contact Sal Canata at (413) 883-1561.

## Rose hosting technology info session

AGAWAM – Resident Raymond Rose announced he will be holding a "Learn to use iPhones and iPads" workshop at the Agawam Senior Center. Rose has held the session in the past for residents. In the workshop, you will learn:

security and passwords, understanding iCloud, using artificial intelligence (AI), use of YouTube and the App Store, understanding your Health app, learning all the settings, cutting TV costs, and much more. Please bring your iPhone

or iPad device with you to workshop and feel free to bring a friend. The workshop will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 1 p.m. You can register with Kristina Lynch at (413) 821-0604 or email [klynch@agawam.ma.us](mailto:klynch@agawam.ma.us)

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## EARLY DEADLINES FOR ADS & LEGAL NOTICES

Thanksgiving will bring early deadlines for all legal notices to run in TURLEY PUBLICATIONS the week of November 24-28, 2025.

**Thursday, Nov. 20 at 2 PM for November 27 issue**

- Agawam Advertiser News • Country Journal
- The Register • Wilbraham-Hampden Times

**Friday, November 21 at 2 PM for November 27 Issue**

- Sentinel • Quaboag Current

**Monday, November 24 at 2 PM for November 27 Issue**

- The Journal Register • Ware River News • Barre Gazette

**Tuesday, November 25 at 2 PM for November 28 Issue**

- Town Reminder • The Holyoke Sun • Chicopee Register

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## EARLY DEADLINE

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# Library celebrates Halloween



The event featured lots of visitors in costume.



It was Halloween Story Time at Agawam Public Library last Tuesday.

AGAWAM – The Agawam Library hosted another successful Halloween Parade and Story Time on Tuesday, Oct. 28. The Youth Services staff all dressed up as mushrooms to welcome the eager readers & trick-or-treaters. We had teen volunteers help out during the story time, and help lead the kids through the library to trick-or-treat. We couldn't



Members of the staff also got dressed up.

have done it without our wonderful teen volunteers. We read the book Eek, Halloween by Sandra Boynton and sang about some of the different things you might see on Halloween and the sounds they make, including bats that flap their wings, and friendly ghosts that go "Oooo."

Then we all enjoyed music from our special guest

musician, Mr. Liam. Mr. Liam played all sorts of fun songs for us and showed us his wonderful instruments, including a ukulele, a drum set, a kazoo, and even a Vibra-Slap percussion instrument that made a sound like a skeleton.

Then we paraded around the library and trick-or-treated around the different

library departments. Each kid left with five small toys including: a ghost keychain, a super bounce ball, a small coloring book & crayons, and a small Frisbee. Each kid also received a fun craft that they could take home and make.

A good time was had by all! We look forward to doing it all again next year.

## ROOF ■ from page 1

ment of roofs and windows/doors and heat pump conversions in schools that are otherwise structurally, functionally and educationally sound.

"The Accelerated Repair Program allows us to partner with school districts on much-needed repairs that can greatly extend a school's lifespan," said Treasurer Goldberg. "Besides making the learning environment more comfortable for our schoolchildren, these repairs also make our schools more energy efficient and generate substantial cost savings. It's a win-win for everyone involved."

The school committee had previously approved applying for the program.

"The Accelerated Repair Program directly benefits thousands of children in these communities by sus-

taining their infrastructure in a cost-effective manner," said Executive Director/Deputy CEO Pichetti.

Earlier this year, Mayor Christopher Johnson informed the school committee that roof replacements were needed at the schools.

All four schools have flat roofs with membrane sections. All of the roofs are starting to have issues. Various weather events have likely contributed to some of the issues in the past few years. The year 2023 had an unusually large amount of rain. The year 2024 had several strange weather events related to high winds, remnants of hurricanes and tropical storms, and the past winter has been plagued with combinations of winter weather, including some significant ice storms.

Johnson told the school committee he will pursue funding through the Massachusetts School Building Au-

thority. The MSBA is providing about 60% of the funding for the high school project. But it also has an accelerated repair programs that is geared toward smaller projects. Among projects funded by the program are roofs and HVAC systems.

"The plan is to try and do a roof a year over the next four or five years for the elementary schools," the mayor said. "But they're unfortunately not going to be considered as one project."

As a result, the town will have to submit separate applications for each of the four roofs, meaning they may not all receive funding from the state.

