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AGAWAM

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Johnson offers an update on multiple projects

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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AGAWAM – Mayor Christopher Johnson recently caught up the city council on the status of multiple projects, including the Agawam High School project.

The project, which began in last April with the brand new construction in an effort to allow the school to continue to function with phased construction of the existing site.

The first part of the construction is in what is being known as the “Community Wing.”

From the road, anyone passing by the school/construction site can see a good size of the structural bones forming.

Johnson told the city council the geothermal well field drilling has been completed with piping underway. The foundation of the building is nearly complete and construction of steel structure is well underway with work moving north to south, the mayor said.

In the coming months, milestones to be reached include topping off of the steel structure and a community meeting will be held with a design update on the project.

“Project is well underway at this point,” Johnson said. “The completion date is sometime next December (2026) or early January (2027).”

At Still Brook Park, ame-

nities that have been completed include a playscape with swings and exercise stations have been installed. A pond management system with fountains has now been installed.

“We are waiting on state approval for a self-contained bathroom building,” Johnson. “It’s used in federal parks where there’s no plumbing, sewer, or piping.”

He said there are water tanks that feed the sinks and toilets.

He repeated the recent news that the Agawam Public Schools were invited to be part of the accelerated repair project, which will allow the roofs at the town’s four elementary schools to all be repaired at a significant cost savings to the town. The town has already secured a \$125,000 earmark from the state thanks to the help of State Sen. John Velis.

Johnson said design of the roof project will begin next year with constructions set to begin in 2027.

“The repair program is on an every two-years basis,” Johnson said. “They will be done considered four separate projects, but they are allowing us to get a single project manager. They are also allowing us to design these roofs to be solar ready.”

Another project Johnson touched on is a “Safe Routes to School Project” that has been started on Maple St.

Residents driving along

PROJECTS | page 12



Above, dispatchers are actively at work taking calls at the new Agawam Police Department. Left, Mayor Christopher Johnson shows the moving shelves that are part of the new Record Department.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

New headquarters built for modern policing

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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AGAWAM – The move into Agawam’s new police headquarters is ongoing, with most of it expected to be fully executed by the end of the year.

But next Saturday morning, residents of Agawam, who are ultimately responsible for paying the debt on the more than \$14 million spent to refurbish the former HUB Insurance building at 1070 Suffield St, can come get a first-hand look at the building during an open house event.

At the open house, tour guides at the event will show the major improvements

that Agawam police officers and command staff will be able to enjoy as they see policing get a major upgrade.

Mayor Christopher Johnson said the building was renovated and reinforced with the ability to expand and offer more storage and capacity in the future, if needed.

“When they moved into their current location, the building was already at capacity,” Johnson said.

In addition to major expansion of space, security is also a major upgrade. Police department headquarters need a lot of secure spaces because of the files and evidence that are stored at them.

At the headquarters the department is in the process of departing, there were multiple locations for records along with multiple locations for evidence because the facility ran out of space. There was also a smaller, but adequate area behind the building for police to store and secure larger pieces of evidence such as vehicles of various types.

Both the records room and evidence rooms have shelving that is on rails, allowing it to be moved easily by employees. Evidence shelving has barcodes in order for evidence to be properly cataloged and located.

“Maintaining the chain of custody is very important,” Johnson said.

Lt. Edward McGovern said there are two officers in the department that are primarily responsible for maintaining the integrity of all evidence collected by the department.

“We have more than 40,000 pieces of evidence to move,” McGovern said.

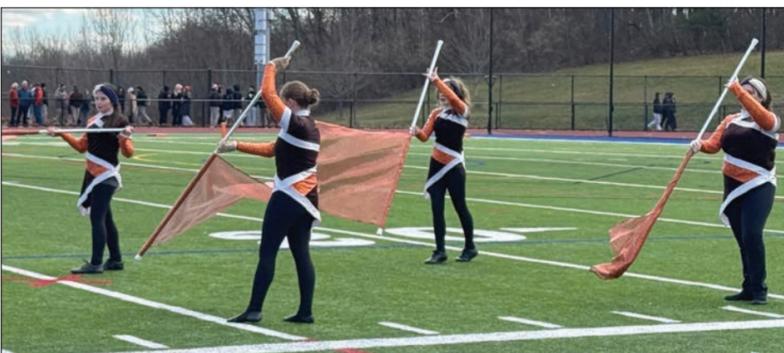
McGovern and Johnson say the process is ongoing and many members of the police department are assisting with the process, though the two evidence officers are in charge of facilitating the transfer of evidence.

POLICE | page 12

Thanksgiving performance



The Agawam High School Marching Mohawks do a joint performance with West Springfield’s band on Thanksgiving morning at Clark Field.



Agawam’s twirlers also performed. It was the final outdoor performance of the season for the marching band and twirlers.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

New stop sign now in effect at Barry-Pine intersection

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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AGAWAM – Following approval by the town, there is now a four-way stop located at the intersection of Barry and Pine streets.

Public works officials unveiled the stop signs on Monday, as Dec. 1 was the day the new traffic pattern was scheduled to go into effect.

The signs were installed last week prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. Stop lines were also installed along with warning signs that a stop sign was forthcoming. There are also digital message boards on Pine St., which previously was not subject to Stop signs, warning motorists of the change.

After being installed in the ground, the stop signs were bagged until Monday, but their presence along with the warning signs and lining on the road led many motorists to either stop completely at the intersection, or proceed through very slowly.

Now, residents will be required to stop completely going forward with police eventually having to fully enforce the new traffic rule at that



The site of the signs and stop lines actually cause some motorists to stop at the intersection, creating confusion.

TURLEY PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

location. To assist residents, the Stop signs are equipped with LED flashing lights.

The intersection is located in southwest Feeding Hills and is less than a quarter-mile from the Suffield, CT border.

Pine St. is a very busy and high-speed street on Rte. 187. It begins as S. Westfield St. at Feeding Hills Center. S. Westfield St. veers onto a new street not far past the

entrance to the highway portion of Rte. 57, and Rte. 187 becomes Pine St. just before Still Brook Park.

Mayor Christopher Johnson submitted the resolution to the Agawam City Council to have the intersection converted following consultation with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

STOP | page 12



Upcoming events at Agawam Senior Center

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

Cyber/Fraud Safety Seminar

Friday, Dec. 5 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Where: Agawam Senior Center

954 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001 (Lower Level)

Seminar Goal: Help seniors recognize common scams, use their phones safely, and know what steps to take if something goes wrong.

Session Format:
-Spotting Scams (Phone, Text, Email, Mail)

-Phone Safety Call Kristina at 726-2836 to Register

Trivia with Nicole Matson

Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 1 p.m.

Nicole is back. She is ready to have a fun filled afternoon of trivia and prizes. Call Kristina to register.

Richie Mitnick and Friends Holiday Show

Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 6 p.m.

Richie Mitnick and Friends are thrilled to present their annual Holiday Concert on Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 6 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center. This concert is sponsored by the FRIENDS of the Agawam Senior Center. Donation of \$3 per person will get you in to this fabulous show. Doors open at 5:30pm. We hope you will join us. Call Kristina at 413-726-2836 to reserve your seat

Movie Time

December 10 and 31 at 1 p.m. in the Veterans Hall

Dec. 10 film is National Lampoons Christmas Vacation

Lunch and Learn

Wednesday, Dec. 10 at 12:30 p.m. in the Garden Room

Room
Navigating Your Discharge from the Hospital - Be your own advocate and know your choices. Learn what everyone should know about your personal role in your discharge. Jane Barker from Shiloh Angels Home Care will lead this important discussion. Call Kristina to register 726-2836

Tips to Stay Safe During ONLINE Shopping

Thursday, Dec. 11 at 1 p.m.

Join Jean Deschaine, VP, Senior Financial Center Manager of Berkshire Bank

for this very informative seminar for online shopping safety and how to avoid scams and fraud especially during this season when online buying is at an all time high.

Call Kristina at 726-2836 to register.

New Class Alert Monthly Class on Diabetes Mellitus Education

Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2026 at 12:30 p.m. in the Conference Room

A "DM Education Program" will be held at the Agawam Senior Center. We will be referring to materials for

Diabetes Mellitus (DM) education, which cover managing the condition through healthy eating, being active, monitoring blood sugar, and taking medications. Key topics include healthy food choices, the importance of physical activity, medication adherence, and coping with the emotional aspects of diabetes. These documents aim to empower individuals to manage their health and improve their quality of life. Gina Smus, RN, CDN will be our educator for this class. We hope you will join us. Call Kristina at 413-726-2836 to join this class.

STCC College Theatre Workshop presents holiday comedy

SPRINGFIELD - Springfield Technical Community College invites the public to enjoy some holiday cheer as the STCC College Theatre Workshop presents its fall production, "One Christmas Eve at the Evergreen Mall," by Lynne Halliday, James Hindman, Arlene Hutton and Craig Pospisil.

Performances will take place in the Scibelli Theater (Building 2) on the STCC campus on the following dates and times:

Thursday, Dec. 4 at 11 a.m.
Friday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m.

Admission is free, and donations are gratefully accepted to support the STCC theater program.

Set in a Midwestern shopping mall on Christmas Eve, "One Christmas Eve at the Evergreen Mall" weaves together eight heartfelt and humorous stories. Audiences will meet a lovesick Santa Claus, an overenthusiastic security guard, old high school classmates reunited by chance and teenagers discovering first love - all in one magical evening.