According to Johnson, the smaller roofs at Clark and Sapelli schools will cost an estimated \$800,000. The larger roofs at Phelps and Granger could cost about \$1.2 million. It is not clear what order the roofs would be repaired in.

According to Johnson, Phelps is the oldest building among the elementary schools, constructed in 1939. The latest built among them was Sapelli in 1959. It opened as Robinson Park School before being renamed in 2023 when the school committee agreed to change the name in honor of the former principal, superintendent of schools, and former mayor.

The school committee voted unanimously to have Superintendent Sheila Martin submit the statements of interest to the MSBA. The deadline for this year's round of funding was Friday, March 21.

There is not currently a specific timeline for the roof projects to take place. A major project in the school district is already underway as Phase 1 construction of a new Agawam High School is about six months into the process.



State Sen. John Velis talks about the importance of funding needs after giving the Agawam Public Schools a \$125,000 earmark from the state last month. The town is getting more assistance as it was invited to participate in the accelerated repair program. Submitted photo

## SCHOOL ■ from page 1

made box lunches for the homeless.

Mayor Christopher C. Johnson commented that he liked the posters the student council created and

said great job to everyone involved. During superintendent's notes, Martin shared that Agawam High School recently won the MIAA District Sportsmanship Award 2025 and congratulated all the teams, coaches, Athletic

Director Karen Gomez, and the school's administration. The ceremony took place at Gillette Stadium on Nov. 6.

"Our competitive spirit for playing the right way is an accomplishment we can all take pride in," said Martin.

## Hibernian Clothing and Food Drive for Providence Ministries

HOLYOKE – The Ancient Order of Hibernians of Hampden/Hampshire Counties along with the Polish National Credit Union Announce the Annual Clothing and Food Drive for Providence Ministries from September to Dec. 1.

Please drop off gently used clothing, blankets, sleeping bags, and/or non-perishable food items to the Polish National Credit Union 270 Westfield Rd. Holyoke. Make a donation and be entered to win a raffle basket.

Please help those who are experiencing food insecurity and assist Providence Ministries as they continue to transform lives through their life-changing programs. Stop by the PNCU-your efforts will be greatly appreciated.

## Veterans Services to restore graves Nov. 8

HOLYOKE - The Veterans Services is honored to host a Graves Restoration Event on Saturday, Nov. 8 at the Calvary Cemetery located at 2140 Northampton Street. The event will begin at 10 a.m. Rain Date will be on Nov. 15. This event is to restore and preserve our deceased veterans markers so that they are kept in a presentable form for posterity. Tools and supplies will be provided. There are no hazardous chemicals (to humans, animals or environment) used in the process of restoration. If you have any questions, please contact Wayne Klinge at klingew@holyoake.org or 413-322-5630. All are welcome.

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Logan Distler

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Grandparents: Christopher & Michele Mues, Warren  
Carole & the late Bruce Distler, Long Island, NY

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This offer is available to all babies born in 2025. Pictures will be published the week of December 22-26, 2025.

Baby's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Parents' Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Town of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please check the newspaper you would like your announcement to appear.

<input type="checkbox"/> Agawam Advertiser News	<input type="checkbox"/> Quabog Current
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<input type="checkbox"/> The Holyoke Sun	<input type="checkbox"/> Ware River News
<input type="checkbox"/> Journal Register	<input type="checkbox"/> The Wilbraham-Hampden Times

Deadline for photos and forms is Friday, December 12, 2025



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# SPORTS

## BOYS SOCCER

# Following quarterfinal loss, Agawam defeats Ludlow

LUDLOW – Last Monday afternoon, Agawam High School defeated Ludlow 1-0 in a nonplayoff game following their quarterfinal loss in the Class Tournament against West Springfield.

Agawam's lone goal came from Dylan Jorgensen as the Brownies won their fifth game of the season. With Agawam's strength of schedule, they qualified for the Division 2 state tournament despite

going 5-6-7 during the season. Agawam drew a preliminary round game against Middleborough High School. It was played earlier this week.



Omar Elgendy considers his next move.



Aiden Monaghan rears back for a pass.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Dylan Jorgensen tries to play the ball in the air.



Patrick Keating eyes a target up the field.



Nathan Bassette makes a long throw-in.

## T-Birds pick up point against Islanders

BRIDGEPORT, CT – The Springfield Thunderbirds (1-6-1-1) rode a terrific afternoon from their starting goaltender into a shootout before falling 2-1 to the Bridgeport Islanders (2-5-1-0) on Sunday afternoon inside Total Mortgage Arena.