Critics have called the play "clever throughout, and (offering) a number of both lovely and fun moments... It provides a feel-good holiday experience that may leave you with some fond memories," according to Hy Reviews.

"I chose to do this production because it not only will get us in the mood for the holidays - it will also provide a great opportunity to showcase our amazing students," said Professor Phil O'Donoghue, director of the STCC College Theatre Workshop.

"That includes our students from the STCC Architecture and Construction Management programs who will be designing and building the set."

O'Donoghue added, "This show gives our architecture and construction management students a real chance to show off what they've got. The play takes place in a mall, so there are a lot of scene changes and complex design elements. The students have been in the theater, measuring and building, and I just saw a 3D mock-up of the set

- it's going to be pretty impressive."

The production marks a special milestone for O'Donoghue, who is retiring at the end of the semester. O'Donoghue began teaching at STCC in 2005 as a half-time professor and has directed numerous productions over the years. "One Christmas Eve at the Evergreen Mall" will be his final play with the STCC College Theatre Workshop.

Mary Lou Vredenburg, Dean of Liberal and Professional Studies at STCC, said the production is an exam-

ple of how the arts bring students and the community together.

"Theatre productions like this one give our students an invaluable opportunity to collaborate, create and connect with audiences," Vredenburg said. "They gain hands-on experience that builds confidence and communication skills, while the Greater Springfield community gets to enjoy an uplifting story that celebrates the holiday spirit. It's a wonderful reminder of how education and the arts enrich us all."

Feline Friends to appear at Grange fundraiser

Feline Friends is been invited by Community Grange #382 to participate in their largest fundraiser/sale on Saturday, Dec. 13 at 47 North West Street in Feeding Hills. We will attend between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

We will be selling raffle tickets for a Christmas basket, Kitchen basket and Dog basket. Winners will be selected at 1 p.m. We will be selling catnip toys and collecting donations for our cat sanctuary which is located in Feeding Hills.

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

We appreciate every single donation. Local pickup is available by calling 786-5019.

Recent donations have been received from Carol R, Dan S, Wendy H, Terry B, Ann Marie H, Sheila K, Judy C, Gladys W, Gloria-Jean H, Bill M, Patricia C, Ida S, Dennis & Debbie K, Katie H, Carl & Cheryl K, Beth C, Linda K, Ken K & Irene F, Mi-



chael S, Joan E, John M and Pet Smart customers Destiny and Joan. We received a grant from the Community Foundation of Western Mass Inc. as well as a donation from Stop & Shop on Springfield St. in Feeding Hills from their Community Bag Program. Thank you all.

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

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

Wistariahurst to hold open house, holiday festive market Dec. 6-7

HOLYOKE - There's snow place like Wistariahurst during the holiday season! Wistariahurst's upcoming Holiday Open House and Festive market is perfect for those pine-ing for some holiday cheer, gifts from local businesses and artists, and family fun. The museum will be open Dec. 6 and 7 from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for this joyous event. The halls will be decked with the splendor of the holiday season, complete with our massive Wisty Railroad train set running throughout Wistariahurst's gallery. Visitors will be able to explore the first floor of the museum, listen to holiday-themed music, and discover one-of-

a-kind goodies from local vendors and artists. The festive market will feature a variety of products such as art, jewelry, and other amazing items perfect for your gift exchanges this year. Our Holiday Open House is guaranteed to bring joy to your world with historical fun and holiday cheer.

But that's not all. Guests can enjoy family friendly activities like a holiday storytime, family photos in our historic carriage, and get a holiday balloon animal. There's something for everyone to enjoy- snow-one will be left out of the fun.

Wistariahurst Museum's 5th Annual Holiday Open House and Festival Market

truly offers something for everyone, and we're so excited to welcome the entire community to join us and share in the joy of the season. Our event is a time for celebration and a time to make cherished memories, so we've made sure to make admission to this event free and open to the public. Don't forget to join us at this event on Dec. 6 and 7 from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Wistariahurst Museum! It's the most wonderful time of the year.

This event is sponsored in part by the Adams Foundation of South Hadley, Bank ESB, Duryea Electric, and Holyoke Gas and Electric.

Santa Claus heads for Holyoke Mall

HOLYOKE - Santa Claus is set to make his return from the North Pole to Holyoke Mall on Friday, Nov. 21, with a special arrival event this Saturday, Nov. 22. The magic begins at 11 a.m. on Saturday with a fire truck arrival, at the mall entrance next to Pickleball Kingdom, near JCPenney.

Guests are encouraged to arrive before 11 a.m. to gather for Santa's arrival to make sure they don't miss his grand entrance with the Holyoke Fire Department. Santa Claus will be escorted

to his village in Café Square by the Colby Academy of Dance, followed by a special holiday performance from the group.

The holiday festivities continue with free face painting and balloon twisting by Dazzle Day Face Painters.

Photos with Santa are available in Café Square immediately following his arrival until Christmas Eve. Babies, children, families, and even pets are invited and more details are available here. Reservations are strongly encouraged and can

be made by visiting whereis-santa.com.

Along with Santa comes the start of the holiday shopping season, and Holyoke Mall is announcing special hours to ensure that guests can shop in-store at their convenience. The center will be closed on Thanksgiving, Thursday, Nov. 27, and reopen on Black Friday, Nov. 28 at 7 a.m. and will close at 9 a.m. Click here for a complete calendar of Holyoke Mall's holiday shopping hours scheduled for the 2025 season.

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December events for Kids and Teens at the Agawam Library

AGAWAM – There is a lot to celebrate at the Agawam Library this December. We will have fun, free programs for kids and teens, including a Lantern Making & Winter Sing-along for all ages. At the Lantern Making and Winter Sing-along we will make lanterns together and sing together to celebrate the Winter Solstice. To register for this event, or any of our other December events go to our website: agawamlibrary.org or call 413-789-1550 ext. 3.

Programs are listed in alphabetical order.

Art and Stories - For ages 3 - 5

Tuesday, Dec. 9 and 23 at 9:30 a.m. - 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 Dec. 11 at 9:30 a.m. - Drop-in.

Join us as we learn a little American Sign Language,

read stories, sing, & play together.

Family Game Night - For All Ages

Wednesday, Dec. 17 at 6 p.m. - Drop-in. No registration required.

Bring the family and play board games together. We will have many options available, but you are welcome to bring your own.

Family Take and Make Crafts - For all ages

First Day of the Week and 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.

Dec. 8 and 11: Penguin Bookmark,

Dec. 15 and 18: Frosty the Snowman Sign, Dec. 22 and 24: Deer Hand Puppet,

Dec. 29 and 31: Fireworks Paper Cup Craft

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 Dec. 24 through Dec. 31

Stories, songs and skill building, led by an Early Childhood Developmental trained staff member, guiding caregivers in strengthening interactions with their child.

Lantern Making and Winter Sing-Along - For all ages

Tuesday, Dec. 16 from 6 to 7 p.m. - Registration is required.

Celebrate the Winter Solstice and the return of the sun! Participants will craft a wax paper lantern and illuminate the night sky with an outdoor singalong. This intergenerational program is open to all ages and craft materials will be provided. Please be sure to dress warmly for the outdoor portion of this event.

Music With Mr. Liam - All Ages

This program is provided by Pathways for Parents.

Saturday, Dec. 13 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.

Open Lego Building - For grades 1-4

Tuesday, Dec. 16 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.

Pre-K Pals - For ages 3 - 5

This program is provided by Pathways for Parents.

Mondays in December at 11 a.m. - Registration is required

No class on Monday, Dec. 29. We will provide activities to help your child to learn through playing.

Special Saturday Drop-In Craft - For All Ages

Saturday, Dec. 27, All Day - While supplies last - Drop-in and pick up.

Create snowy scenes you'll be proud to display. Great for winter crafts, these 3D ornaments feature either a smiling snowman or cheer-

ful reindeer.

Stroller Strides with FIT4MOM - For parents & their child ages 1 month - 10 years old

Saturday, Dec. 20 at 9:30 a.m. - Registration is required

This program is brought to us by FIT4MOM. Stroller Strides is a 60-minute total-body workout with strength, cardio, and core training, all while engaging the little ones in a stroller.

Teen Advisory Board - For grades 7-12

Wednesday, Dec. 10 at 6 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 or 413-789-1550 extension 3.

Teen After School Drop-In - For grades 9-12

Tuesdays, Dec. 9, 16, and 23 at 2 p.m.

Stop by the library after school and visit the Activi-

ty Room. Play our Nintendo Switch, try out the button maker, eat snacks, or just hang out. No registration necessary. There is no Drop-in on Dec. 30.

Teen Take and Make Craft - For grades 7-12

Available now

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, Dec. 11, and 18 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.

Monday, Dec. 8 and 22 at 9:30 a.m. - Drop-in.

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

Winter Bingo - For grades K-4

Tuesday, Dec. 30 at 6 p.m. - Registration is required.

Come play winter themed bingo. Prizes will be awarded every round.