Bridgeport entered the game as one of the league's most potent first-period offenses with 14 tallies in its first eight opening frames of the season. That trend continued at 8:54 of the first when

rookie Joey Larson deflected a Sean Day point shot through Vadim Zherenko, giving the Islanders the 1-0 advantage.

The T-Birds once again showed good resilience and timely power play success at 17:03 to tie the score. Matthew Peca won the opening draw of the advantage, allowing Samuel Johannesson to get a shot into the blue paint. Marcus Hogberg made the first stop, but Matt Luff was on the scene to jab a backhand rebound home to tie

the game, 1-1. The goal, Luff's team-leading fourth of the season, was also his fourth point in the last two games.

Zherenko and Hogberg rose into the spotlight in the second period, as neither team could take advantage on a plethora of power play opportunities. Bridgeport went 0-for-4 on man advantages in the first 40 minutes, including an 0-for-3 spell in period two. Springfield, meanwhile, was unable to break the 1-1 tie on their one chance in the mid-

dle stanza.

Zherenko and the T-Birds' penalty kill continued to rise to the occasion in the third, stonewalling the Bridgeport power play once more in the final period to complete a perfect 5-for-5 day. Zherenko went the final 51:06 of regulation without allowing a tally.

As the 1-1 tie carried into overtime, the netminder only raised his game further, as Zherenko came up with

## Brownies girls volleyball wins final game of season

AGAWAM – On Thursday, Oct. 23, Agawam High School entered nonplayoff action against Westfield High School.

The Brownies were previously defeated in the quarterfinals of the Western Mass. Class A Girls Volleyball tournament against Westfield. The Brownies then had a matchup with Westfield, picking up the win 3-1.

Agawam was defeated in the second set of the match, but went on to win the final two, first by a close 25-23 score, then pulling away at the end and defeating the Bombers 25-16 to finish off the meet.

Agawam's season ended with a 7-13 record and the Brownies did not rank in the top 32 to qualify for the state tournament this year.

# Sports

## GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY

# Brownies defeated in WMass semifinals

LONGMEADOW – On Wednesday, Oct. 22, Agawam High School field hockey was one of four teams to qualify for the Western Massachusetts Class A Tournament. Agawam once again

found itself in the familiar position of traveling to Longmeadow for a semifinal matchup. Longmeadow scored an early goal to take a 1-0 halftime lead, and only built on that as the Brown-

ies fell to the Lancers 3-0. Agawam went 10-6-1 in the regular season and had a spot in the Division 2 state tournament following that matchup.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Sophia DiBella tries to win the race to the ball.



Lily Charest tries to settle the bouncing ball.



Alyssa DaSilva looks to send the ball past midfield.



Samantha Matland attempts to clear the ball past an opponent



Finnola Mahoney intercepts the pass.

# Railers fall against Reading Royals

WORCESTER – The Railers fell Saturday night with a 5-1 loss to the Reading Royals.

Worcester's lone goal was scored by Drew Callin to make it 3-1 in the third period. There was a little bit of history there, since it had been 1,411 calendar days since his last goal for the Railers on Dec. 8, 2021.

Callin spent almost all of that span in the American Hockey League.

Reading got two goals from Carson Golder. Massimo Rizzo, Brandon Saigeon, and Sawyer Boulton each had one apiece.

Vinnie Purpura got the win in net with 25 saves. Tristan Lennox took the loss and stopped 27 shots.

The game ended in messy fashion with altercations all over the place late as the teams totaled 103 PIM in the third period. The 117 PIM overall were the third most in team history, the most ever at the DCU Center.

Including two video reviews, the game time was

2:51, second most in team history for a regulation game and tied for the longest at the DCU Center.

The Railers seek to regroup next weekend as they play their first three-in-three of the season. All three games are with Maine. Friday night the teams are in Portland, the next two at the DCU Center.

Worcester was outshot by two and outscored by two in the first period.

Rizzo scored from between the circles at 9:12. There was a lot of traffic in front of Lennox and the officials looked at possible goalie interference, but the score was still 1-0 after the review.

The Royals increased their lead to 2-0 at 15:37 on a goal by Saigeon. He got the puck against the far left board, and sent a wrist shot inside the far post.

In between the goals, Railers forward Lincoln Hatten took on Reading's Boulton in a quick, intense fight. How time flies. Boulton is the son

of Eric Boulton, a legendary battler whose career pro PIM totals were in four figures.

Eric Boulton spent part of 1998-99 with the AHL Kentucky Thoroughblades. On Jan. 29, 1999 in Kentucky he and IceCats forward Reed Low engaged in arguably the best fight in Worcester hockey history, a Rocky vs. Apollo Creed battle.

Coincidentally, or maybe not, Kentucky's coach that season was Roy Sommer.

Golder finished off the odd-man rush that made it a 3-0 game in the second period. Reading played the break perfectly as Golder converted Cam Cook's pass with a re-direct that Lennox had no chance on.

Callin scored from in close with Worcester on a power play at 4:51 but Boulton blunted any chance at a comeback by popping home a rebound at 7:40. Reading got a 5 on 3 chance later in the period and took 11 seconds to convert it for the game's final goal.

# NWMT Championship event returns to Connecticut as part of the Sunoco World Series

THOMPSON, CT — The National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) announced Thursday afternoon the 2026 Whelen Modified Tour schedule ahead of the 2025 championship event at Martinsville Speedway in Virginia. Included in the 16-race schedule will be three events contested on the 0.625-mile Thompson Speedway here in Connecticut including the all-important finale in the heart of Modified country.

The roar and rumble of the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour will open the 2026 season at the 52nd Icebreaker Weekend, headlining the Sunday, April 12 portion of the iconic start to New England's racing season. The NASCAR stars will return to the ever-popular midweek Thompson 150 on Wednesday, Aug. 5

and finish out the season by crowning the 2026 NASCAR Whelen Modified Champion at the Sunoco World Series 150 on Sunday, Oct. 11.

"Both Tom (Mayberry) and I are glad to have the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour back at Thompson for three great shows in 2026," said ACT managing partner Cris Michaud. "The NASCAR Modifieds put on some great racing for the fans and they are certainly some of the highlights of our 2026 plans for the Thompson oval, especially with the championship event back at the Sunoco World Series."

As announced at the World Series, the Thompson Speedway oval will continue to operate under the American-Canadian Tour and Pro All Stars Series sanctioning bodies in 2026. The rest of the 2026

schedule continues to be in negotiation, expect a complete schedule of events for the Thompson Speedway oval to be released around Thanksgiving.

For more information about the American-Canadian Tour, contact the ACT offices at (802) 244-6963, media@acttour.com, or visit [www.acttour.com](http://www.acttour.com). You can also get updates on Facebook and Twitter at @ACTTour.

For technical information concerning all PASS divisions, and for media or marketing questions, please contact [passracing@roadrunner.com](mailto:passracing@roadrunner.com) or visit [www.proallstarsseries.com](http://www.proallstarsseries.com). Don't forget to "Like" the Pro All Stars Series on Facebook or follow on Twitter @PASSML14 to keep up with breaking news as it happens.

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# Obituary

## Raymond Favreau, 1936-2025

Raymond Favreau, 89, of Venice, Florida passed peacefully from complications from dementia on October 27, 2025. Born in Agawam, Massachusetts on June 2, 1935, he is survived by his loving wife of 67 years, Ann (nee Zucco). Ray, as he was known, attended Agawam High School and went on to attain a degree in engineering from Western New England College. For over 30 years, he led the team that designed the fuel cell that powered NASA's Space Shuttle and the Navy's deep-sea dive submarine, at the Power Systems division of United Technol-



ogies. An avid gardener, hunter, canoe man, winemaker and traveler, Ray found joy in the great outdoors, his workshop, and in the company of his family. Ray was named Melvin Jones Fellow, the Lions Clubs International Foundation's highest honor of recognition of a person's commitment to humanitarian service, at both the Agawam and Venice Lions Clubs. Ray's fifty plus years commitment to community service, especially in the areas of eye and sight health, furthered his ever persistent goal of

providing enlightenment to those he met and cared for. Family was all-important to Ray and he is survived by his four children, Ann Marie Waller, Michael Favreau, Mary Ellen Brush, and John Favreau, four grandchildren, three great grandchildren, and his brother George Favreau. Ray was known for his enduring helpful advice and instruction, quick wit, classic stoicism, generosity of time, kindness of nature, and purposeful good humor. Services will be held at Saint Raphael Catholic Church in Englewood Florida. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Venice, FL Lions Club Foundation.