Open house December 12 at Captain Charles Leonard House

AGAWAM – A free open house in celebration of the season will be held at the Captain Charles Leonard House, 663 Main Street, on Friday evening, Dec. 12, from 6 to 8 p.m. The event is hosted by the Trustees of historic property and will feature tours of the house, seasonal refreshments, and good cheer. On display that evening will be the collection of Agawam resident and detectorist Chris MacNeil, the majority of which were discovered in town, and includes musket balls, coins, rings, and other relics, some of which date to the early 18th century. Seasonal music performed during the event is supported in part by a grant from the Agawam Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. Built in 1805 as a stage tavern to service travelers on the Hartford/Boston/Albany route, the Captain Charles Leonard House is considered Agawam's finest Federal-era building. The house was restored by Mrs. Minerva Davis, who established a Board of Trustees to oversee the operation of the house as Agawam's Community House, the role it has served since 1939. The Captain Charles Leonard House was featured in/photographed for The White Pine Series, Vol. XI, No. 4 (1925); recorded by the Historic American Buildings Survey (1934); and featured in Some



The Captain Charles Leonard House is decorated for the season and ready to host the public at a free open house on Friday, Dec. 12 from 6 to 8 p.m. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Old Homes of the Lower Connecticut Valley (1988). The Captain Charles Leonard House was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

The Captain Charles

Leonard House is available for holiday parties, business functions and social events. For rental information, please call 413-786-9421. Please follow us on Facebook.

Santa Sprint to support Holyoke Pride set for Dec. 13

HOLYOKE — Holyoke Pride will launch the city's first-ever Santa Sprint on Saturday, Dec. 13. Registration opens at 10 a.m. at De La Luz Soundstage, located at 114 Race Street, and the spirited dash will follow the scenic Canalwalk on Race Street. Racers—ages 18 and older—will run, walk, or strut in Santa gear from Euphorium Dispensary to The Cubit building, raising support for Holyoke Pride's growing series of June events culminating in the 2026 PrideFest on June 27.

Participants can register online now at holyokeypride.org for a Starting Line Pass, available on a sliding scale donation beginning at \$20, granting entry into the race and helping to fund Holyoke Pride programming.

Those who want to support without running can choose a Cheer Squad Pass, which allows spectators or remote supporters to donate any amount to benefit Holyoke Pride. The Santa Sprint is free to attend, and community members are encouraged to line the route and cheer.

"This event brings together everything that makes Holyoke special—community, joy, and the commitment to show up for one another," said Holyoke City Councilor, and Pride Committee member, Juan Anderson-Burgos. "The Santa Sprint is a fun way to welcome the holiday season while supporting Pride and the work it takes to create meaningful, inclusive celebrations for everyone."

Holyoke Pride and the Santa Sprint is sponsored by Holyoke Art, a nonprofit strengthening Holyoke's creative and cultural ecosystem. Through its fiscal sponsorship program, Holyoke Art provides administrative and financial support to grassroots initiatives like Holyoke Pride, helping community-led events thrive.

To help make this first-ever Santa Sprint unforgettable, both runners and spectators are encouraged to dress in their most festive Santa outfits—beards, hats, bells, and bright red everything—to fill the Canalwalk with holiday spirit and community pride. For race details, registration, or donations, visit holyokeypride.org.

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Opinion

Guest Column



By Russell Gloor

Is Social Security really a “good deal”?

Dear Rusty:

You've said in the past that most people recoup their SS contributions within five years of starting benefits, thus Social Security “is an exceptionally good deal.”

Your calculation is correct but misleading; if it were not, SS would have been insolvent long ago. I will, in fact, get “my” contributions back in about five years, but my employer's contributions will take another five years and that is money that my employer could have been paying me, so they are really “my” contributions. But even that ignores the time value of money.

I did a calculation as if my contributions, along with those of my employer, were invested in an account earning 5% per year. That would provide me the equivalent of SS income for 24 years, approximately what my life expectancy was when I retired. So, it's not a bad deal, but it is hardly exceptional. It is roughly the equivalent of me investing that money throughout my career and using the total to buy an annuity.

Of course, Social Security does have the advantage of certainty, at least until it goes broke. My portfolio would not earn a steady 5% every year, though that is at the low end of what financial managers would expect over a long period. And it does force people to save, many of whom would otherwise make no provision for retirement.

Signed: Realistic Senior

Dear Realistic:

Thanks very much for your feedback on my previous article. I think it's important to draw a distinction for SS contributions made by an employer, because that is not money the individual personally pays, but rather an obligation for employers to help fund the Social Security program.

Without that federal obligation, it is doubtful that employers would, instead, provide employees with equivalent additional compensation, so the thought that these are really your contributions is not a fair assessment. Indeed, they are contributions which happen to be tied to your earnings level (to a cap), for which employers receive relief on their corporate income tax and likely would not make if not required by law.

As you have noted, Social Security has the advantage of certainty, something which is lacking when it comes to investing the equivalent amounts in the financial markets. And, as you have hinted, there exists a

substantial failure by future American retirees to save adequately for their retirement, a problem well known in most financial circles. Thus, the certainty of Social Security makes it a crucial part of everyone's retirement planning and it will be there.

Despite all the angst attributed to the current financial issues facing the program, there is little doubt that Social Security is here to stay. The question is what reform is needed to make the program fully solvent for generations of future Americans? The Association of Mature American Citizens has developed a proposal to sensibly reform Social Security and avoid the currently projected 2033 date that the SS Trust Funds are expected to be depleted, which will necessitate an across-the-board cut for everyone.

We have little doubt that the reform needed will happen; it would be political suicide for Congress if it did not and hopefully soon. You can read about AMAC's proposed solution at this link by visiting www.amac.us/social-security-guarantee.

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

Again, thank you for your feedback and commentary. Please know that we very much appreciate your thoughts and are always willing to discuss these issues.

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



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Wreaths and swags for one and all

For the last two weeks we've been busy decorating Old Sturbridge Village for their Christmas by Candlelight program.

The garland, wreaths, bows and swags are all up, and the planters have been filled with greens. It was fast-paced fun, and oh so rewarding. The museum looks absolutely magical.

I filled planters side by side with a coworker who, in her 30 plus years, has never done this part of the job with me. As we stuck greens and stood back to assess our work, it occurred to me that I've grown up making all of these decorations, like my parents before me!

I had assumed everyone else had too, but here we had Nina, who in her 60s, was at it for the first time. If you find yourself ready to make your own decorations, here are a few pointers from the archives.

My Dad was the wreath-maker in the family, and usually a post Thanksgiving walk in the woods

would yield his raw materials. The wreaths he made would be taken back to decorate a college dorm or whatever apartment my older siblings would return to after Thanksgiving break some 40 plus years ago.

One wreath would also make its way to the front door of our little red house, too. Decorated with a red ribbon and a few pine cones, it really was something so simple and so beautiful in the same right.

His approach is the same one I'll recommend today.

Start with a wire coat hanger bent into a circle and attach some pliable wire to it. Then, wrap little bunches of greens to the base one after another.

Be careful to lay them alongside, not on top of each other. It's important, howev-

er, to have the wire catch a little bit of the stem of the prior bunch – that way the wreath will be good and tight.

You can make a wreath of just extra boughs from your Christmas tree, but mixing in other types of greens will make it more interesting. I like to use prunings from my home landscape: mountain laurel, boxwood, juniper, and white pine among others will look great together because they vary in color and texture.

You can dress up a green wreath with pinecones, winterberries and artificial fruit, not to mention a big bow. Most types of Christmas tree boughs are conducive to wreath making, but wear thick gloves if you are using Colorado blue spruce as your base – it sure is picky!

When my Dad gave up making his famous wreaths, Mom took a simpler yet more elaborate approach to decorating our house. She would make a swag for each window!

GARDEN | page 5



By Ellenor Downer

A Brimfield resident sent an email to report seeing a golden-crowned kinglet on Nov. 17 in a dwarf Alberta spruce tree in front of his house.

He said, “[It was] very active, but I got to see the bright yellow crown patch.”

Golden-crowned kinglets are a small bird, not much larger than a hummingbird. The male is boldly marked with a black eyebrow stripe and flashy lemon-yellow crest.

They spend much of their time high up in dense spruce or fir foliage and that is the

place to find them.

Their high, thin call notes and song is often heard before catching sight of them.

The Brimfield resident called them “very active.” They can survive 40 degrees below Fahrenheit nights. Sometimes huddling together for warmth.

They breed in the far north and montane west and visit most of North America during winter. Although it used to nest almost exclusively in boreal spruce-fir forests, the golden-crowned kinglet has expanded its breeding range southward

into conifer stands of the Midwest and Appalachians.

They usually raises two large broods of young, despite the short nesting season of the northern boreal forest. The female feeds her first brood only up until the day after they leave the nest. She then starts laying the second set of eggs while the male takes care of the first brood. The male manages to feed eight or nine nestlings himself and he occasionally feeds the incubating female too.

An interesting fact about golden-crowned kinglet's is each nostril is covered by a single, tiny feather.

The oldest golden-crowned kinglet on record was a male and at least 6 years, 4 months old when it was recaptured and re-released by a Minnesota bird bander in 1976.

Other Brimfield birds

This month the Brimfield resident saw a Carolina

BACKYARD | page 5



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Agawam Advertiser News welcomes letters to the editor

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

that 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

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

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

BACKYARD ■ from page 4

wren flipping over leaves in his garden. He said, "We joined the 'leave the leaves' movement and don't do a major fall cleanup to benefit the critters that survive the winter under the leave and in the other material left in the garden."

He also noticed robins and cedar waxwings in the crab apple tree in his yard. He said, "We don't usually see these species eating the crab apples until later in the winter. Fortunately there is a bumper crop of fruit on the trees this year. A couple of robins were also on the ground searching for food and I saw one robin at some pokeberry aka, poke-weed, eating the fruit. He has not seen any water fowl at the local ponds he visits regularly."

Lots of bluebirds

I received an email from a reader, who said his wife saw approximately 40 bluebirds on the causeway stonewall at Quabbin Reservoir.

Bald eagles

My daughter, Paula, took



Golden-crowned kinglet

photos of a bald eagle in a field along the Ware River, on Church Street in Ware recently.

I saw a bald eagle perched in a tree on the shore of the Ware River not far from the Gilbertville line. It may have been the same eagle.

Migrating geese

I saw a large flock of Canada geese in a small, pond along Route 32 in Ware on Nov. 15. They covered over half the pond.

Helping birds

When it is time to take the Christmas tree down, place it outside to offer shelter

to birds and other critters. Some people hang peanut butter filled pine cones rolled in birdseed or pieces of suet to provide some high energy food. Planting evergreen trees especially spruce and firs are away to attract the golden-crowned kinglets and offer a living shelter year round.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

GARDEN ■ from page 4

First determine how many you want to make, then set up an assembly-line of sorts. Choose a sturdy green for the base of the swag- extra Christmas tree boughs would be perfect for this as well.

I cut however many I need to the same size, and I lay them out pretty side up. Next, I choose another type of green a bit smaller and put it on top. I repeat the process six or seven times until I have a nice upside-down "fan."

Here too, varying texture is nice, although Mom's feathery white pine and pine cone swags are pretty by themselves.

To complete your swag, wrap wire around the stems four or five inches down from the top, leaving a loop on the back for a hanger. You can cover the wire with a bow. I have often wired two swags together horizontally.

Place a bow in the middle, where the two intersect and hang your creation over a window or door, or even underneath a window for a

different take on decorating. Whether this is your first attempt at wreath and swag making or you've been at it for years, enjoy this holiday ritual, just as my mom and dad did.

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.

Blue Christmas Service on Dec. 21

AGAWAM - Feeding Hills Congregational Church, 21 North Westfield St. invites the community to a Blue Christmas Service on Sunday, Dec. 21 at 7 p.m.

This may be the first holiday season after a loss, or perhaps 2025 has been a difficult year. All are welcome to seek hope together in a supportive worship service.

Come as you are, to join for prayer, songs, and an Advent reflection. Join us as we seek hope and healing together. For more information call 413-786-5061.

Rocky's raises money for animals

AGAWAM - Rocky's Ace Hardware is proud to announce the results of its annual "Round Up for Pets" fundraiser. Customers at participating Rocky's stores in western Massachusetts helped raise a total of \$7,663.06, while stores nationwide collected a combined \$45,646.45. These donations will go directly to care for rescued and surrendered animals, ensuring their needs are met as they wait for their forever homes.

"We are so grateful to our

customers for their generosity," said Rocky's Ace Hardware President and CEO Rocco J. Falcone II. "This fundraiser makes a real difference for the shelters and the animals they care for. Every dollar helps provide food, medical care and comfort to pets who are waiting for loving families."

Participating Rocky's locations included the stores on Island Pond Road and Liberty Street in Springfield and the stores in Agawam, East Longmeadow, Westfield, Ludlow,

Palmer and South Hadley.

Local shelters benefiting from the year's round up include the Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control & Adoption Center and Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society in Springfield, Second Chance Animal Services in East Brookfield and Westfield Animal Control and Shelter in Westfield.

"Pets are family," Falcone added, "and we're proud to offer our customers an easy way to make a positive impact in the lives of animals in need."

WOC helps collect for food pantry

AGAWAM - Work Opportunity Center, Inc (WOC, Inc.) would once again like to thank the Agawam community for supporting our 14th annual food drive. On Nov. 19, WOC, Inc. spent the day at Geissler's Supermarket in Agawam to collect items for donation to The Open Pantry of Springfield. Together with the residents of Agawam, we raised \$219.98 in monetary donations and were able to bring 543 non-perishable items to The Open Pantry via the Rock 102 Mayflower Mara-

thon. This was an increase from last year's collection, and it is hoped that many local families will benefit this holiday season from these donations.

WOC, Inc. is a nonprofit agency in Western MA which services adults with developmental disabilities. The organization runs a Community Based Day Services (CBDS) program as well as two work programs. Within their CBDS program, they have a location in West Springfield that services individuals that reside in Aga-

wam and West Springfield as well as a building in Westfield and a site in Springfield. CBDS is designed to enable individuals to enrich their life and enjoy a full range of activities by providing opportunities in social, work, educational and community activities. The primary goal of the program is to have its participants become fully integrated and have access to their community. It was the West Springfield CBDS program that organized and carried out the food drive to benefit The Open Pantry.

Congo to guest at Catholic Women's Club meeting

AGAWAM - Magic will be in the air at the Dec. 8, meeting of the Catholic Women's Club of Agawam. West Springfield Magician, Deanna Congo, known as "DC Magic Girl", will be performing her acts of illusion in the Fr. Joyce Room of the St. John the Evangelist Parish Center located behind the church at

833 Main St, Agawam, MA. Deanna started to learn magic as a college student in New York City and has performed for over 20 years. She enjoys watching the reactions of her various audiences.

The evening will begin with refreshments at 6:30 p.m., followed by Deanna's performance at 7 p.m. The

club's December meeting will then follow and will include a discussion of the club's future. Members are encouraged to attend this important meeting. All Catholic Women are welcome to attend this event. Those attending are invited to donate a gift card, \$25 or less, to be used for those in need in the parish.

Grange holiday bazaar set for next weekend

AGAWAM - Community Grange #382 will hold their annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 13 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Grange hall is located at 47 North West St. in Feeding Hills.

There will be wreaths, décor, ornaments, crocheted items, a large bake sale and

soup and baked beans to go. Our vendors will be S&S Handmade Soap, Trudi's Creations, Fran and Cheryl's holiday items and Paws-Atively Delectable.

There will be a basket raffle. Bring a non-perishable item and receive a ticket for the raffle. The food collec-

tion will benefit the Church Cupboard at Feeding Hills Congregational Church.

The volunteers at Feline Friends Cat Sanctuary will have a drop off bin for supplies.

This a free event and the public is invited to attend.



Turley Publications, Inc.



Logan Distler
 September 22, 2024
 Parents: Daniel & Lisa Distler, Brimfield
 Grandparents: Christopher & Michele Mues, Warren
 Carole & the late Bruce Distler, Long Island, NY

Baby's Name: _____
 Birthdate: _____
 Parents' Names: _____

 Parents' Town of Residence: _____
 Grandparents' Names & Town of Residence: _____

 Telephone #: (not to be printed - for office use only) _____

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

Agawam Advertiser

Barre Gazette

Chicopee Register

Country Journal

The Holyoke Sun

Journal Register

Quaboag Current

The Register

Sentinel

Town Reminder

Ware River News

The Wilbraham-Hampden Times

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

Turley Publications would like to help you show off the newest member of your family this Christmas, FOR FREE!

Mail to:
 Turley Publications
 24 Water Street
 Palmer, MA 01069
 Attn: Jamie Joslyn
 Include a self addressed/stamped envelope if you would like the picture returned or email photo to: jamie@turley.com with subject line: **BABY'S FIRST.**
 This offer is available to all babies born in 2025. Pictures will be published the week of December 23-26, 2025.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Dough made from corn flour

5. Rise

11. Gratitude

14. A low wall

15. Kidnap

18. A cup golfers want to win

19. Outgoing

21. "Partner" to flow

23. Former Michigan coach Brady

24. Proverb

28. Gasteyer and de Armas are two

29. Helps a body recover

30. Baseball Cy Young winner

32. Very fast airplane

33. Offensive baseball stat

35. Body of water

36. Record of one's heartbeat

39. Signs a contract

41. Atomic #24

42. Bind securely

44. French Jesuit theologian

46. Fragrant brown balsam

47. Post office box

49. Sells tickets at inflated prices

52. Places to hang coats

56. Jewish salutation

58. Yellow fruits

60. Poorly educated

62. Microorganism

63. Talk show host Barrymore

CLUES DOWN

1. A way to plan

2. Three-banded

3. Mobile

4. Romanian city

5. Making sour

6. Take a seat

7. "The Golden State"

8. When you hope to arrive

9. Pointed ends of pens

10. Extinct flightless bird

12. Sharp-pointed dueling sword

13. Nape of neck

16. Problems (Spanish slang)

17. Narrow carpet

20. To avoid the risk of

22. Spiritual academic degree (abbr.)

25. Equally

26. Traditional cars still need it

27. Eligible voters

29. Greek alphabet letter

31. Body part

34. Referee-declared outcome

36. Means to moving money

37. Popular footwear brand

38. Cockatoo

40. NFL's big game

43. Botswana currencies

45. News-reporting organization

48. Batman villain

50. Urgent request

51. Not all

53. Hallmark's specialty

54. Knot in a tree

55. Satisfy

57. Notable space station

58. Baby's dining accessory

59. Stitch clothing

61. ___ and behold

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE xx

Lots of holiday happenings at Agawam Public Library

AGAWAM – Snow is falling and Agawam Public Library is calling. Join us for a great lineup of events for December that will keep you mindful and joyous this holiday season.

Our annual Festival of Trees is back and you won't want to miss out. The Festival of Trees is a community-wide holiday gallery of hand-made trees displayed throughout the library. Create something truly unique by building a tree out of unusual materials like soda cans or egg cartons. Families, friends, coworkers, classes – everybody is encouraged to join in on the fun. Completed trees should be dropped off at the library by Dec. 18. For more information and guidelines for submission, please visit the library Information Desk or go to agawamlibrary.org. Trees will be on display at the library from Dec. 18 through Jan. 5, beginning with our Opening Reception on Thursday, Dec. 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the Clini Community Room. Come view the creative trees, enjoy the sounds of the season and indulge in some hol-

iday treats. Please register to attend.