# Feline Friends holding raffle

AGAWAM - Feline Friends announced the winners of a recent raffle as well as a new raffle taking place next month. The following is a statement from the group: "We thank Pauline Sosnowich and the Community Grange #382 for their warm welcome at the Halloween bake sale and small tag sale on Saturday, Oct. 25 at 47 North West Street in Feeding Hills. The winners of the raffle baskets were Carol Hager, Ken Kurowski and Joyce Siana. Betty Sosnowich donated the great cat basket. We sold beautiful & fragrant catnip mats and toys created & donated by Joan Woods. We have been invited to participate in their largest fundraiser/sale on Saturday,

Dec. 13. Mini Raffle- We are currently selling tickets for \$10 each for a fall mini raffle from Nov. 2-16. Please include your contact information. Winners will be chosen & announced each evening from December 1-15 on our Facebook page (Feline Friends Cat Sanctuary). 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: @FelineFriendsRaffle. Venmo: @FelineFriends. Please include

name/ contact information with donations if you would like an acknowledgement. Venmo donations do not provide addresses or email information. We appreciate every single donation. Local pick up is available by calling 786-5019. 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](http://felinefriendsinc.org) or our Facebook page at Feline Friends Cat Sanctuary. Contact us with questions at [info@felinefriendsinc.org](mailto:info@felinefriendsinc.org) or by phone at 413-786-5019.

### DEATH NOTICE Raymond Favreau Died October 27, 2025

**T-BIRDS** from page 9  
high-danger saves on both Marshall Warren and Alex Jeffries in the 3-on-3 proceedings, allowing the T-Birds a chance to win in the shootout. After Chris Terry and Luff traded shootout goals through the first two rounds, the game came down to the third round. After Hogberg turned away Nikita Alexandrov, former T-Bird Matthew Highmore stepped up and whistled a perfect forehand off the inside of the post to ice the game for Bridgeport. The T-Birds and Islanders renew acquaintances as the two clubs meet at the Thunderdome on Friday, Nov. 7 for a 7:05 p.m. puck drop.

**RUSSO** from page 1  
the values of citizenship in the pursuit of achieving and building a better community, and it should be known that more than 200 people have been inducted into the Order of William Pynchon since its founding in 1915. With that noted chairperson of the Pynchon Trustees, Kelly McGiverin, provided insight into why both recipients earned the distinction. "This year's recipients all embody what this award is about: community enrichment, selfless acts, and a longstanding determination to better Western Massachusetts," McGiverin said. Lambert's act of service towards the community stretches far and wide as he has held many titles, such as president and CEO of the Springfield Symphony Orchestra since 2022, from humble beginnings as ini-

tially he joined the organization as interim director, throughout his tenure, he has made significant and long lasting achievements, such as leading the Orchestra contractual disputes along with restoring operational stability among the production to ensure live classical music remains a part of the Western Mass cultural landscape. Lambert has also elevated the symphony to reflect cultural diversity in its programming to attract broader audiences throughout the region. As recent performances have showcased African American composers, commemorated the Juneteenth holiday, and featured a "Fearless Women Award" concert honoring Women's History Month. Before joining the symphony, Lambert spent two decades at Springfield's Basketball Hall of Fame,

where he was instrumental in developing community engagement initiatives that connected the city's residents with the organization's programs. Lambert continues his community involvement and humanitarian efforts through his involvement with the Springfield Rotary Club, where he has helped establish programs for those in need, including a monthly meal service for the region's unsheltered population. Following similar altruistic values is Russo, who possesses a critical approach to public service that extends well beyond traditional council duties, by staying true to the values of community above all else. Russo not only exemplifies this mindset by not only donating his entire council salary to local charitable organizations and families in need, such as Toys for Tots,

to which he has been a main contributor for several years, as he has made annual visits to various events with a trunk full of toys purchased from his council earnings to benefit children in need, to ensure no child goes without anything, especially during the holiday season. Also to note, Russo goes out of his way to assist the most vulnerable residents by creating various initiatives, such as the "Sand for Seniors" program, which is centered around personally ensuring that more than 60 residents receive sand for safe home access during the tough winter months. Russo is also a frequent volunteer at the Agawam Senior Center, where he participates in meal service and social activities, and carries a strong advocacy for veterans. Nonetheless, reflecting on the moment was Russo, who also took a moment to

acknowledge the achievements of Lambert before he delivered praise to those closest to him and offered perspective on what this award truly represents and embodies. "It truly is a privilege to share the title and honor of 2025 William Pynchon Award recipient, along with Paul Lambert," Russo said. "I'd like to thank the Ad Club WMass for choosing me for this great honor. This award has been given out for 110 years to some of the greatest individuals in Western Mass, and I'm truly honored to stand among them." Russo also added, "I offer a heartfelt thank you to my colleagues, friends, and family who were there to share this honor with me. And lastly, an ode of gratitude towards my good friend Lois Nesci, who always believed in me and nominated me for this prestigious honor."