Fall Qigong concludes with three classes this month as autumn wanes and winter settles in. Related to the elements of Metal and Water in traditional Chinese medicine, our Qigong practice will focus on strengthening the lungs and immune system, increasing circulation, and nourishing the kidneys and joints. Classes are drop-in and will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 9, and 16 at 10:30 a.m. in the Clini Community Room. Instructor Heidi Taberman will lead participants in an hour of gentle Chair Yoga on Wednesday mornings at 9:05 a.m. Classes are drop-in; please note that there is no class on Dec. 24. Have you been looking for ways to increase your daily step count? Try out our Walking Group. This group will meet at the pavilion at Robinson State Park on Saturday, Dec. 6 at 9 a.m.; hiking shoes or sturdy sneakers are recommended. Registration is required so we know how many walkers to expect.

Get in the spirit of the sea-

son and learn about holiday traditions of yesteryear. The Mark Twain House & Museum will present Christmas Charity in the Gilded Age. Erin Bartram from the Mark Twain House & Museum will explore how the holidays were celebrated in this prominent family. As Clara Clemens recalled years later, one of the most important Christmas traditions for the Clemens family was assembling and delivering baskets of food and gifts to poor families in Hartford. This program explores the family's charitable efforts in historic context: increasing prosperity for some, increasing poverty for many more, and a society torn over what to do about it. With echoes of today's world in mind, this program is one you surely do not want to miss! This event will take place on Monday, Dec. 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the Clini Community Room; please register to attend.

Celebrate the Winter Solstice and the return of the sun at our Lantern Making & Winter Singalong event on Tuesday, Dec. 16 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Participants will

craft a wax paper lantern and illuminate the night sky with an outdoor singalong. This intergenerational program is open to all ages and craft materials will be provided. Please be sure to dress warmly for the outdoor portion of this event! Registration is required as space and materials are limited.

Looking to have some fun and indulge in the music of the season? Join us for Holiday Music Bingo on Monday, Dec. 22 at 6:30 p.m. Get in the holiday spirit as we play bingo and enjoy some seasonal treats. Prizes will be awarded to those who have a winning bingo card. Our Adult Craft Night this month will take place on Monday, Dec. 29 at 6:30 p.m. and participants will make a cute hand painted snowman ornament. This craft features acrylic paint, a wooden round, fabric and pompoms. Make a sweet snowman friend to keep around all winter long! Please register to attend these events.

Our monthly programs are an excellent way for folks to pursue their interests or

try out something new. Join our Writers Group hosted by Katherine Anderson on Thursday, Dec. 18 at 6 p.m. This in-person workshop is open to writers of all levels and genres. There will be opportunities for peer and host feedback, finding opportunities for submission to magazines, literary journals, and presses, and more. Registration is required.

Our Career Workshops and Networking Group is a great way for mature job seekers to access career and networking resources. Our Zoom session is Marketing Plan on Wednesday, Dec. 17 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., but there is an opportunity for informal networking at 9 a.m. Registrants can sign up online to receive the Zoom meeting links.

Professional wrestling fans take note. We have an extra special event coming up in the new year that you won't want to miss. Author, podcaster and former WWE media journalist Brian R. Solomon will host a presentation and book signing for his latest book, *Irresistible Force:*

the Life and Times of Gorilla Monsoon on Saturday, Jan. 24 at 10 a.m. Brian's encyclopedic knowledge of professional wrestling is clearly displayed in his biography of Gorilla Monsoon, one of the original character wrestlers in the early days of the WWF/WWF and later the "voice" of the WWF events. Don't miss this amazing opportunity to connect with this prolific chronicler of the professional wrestling world! Registration to attend this event will open on Dec. 22.

Thank you to the Agawam Center Library Association for sponsoring select library programs. The library will continue collecting non-perishable food items throughout December. Upcoming holiday closings include: closing at 12:30 p.m. on Dec. 24, closed on Dec. 25, closing at 5 p.m. on Dec. 31, closed on Jan. 1. During the winter months, any closings or late openings due to inclement weather will be reported to local TV stations 22 and 40, as well as their websites and the library's social media platforms.

HCC future-planning breakfast rescheduled for Dec. 9

HOLYOKE — Due to forecasts of inclement weather, the future-planning community breakfast planned for tomorrow morning at Holyoke Community College has been rescheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 9.

Regional leaders from diverse sectors of the Pioneer Valley economy will now gather at HCC next week for a discussion that will help create the next chapter in the college's 80-year history.

The general public is also invited to attend this breakfast event, "Shaping the Future: A Community Conversation," from 7:30 to 10 a.m. in the PeoplesBank Conference Room (301/303) in the Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development, on the main HCC campus, 303 Homestead Ave. "We appreciate your understanding and flexibility as we work to ensure meaningful community engagement while prioritizing everyone's safety," said HCC President George Timmons. "Your voice matters deeply in this

process, and we look forward to the conversation."

The panelists include: Megan Burke, president of the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts; Anne Kandilis, director of Springfield WORKS; Frank Martínez López, executive director of Enlace de Familias; Jason Pacheco, director of workforce planning and analytics at Baystate Health; Javier Reyes, chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Amherst; and Aaron Vega, director for the Office of Planning and Economic Development for the city of Holyoke, and incoming president and chief executive officer of the Western Mass Economic Development Council.

Among the other attendees expected to attend are state Rep. Pat Duffy, John Reiff, director of civic learning and engagement with the Mass. Dept. of Higher Education, and representatives from MassHire Holyoke, Way Finders, Holyoke Health Center, Tech Foundry, Holyoke Public Schools, Dean Tech, Nuestras Raices, and the Public Health Institute of Western Mass.

President Timmons will kick off the event and set the stage for this community conversation. A question-and-answer session will follow the panel discussion.

"At Holyoke Community College, student success is a community effort," said President George Timmons. "When our students thrive — when they graduate, transfer, gain new skills, launch careers, and become leaders — our entire region benefits. These leaders, our education partners, and others will share perspectives on the opportunities and challenges facing our community, sparking table conversations that will inform how we write the next chapter for HCC — and for our region."

The event is part of "SP 3.0," the third iteration of the college's strategic planning process, which began with the start of the fall semester. The college drafted its first strategic plan in 2018, which was refreshed in 2021.

So far, emerging priorities for Strategic Plan 3.0 include collaboration and partnerships, and workforce and post-graduation success.

"Together, we've achieved many of the ambitious goals of our previous strategic plans, creating pathways and opportunities that have transformed lives and strengthened our community," said President Timmons. "Strategic Plan 3.0 is the next chapter in that shared work, and we need to hear as many voices as possible to help us chart the course ahead."

Museum announces return of 'Penguin Plunge'

WESTFIELD — Amelia Park Children's Museum announces the return of the Penguin Plunge to be held on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026, at 1 p.m. at Hampton Ponds State Park, Westfield MA. Check-in begins at 11:30 a.m. Proceeds from the Penguin Plunge will benefit the museum.

"The Penguin Plunge is a long-standing tradition in Westfield. We are very excited that we're able to host the Penguin Plunge in 2026," said Diane Chambers, Executive Director of the museum. "We want to make this event a Plunge for the record books!" A member of the founding board, Chambers, explains that interest in the museum is at an all-time high. "We are seeing a tremendous increase in the number of visitors we serve. Please join us as we

work to enhance our facility and programs to continue serving our community's growing needs." Through the years participants and sponsors of the Plunge have helped to raise over \$370,000 to support Amelia Park Children's Museum.

Plunge participants may join as an individual or as a team. Each participant pledges to raise a minimum of \$75 from friends and family and is encouraged to collect as many sponsors as possible. Those under the age of 18 will receive a registration discount of \$25.

There are monetary prizes of "cold hard cash" for the top three individuals or teams that raise the most money; first place - \$300, second place - \$200, third place - \$100.

A costume contest is part of the fun, and partic-

ipants are encouraged to come dressed creatively. There will be prizes for Best Individual Costume and Best Team Costume.

Register in advance online or at the Plunge on the day of the event from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Participants will receive a free 2026 Penguin Plunge T-shirt (while supplies last).

Sponsorship opportunities, registration and pledge forms are available via the museum website <https://www.ameliaparkmuseum.org/penguin-plunge> or can be picked up at the museum.

Don't want to jump in the water? No worries! Be a spectator and cheer on the brave participants. Hot chocolate, coffee, s'mores and other refreshments will be available to keep everyone warm.

Agawam DPW hosts used holiday light collection

AGAWAM — Frustrated with broken holiday lights, or just have a bunch that no longer suits your needs? No matter what the reason, resist the urge to throw old holiday lights in the curbside trash or recycling collection cart. Holiday light strings are known as "tanglers" in the recycling industry. Tan-

glers are things like plastic bags, ropes, cords, hoses, wires, and light strings that jam sorting machinery by wrapping around the equipment, which is dangerous for workers. They may be delivered to the Department of Public Works front office from Dec. 1 to Jan. 16. This program is for light strings only: incan-

descent, LED and "icicle" light strings with wires and attached bulbs. Boxes, bags, and packaging must be removed before placing lights in the recycling container. Alternative options for recycling light strings would include mail back programs such as HolidayLEDs.com or Christmas-light-source.com.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

Comedy show to raise funds for toy drive

CHICOPEE — The 13th Annual Western Mass. Toy Drive will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 10 at the Portuguese Club in Chicopee with "A Night of

Comedy." Join host Jess Miller for three performances. Featured will be Dave Sheehan, Doreen Watson, and Max Dolchelli. Tickets are \$40 and

includes dinner, pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus as well as the comedy show. Reserve your seat now at funnyraising.com.

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EARLY DEADLINES FOR ADS & LEGAL NOTICES

Christmas will bring early deadlines for all ads & legal notices to run in TURLEY PUBLICATIONS the week of December 22-26, 2025:

Wednesday, December 17 at 2 PM for December 25 issue

- Country Journal • The Register • Wilbraham-Hampden Times

Thursday, December 18 at 2 PM for December 25 Issue

- Agawam Advertiser News
- Sentinel • Quaboag Current • The Journal Register

Friday, December 19 at 2 PM for December 25 Issue

- Ware River News • Barre Gazette

Monday, December 22 at 2 PM for December 26 Issue

- Town Reminder • The Holyoke Sun • Chicopee Register

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EARLY DEADLINE

In observance of **CHRISTMAS** for Dec. 22-26 newspapers there will be an **EARLY CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE!**

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SPORTS

Comeback falls just short for Agawam football

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Agawam scored a pair of touchdowns in the fourth quarter to close their deficit to just one point. But the Brownies could not score after either touchdown and Agawam lost to West Springfield 41-40 on Thanksgiving morning last Thursday at

Clark Field in West Springfield. Agawam's Cole Ingham had a big game with 281 yards rushing on 28 carries. He scored four touchdowns for the Brownies. Joe Duffy caught one touchdown pass for 66 yards as Agawam finished the football season with an overall record of 5-6



Above, Cole Ingham rushes toward the right side for the Brownies. Left, Josiah Wyner sprint down the left side of the field after a reception.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Nicholas Iellamo makes a block on the offensive line.



Joseph Duffy gets a tackle.



Giovanni Verducci kicks off the second half for Agawam.



Domenick Pisano sends a pass attempt away.

Westfield State Owls win tip-off tournament

WESTFIELD – Westfield State University senior guard Tavi Williams (Springfield, Mass./Minnechaug HS) scored 12 points and grabbed 18 rebounds in the championship game to lead the Owls to a 75-66 win over Albright (Pa.) College to win the 2025 Westfield Gas and Electric Tip Off Tournament at the Woodward Center on Saturday afternoon.

Williams was named as the tournament MVP. The Owls improve to 4-1

on the season, while Albright is now 1-4.

Williams was one of five Owls players to score in double-figures. Mya Silveira (N. Smithfield, RI) tied her for the team lead with 12 points, Morgan Berthiaume (Webster, Mass./Douglas) netted 11 points with eight steals, six assists and four rebounds, Grace Wigington (Lenox, Mass./IMG Academy) scored 10 points and Sophia Rockwood (Windsor, Vt.) also added 10.

Williams helped the Owls jump out to a lead that extended to as many as 16 points on a Williams 3-pointer with 5:02 left in the first half, with Westfield holding a 43-32 lead at halftime.

In the fourth quarter Albright ground away at the Owls lead, trimming it to as few as four, 68-64 on a Julia Zakovitch jumper in the paint with 4:03 left in the game. Westfield struggled to score late, but boosted

the lead back to six, 70-64 on a steal by Berthiaume and layup from Wigington with 1:44 left and the Lions were forced to foul down the stretch. Westfield canned five of six free throws in the final two minutes to seal the win.

Chrisdin Jones (Bowie, Md./Riverdale Baptist) led Albright with 20 points and 14 rebounds. 6-2 center Orianna Edmond (Lancaster, Pa./Hempfield) added 16 points and eight boards.

Westfield forced 38 turnovers from the Lions, and were plus-13 in the turnover game. The Owls connected on 10 of 38 three pointers, with more made three point field goals than in their previous two games combined.

Williams' 18 rebounds were a career high for the 5-4 guard. She grabbed 17 in a game against Coast Guard as a first-year player in the 2022-23 season. It was the fourth game this season with double-figure rebounds

for Williams, who is averaging 12.6 boards per game.

Westfield avenged an 89-74 loss at Albright from last season.

The Pennsylvania school was a late addition to the Owls' schedule in 2024-25 when they lost several games from the schedule just before the season began. The Lions returned the favor of the long trip by coming to the Westfield Gas and Electric Tip Off Tournament this season.

Sports

Season concludes for Unified basketball

HOLYOKE – The Agawam High School Unified basketball team took the court one final time on Nov. 19 at Holyoke High School in the annual season-ending jamboree event. Agawam faced off with host Holyoke along with West Springfield and Longmeadow.



Kevin Destin smiles as he heads for the basket.



Dharbi Cooper makes her way down the court.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Massimo Laprise goes for the layup.



Canyon Worrell shoots in traffic.



Arianna Michaelis one-hands the ball into the hoop.



Bernard Wangmati takes the jump shot.

Worcester Railers take two from Adirondack Thunder

GLENS FALLS, NY — The Worcester Railers HC (8-8-1-1) closed out their three-in-three weekend with a 2-0-1 record against the Adirondack Thunder (7-6-2-1) on Sunday, Nov. 30, with a final score of 4-1 at Harding Mazzotti Arena in front of a crowd of 3,692. The Railers are back on the road in Reading to take on the Royals on Friday, Dec. 5. Puck drops at 7 p.m.

Adirondack struck first on Sunday, as Grant Loven (1-0-1) grabbed a rebound off a shot from Brannon McManus (0-1-1) at 17:29 in the first to make it 1-0. Anthony Repaci (1-1-2) tied the game with a tally at 3:58 in the second, assisted by brothers Anthony

Callin (0-1-1) and Drew Callin (0-2-2). The Railers broadened the point gap with another power-play goal, this time from Gleb Vereyev (1-0-1), assisted by Anthony Repaci and Drew Callin at 9:15 in the second to give Worcester the lead for good. Lincoln Hatten (2-0-2) closed out the second period with a third goal from the Railers at 16:58, assisted by Matt Demelis (0-1-1). Worcester opened the third period with a second goal from Lincoln Hatten, this time assisted by Ryan Miotto (0-1-1) and Michael Suda (0-1-1). Hatten's goal brought the game's final score to 4-1.

It was a heated first period for the Railers to open the

final matchup of their three-in-three weekend against the Thunder. Worcester successfully completed two penalty kills, one for a tripping minor on Ryan Miotto at 10:31 and the second a 4-on-3 turned 5-on-4 power play for Adirondack at 11:29. Adirondack's Chase McLane and Cole Donhauser came to blows and culminated in a game misconduct for Donhauser. Adirondack scored the first goal of the game off the heels of the power play at 17:29, on a rebound chance from Grant Loven (2nd). The goal would be reviewed for potential goaltender interference as Loven was tied up with Railers goaltender Parker Gahagen, but the goal stood

as a good goal to close the first with Adirondack leading 1-0. Shots for the period were 19-1 in favor of Adirondack. The final penalty count in the period was three for Worcester and one for Adirondack.

Worcester opened the second with a 5-on-3 power play chance. Adirondack's penalty box saw Jacob Graves and Pierson Brandon each go to the box for roughing and delay of game penalties respectively. With the Railers' extra strength on the ice, they scored the first of three unanswered goals across the middle 20 minutes. Anthony Repaci (5th) sank the puck for the Railers' first power play goal after receiving a corner pass from Drew Callin

at 3:58 to tie the game. Gleb Vereyev (1st) put up his first Railers goal and second power play goal of the night for Worcester off a kick save rebound from Adirondack goaltender Jeremy Brodeur just over five minutes after Repaci's tally. Lincoln Hatten (6th) closed the second with a shorthanded goal at 16:58, Worcester's first of the season off an assist from Matt DeMelis. DeMelis stole the puck from Adirondack's Tag Bertuzzi in the defensive zone and brought the puck down the boards before he fed it in front for Hatten. Worcester outshot Adirondack 15-7 for the period. Total penalties for the second were one for Worcester and

five for Adirondack.

Worcester capitalized early in the third period, adding another power-play goal to the board after Adirondack's Justin Taylor was called for tripping. At 2:02, Lincoln Hatten (7th), assisted by Ryan Miotto and Michael Suda, extended the Railers' scoring run to four unanswered goals. Adirondack remained shut out for the remainder of the afternoon as Parker Gahagen made 36 saves on the day to guide Worcester to their second victory of the weekend with a final score of 4-1. Final shots for the third were 7-11 in favor of Adirondack. There was one penalty in the period for Adirondack and none for Worcester.

Sports

T-Birds fall in shootout against Islanders

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (5-10-2-2) caught an unfortunate break on a late game-tying goal in regulation before falling, 3-2, in a shootout to the Bridgeport Islanders (7-10-1-1) before a sellout crowd inside the MassMutual Center on Saturday night.

For a second straight night, the Islanders' first period excellence came to the forefront, and the visitors picked up the lone goal in the first on a weird and painful sequence. Forward Eetu Liukas was in the wrong place at the wrong time

when a Sean Day point shot struck him under the visor, forcing him down to the ice injured. As Liukas lay near the crease, Liam Foudy arrived at the loose puck and fired it off the post behind Georgi Romanov. However, Liukas turned out to be in the right place as the puck glanced off the iron, then off his leg, before finding its way across the line at 13:16 for the first goal of the game.