# Public Notices

**Agawam Conservation Commission LEGAL AD**  
The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on **Thursday, November 13, 2025 at 6:00PM** at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St, Agawam, Ma. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Eversource Energy for property located on M Street. Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman Agawam Conservation Commission 11/06/2025

**TOWN OF AGAWAM Public Hearing Thursday November 20, 2025 6:00 PM**  
Agawam Senior Center 954 Main Street  
FY24 CDBG Program Proposed Revisions  
The Agawam Planning Board will conduct a public meeting on **Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 6:00 PM** at the Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The hearing will review the projects funded through the town's FY24 Community Development Block Grant Programs including infrastructure improvements. These proposed improvements include water, sewer, drainage and roadway improvements including the portion of Moore Street from the intersection with High Street moving

northward and ending at House #2 Moore Street, as well water, sewer and roadway improvements on the eastern portion of Valley Street, from the intersection with Moore Street to the easternmost point of the street. Construction funding was originally awarded to the Town to complete the Moore Street portion of this project. Due to cost estimates generated, the Town is proposing reallocating this funding towards the Valley Street portion of the project. All persons with questions or comments regarding the Moore & Valley Streets Infrastructure Improvement Project will have an opportunity to be heard. Those unable to attend can send written comments to the Agawam Planning Director and Conservation Officer, 1000 Suffield Street, Agawam, MA 01001, Attn: Taryn Egerton. The Senior Center is accessible. Persons who require special accommodations for the hearing should contact the town at least one week prior to the hearing date at (413)-726-9737. For further information contact Joe Hagopian at PVPC at (413) 781-6045 or [jhagopian@pvpc.org](mailto:jhagopian@pvpc.org). 11/06/2025

**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. HD25P2163EA Estate of: Florence Margaret Stroiney Also known as: Florence B Stroiney Date of Death: 09/12/2025 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 **Kimberly A Cahalan of Feeding Hills, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: **Kimberly A Cahalan of Feeding Hills, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**. **IMPORTANT NOTICE** You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/14/2025. 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: October 17, 2025 **Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 11/06/2025**

**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. HD25P2244EA Estate of: Robert J Wodell Also known as: Robert Joseph Wodell Date of Death: 08/07/2025 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 **Patricia R Wodell of Agawam, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: **Patricia R Wodell of Agawam, 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 11/25/2025.**

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: October 28, 2025 **Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 11/06/2025**

*Agawam Advertiser News*  
**OBITUARY POLICY**

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

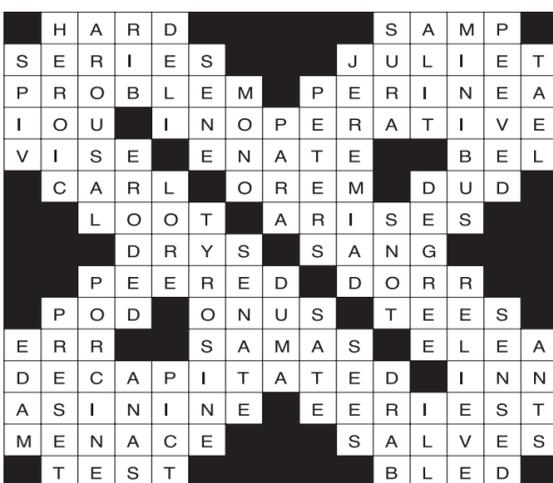
*Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*

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### CREW LEADER

**Sturbridge Department of Public Works**  
The Town of Sturbridge Department of Public Works (DPW) is seeking a qualified candidate for the position of Crew Leader. This is a full-time role with competitive benefits. Starting pay rate of \$34.11/hr, with yearly step increases.  
**Key Requirements:**  
• Valid Class A or B CDL  
• Equipment Hydraulic License 2A (required)  
• Equipment Hydraulic Licenses 4G and 4E preferred, with the ability to obtain within 6 months)  
• Effective communication skills.  
• Two years of supervisory experience in the construction field or municipal.  
• Proficiency in operating all DPW equipment, including but not limited to: grader, loader, roadside mower, excavator, backhoe, and street sweeper.  
Application Details:  
• Application and job description are available on the Town of Sturbridge website under job opportunities <https://www.sturbridge.gov/your-government/pages/job-opportunities>  
• Interviews will begin on November 4, 2025, and will continue until the position is filled.