Henrik Tikkanen made his season debut in the Bridgeport goal crease and proved to be tough to beat through the first half of the game,

but Springfield's shorthanded group finally solved the tall Finn at 9:49 of the second as Hugh McGing moved down the left wing and fired a sneaky, short-side shot past the netminder, tying the game, 1-1, on the T-Birds' second shorthanded goal in as many days.

Romanov kept his game elevated throughout a busy second period, as he successfully turned away all 14 Bridgeport shot attempts to keep his team deadlocked heading into the final period. The tight checking continued in

the final period, with Springfield's forecheck continuing to work over the Islander defense. Eventually, they broke through at 9:55 of the third with Juraj Pekarcik finding his way to the low slot and firing a shot upstairs past Tikkanen, giving Springfield the 2-1 advantage.

The T-Birds' power play missed a chance to add insurance, and the one-goal margin carried into the final two minutes. With Tikkanen on his way to the bench for an extra attacker, Luke Rowe uncorked a blistering slapper from the

left point that glanced off the underside of the crossbar, beating Romanov to tie the game, 2-2, at 18:11. For the second time this month, the division rivals went to overtime.

Springfield carried much of the play in overtime, but Tikkanen answered with five stops, and the T-Birds failed to strike on a 4-on-3 advantage in the last 1:31 of overtime after Rowe committed a tripping infraction.

With the game coming down to a shootout, Matt Luff got Springfield off on the right

foot, beating Tikkanen to begin the festivities, but Chris Terry and Matt Maggio both connected against Romanov, while Matthew Peca and Nikita Alexandrov could not solve Tikkanen. Springfield, despite the bitter defeat, extended its point streak to five straight games, going 3-0-1-1 over that stretch.

The T-Birds are back in action next Friday in Hartford for another meeting with the Wolf Pack inside PeoplesBank Arena. Puck drop is set for 7 p.m. to begin the three-game weekend.

Students chosen for sports ambassador program

Woburn, MA - The Massachusetts Amateur Sports Foundation / Bay State Games is proud to announce the 80 selected high school student-athletes who have been chosen to serve as Ambassadors for the 2025-2026 academic year.

These student leaders were selected from schools and communities across Massachusetts based on their involvement in athletics, commitment to leadership, and desire to inspire future participation in the Bay State Games and statewide community sport initiatives.

The Ambassador Program provides leadership development, event experience, and networking opportunities while ambassadors serve as representatives of Bay State Games in their schools, on their teams, and in their communities. Ambassadors play a key role in growing awareness, supporting recruitment efforts, and connecting their peers to the opportunities and events offered through Bay State Games including the Summer & Winter Games, scholarships, internships, and other year-round programs.

"The Ambassador Program helps expand statewide awareness and impact of Bay State Games programs while men-

toring high school students on the career and education opportunities available in the world of sports" said Kevin Cummings, Bay State Games Executive Director.

"This class of ambassadors represents the next generation of leaders in sport from across Massachusetts. We are excited to support them as they help inspire participation in the Bay State Games and lay the foundation for their future careers"

The 2025-2025 Ambassador program kicked off on November 2 with a statewide Ambassador Summit at the Natick Armory, hosted by the Massachusetts Army National Guard. Ambassadors from across the state participated in the program that included a fitness warm up and team building exercises, a panel discussion on the college athletic recruiting process and an address from motivational speaker, philanthropist, athlete and race director Dave McGillivray.

The Ambassador term began in October 2025 and runs through July 2026.

Among local student-athletes selected, Makenzie Casey of Quabbin Regional, Kendall Placzek and Richard Hale of Minnechaug Regional, Logan Millet of Ware, and Madelyn Moreau of Monson.

MIAA sets deadlines for finalized schedules

FRANKLIN – The 2025 Schedule Commitment Deadline and Process Reminder that the MIAA winter schedule commitment deadline is Friday, Dec. 19 for basketball and ice hockey.

After that point, no changes can be made to your opponents or the

number of games/matches that can be played.

After the Dec. 19 commitment deadline, all schedules will be considered final.

Three days before the Schedule Commitment deadline, MIAA staff will produce and publish schedules for each sport based on the available data for review

and verification by member schools. Below is the breakdown for 2025-26 school year:

- WINTER 2025-2026
 - o First contest date: Thursday, Dec. 11
 - o Schedule data published for review: Tuesday, Dec. 16
 - o Schedule Commitment

deadline: Friday, Dec. 19

- SPRING 2026
 - o First contest date: Thursday, Mar. 26 (Monday, March 23 for Spring Golf)
 - o Schedule data published for review: Tuesday, Mar. 31
 - o Schedule Commitment deadline: Friday, Apr. 3

Scholarship and Fellowship funds available

WESTFIELD – The Horace Smith Fund, located in Westfield, Massachusetts has scholarship and fellowship money available for residents of Hampden County, MA. Graduating high school seniors and students already in college may apply for Scholarships of up to \$12,000.

Those in their final year of college and previous college graduates pursuing advanced degrees may apply for Fellowships of \$15,000. Applicants must maintain at least a B average in college and be en-

rolled as full-time students.

Awards are made based on both academic achievement and merit. Of great importance is a personal written account of why the student feels deserving of financial assistance and their goals in pursuing higher education.

Last year, \$297,000 was awarded to 24 individuals. Scholarships were given to 18 graduating seniors from 11 Hampden County high schools. Three scholarships were also awarded to current college students to as-

sist them in completing their undergraduate degrees, and three fellowships were given to college graduates pursuing advanced degrees, who had graduated from Hampden County high schools.

The Horace Smith Fund was established in 1899 by the successful and generous philanthropist named Horace Smith, co-founder of Smith & Wesson, established in Springfield. The scholarships and fellowships are named for Walter S. Barr, a West Springfield business-

man, whose widow left the bulk of the family estate to The Horace Smith Fund in 1950.

Completed applications must be received either electronically or by mail to The Horace Smith Fund at 16 Union Avenue, Suite 2K, Westfield, MA 01085 no later than March 15, 2026. Applications will also be available at local high school guidance offices, college financial aid offices, online at www.HoraceSmithFund.org or by phoning (413) 739-4222.

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We

will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis.

Please follow and share

with your friends and loved ones.

We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections, but as always, you

can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

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Obituary

William Carl Ekstedt, 95

KENNEBUNK, ME – William Carl Ekstedt, 95, of Kennebunk, ME and formerly of Agawam, passed away November 23, 2025. He was born June 22, 1930 in Springfield to Frank L. and Hedvig A. (Magnuson) Ekstedt.



(Chris), Melanie Levesque (Jason), Jillian Chisasson (Bob), Jaclyn Burne (Sam), Brendan Barstow, Michael Lyon (Melinda), William Lyon (Erin), and Robert Lyon (Madeleine); and 11 great-grandchildren.

Bill worked at Western Mass Electric Company/Northeast Utilities for over 40 years and retired as Director of Facility Maintenance. He was proud to be a very active member of the Agawam community.

Bill was a wonderful husband, father and grandfather and will be greatly missed.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Bill's name to a charity of your choice.

Private family services will be held at a later date.

Bill was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Marion Ekstedt and two daughters, Carin Vella and Cynthia Connelley. He is survived by his son, Karl J. Ekstedt (Linda) of Wells, ME; daughter, Cristin Lyon (Mike) of Pennsylvania; grandchildren, Emily Vella, Kelsey Fontaine

To share a memory or leave a message of condolence, please visit Bill's Book of Memories Page at www.bibberfuneral.com.

Arrangements are in the care of Bibber Memorial Chapel, 67 Summer Street, Kennebunk, ME 04043.

Anthony Emanuel Klenakis, 85

Anthony Emanuel Klenakis, 85, passed peacefully on Friday, Oct. 24, 2025 after a brief illness.

Tony or Coach Klenakis was born on July 1, 1940, to Christos and Lucille Galanis Klenakis in Springfield. He was the middle of three children and grew up amidst a large Greek family in Agawam. Tony's passion for sports was evident as a youth; his strength, agility, and dedication made him a standout on the gridiron. Playing all four years in high school, he won All-Star Western Massachusetts and championships. He was also a standout athlete in baseball and hockey.

Upon graduation from high school in 1959, he headed west to Trinidad Junior College in Colorado and played football there for two years. Wanting more, he headed west once again to attend the University of Nevada Reno. While there he played football and baseball and pursued the love of his life, Norma Sheley. He graduated from UNR in 1961 with a BA in education and married Norma.

Coach Klenakis began his teaching career at Wooster High School in Reno where he coached football and basketball. On summer breaks, Tony pursued his Master's degree in school administration, which he obtained in 1964.

Their first son, Chris, was born in 1964 and in 1966,

the young family moved to Fallon where Tony taught history, PE, and health at Churchill County High School. He was the head football coach for the varsity team, an assistant baseball coach, and the driving force that began the wrestling program at CCHS. In 1967, their second son, Tony, was born. Coach Klenakis was not just a coach, but also a mentor and father figure to many young men. He taught them to practice hard and play easy. He taught them about integrity and honor in all things. While he was tough, he never expected anything from his players that he himself was not willing to do. He led his teams to three straight state championships in 1976, '77, and '78.



In the summers, the family would pack up the truck and horse trailer and head to Boise, Idaho where they raced horses at Les Bois. Coach Klenakis left CCHS in 1980 and headed to California where he trained thoroughbred horses and traveled the race circuit. In the early 2000s, he moved Klenakis Racing Stables to Arizona where he trained the thoroughbreds until his retirement in 2019. Upon moving back to Fallon, he didn't sit idle but, went to

work as a cashier at Walmart and enjoyed seeing friends, former players and being part of a team.