**Additional Information:**  
• The DPW operates as a union shop.  
• The Town of Sturbridge is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE).  
For more information, please refer to the job description or contact the Sturbridge DPW directly at 508-347-2515 or [dpw@sturbridge.gov](mailto:dpw@sturbridge.gov).

### Job Posting: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

**Town of Sturbridge, MA**  
The Town of Sturbridge is seeking a dynamic, experienced, and highly qualified professional for the position of Assistant Director of Public Works. This is a senior-level, management position that will support the Director of Public Works in overseeing the planning, administration, and daily operations of the Public Works Department.

**About our community**  
Sturbridge is a welcoming community known for its picturesque landscapes, historic charm, and vibrant local attractions. As Assistant DPW Director, you will play a crucial role in maintaining and enhancing the Town's infrastructure, ensuring a high quality of life for our residents.

**Key responsibilities**  
The Assistant Director will provide a variety of engineering and administrative services under the guidance of the DPW Director, with a primary focus on:

- Conducting plan reviews for subdivisions, site plans, roadways, water, sewer, and stormwater designs.
- Managing all stormwater permitting activities associated with the NPDES MS4 General Permit.
- Supervising and overseeing the Town's Geographic Information System (GIS).
- Coordinating snow and ice removal activities.
- Addressing resident inquiries related to town projects, utilities, and permitting.
- Presenting engineering reports to and responding to inquiries from town boards and committees, including the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Conservation Commission.

**Qualifications**  
• Education and Experience: A bachelor's degree in civil/environmental engineering or a related field from an accredited four-year college or university is required. Candidates must have two to five years of related public works experience and/or training, or an equivalent combination of • Technical Knowledge: Knowledge of public construction bidding and Massachusetts procurement laws is essential.  
• Computer Skills: Proficiency in spreadsheet software, GIS software (such as ESRI), and word processing software is required.  
• Communication Skills: Strong verbal and written communication skills are necessary to interact effectively with town staff, other agencies, and the general public.  
• Licenses: Must possess a valid Driver's License.

**Benefits**  
The Town of Sturbridge offers a competitive salary and a comprehensive benefits package that includes:  
• Salary up to \$100,000 DOQ  
• Health Insurance  
• Paid time off and paid holidays  
• Retirement Plan

**How to apply**  
Submit a cover letter, resume, and Town job application to Frances Wychorski, Constituent Liaison in the Town Administrator's Office, via email at [bosadmin@sturbridge.gov](mailto:bosadmin@sturbridge.gov) or via mail at **308 Main St, Sturbridge, MA 01566**. This position will remain open until filled. *The Town of Sturbridge is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.  
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

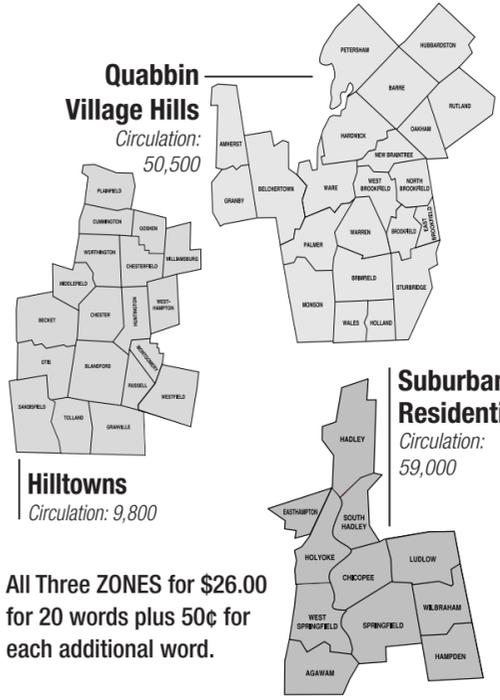
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