Tony's life was so rich, diverse and full of adventure. He loved sports whether he was playing, watching, or coaching—he always strived to be better and better others. No matter how long he was away from Massachusetts, his love for the Boston Red Sox, Celtics and Bruins never wavered. He was an avid reader, loved Jeopardy, loved opera, ballet and musicals. He cherished his time with friends and family.

Tony is preceded in death by his parents, his sister Marie, brother-in-law Gary, son Tony, and infant grandson Antaeus.

Tony is survived by his wife of 62 years, Norma, son Chris (Louise), daughter-in-law Kim, grandchildren Nikos, Lucy, Matthew, Mark, and Elizabeth, brother John (Ann), brother-in-law Charles (Katherine), numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held at Parkside Bible Fellowship on Saturday, Nov. 15, 2025 at 1 p.m. A private burial was held at the Fallon cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Fallon Greenway Quarterback Club.

DEATH NOTICE

Ekstedt, William
Died Nov. 23, 2025
Services are private

Klenakis, Anthony Emanuel
Died Oct. 24, 20

Agawam Advertiser News

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

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Public Notices

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. HD24P0424EA
Estate of:
John Patrick Bartolucci
Also known as:
John P Bartolucci
Date of Death: 01/03/2024
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **Carla Bartolucci of West Springfield, MA and Michael J Bartolucci of Fort Pierce, FL** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, a determination of testacy and heirs at law and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

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 01/02/2026.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 26, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/04/2025

AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., Agawam, MA. on **Monday, December 22, 2025 at 6:30PM** for all parties interested in the request of Chris Auto South, which is seeking a Special Permit in accordance with the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances, Ch. 180-55 (35) and Ch. 114-5 to allow the petitioner to seek a Class II auto sales license for the increase of vehicles on the premises identified as 207 Main Street.

Doreen A. Prouty, Chairperson
Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals
12/04, 12/11/2025

AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., Agawam, MA. on **Monday, December 22, 2025 at 7PM** for all parties interested in the request of Carl Pickett, who is seeking a Special Permit in accordance with the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances, Ch. 180-62 to allow for the keeping of hens at the premises identified as 729 Silver Street.

Doreen A. Prouty, Chairperson
Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals
12/04, 12/11/2025

Agawam Conservation Commission LEGAL AD

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on **Thursday, December 11, 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 Agawam Energy Center, LLC for property located on 769 Silver Street.

By Order of
Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission
12/04/2025

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. HD21P1300EA
In the matter of:
Lillian Etkin
Date of Death: 04/05/2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ALLOWANCE OF ACCOUNT

To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by: **James Goodhines of Springfield, MA** requesting allowance of the first to the sixth account(s) as Personal Representative and any other relief as requested in the Petition.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before **10:00 a.m. on 12/16/2025.**

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 date, action may be taken without further notice to you.
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 07, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
12/04/2025

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. HD25P2448EA
Estate of:
Jules Armand Nicole
Also known as:
Jules A Nicole
Date of Death: 01/10/2025
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 **Marc Louis Nicole of Severna Park, MD** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Marc Louis Nicole of Severna Park, MD** 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 12/22/2025.** 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: November 24, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
12/04/2025

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. HD25C0342CA
In the matter of:
Jayda Marie Williams
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by **Jayda Marie Williams of Feeding Hills, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Adara Iris Myers
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/17/2025.**

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 17, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/04/2025

ADVERTISEMENT

The Agawam Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for Project # 005166, the VUI -12A turnover at **JJ Brady**

Apartments, Development 200-2 for the **Agawam Housing Authority** in **Agawam, Massachusetts**, in accordance with the documents prepared by **Roy S. Brown Architects**.

The Project consists of: **New kitchen cabinets, countertop, appliances, flooring & base, replacement bathroom flooring & base and exhaust fan, new interior door locksets and passage sets, stairway railings, re-finishing all wood flooring, and complete painting throughout.**

The work is estimated to cost: **Sixty thousand two hundred dollars (\$60,200).**

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive.

No DCAMM certification is required

General Bids will be received until **2:00 p.m., Friday, December 19, 2025** and publicly opened, forthwith.

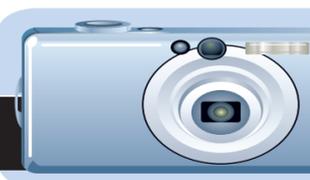
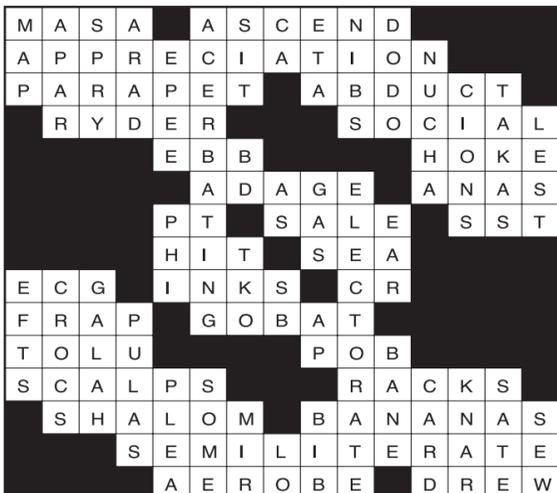
This project is being Electronically Bid (E-Bid). All bids shall be prepared and submitted online at www.Projectdog.com and received no later than the date and time specified above. Hard copy bids will not be accepted by the Awarding Authority. For E-Bid Tutorial and Instructions, click to download the **Supplemental Instructions to Bidders for Electronic Bid Projects** from www.Projectdog.com. For assistance, contact Projectdog, Inc. at 978.499.9014.

General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternates), and made payable to the **Agawam Housing Authority**.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available electronically or for purchase at www.Projectdog.com on **Wednesday, December 3, 2025** Project Code 871869.

The job site and/or existing building will be available for inspection at **10 am on Wednesday, December 10, 2025.**

For an appointment other than the scheduled walk-thru above, call **Maureen Cayer**, Executive Director at the **Agawam Housing Authority** at (413) 786-1297. 12/11/2025



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POLICE ■ from page 1

Johnson also said the department has been able to dispose or release some of the evidence it has been holding.

"We have been working with the district attorney's office and they have been very helpful trying to release or dispose of evidence that is no longer needed," Johnson.

There is also an area of the evidence room for temporary seizures.

"We run into situations where a person has to turn over their weapons for a period of time," McGovern said. "Once, we had to seize 600 weapons from one person."

Outside in the rear of the station, also in a secure area, is a space for large evidence, such as vehicles or furniture.

The new station features a large lobby area with access to an interview room that can also be used for activities such as fingerprinting and other public interaction. The goal is to keep the public out of secure areas of the headquarters.

In the lobby, there are windows for residents to access communicate with dispatch as well as records.

The dispatch room has advances. There are four stations for dispatchers to utilize and the room has a dedicated kitchen and bathroom so dispatchers are able to stay near their stations rather than have to leave the area. There is some new dispatching equipment, though the

department is re-using some monitors, Johnson said. The dispatch area also has full access to security footage throughout the perimeter of the building and the lobby. Dispatchers are already operating from the new headquarters.

The facility features new cells, including a dedicated juvenile cell and a "patty wagon" cell, for larger groups arrested. Near that area, is a pair of enclosed bays for vehicles seized as evidence to be searched or processed. There is space for training, new offices for patrol officers to complete reports, offices for command staff, new interview/interrogation rooms, and locker rooms for men and women with charging ports for devices and a secure area in the locker for service weapons.

The evidence room features specialized storage for items that are biohazard.

Johnson said it would have cost more than twice the money to build a new police headquarters from scratch. He said other departments in the area were visited to get ideas on how to turn HUB Insurance into a police headquarters made for modern policing.

The mayor hopes residents will come out on Dec. 13 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. to tour the new department. After that, there will not be many opportunities for the public to view the secure areas of the facility.



The new Agawam Police Headquarters located at 1070 Suffield St.



There are two bays for processing vehicles collected as evidence.



The booking area outside of holding cells.



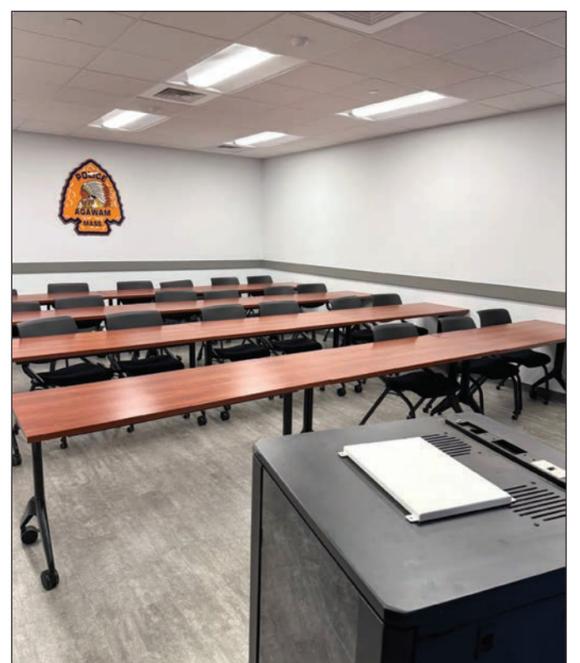
This enclosed area will house larger pieces of evidence.



These lockers lead to the secure evidence area.



The new dispatch window for residents in need of assistance.



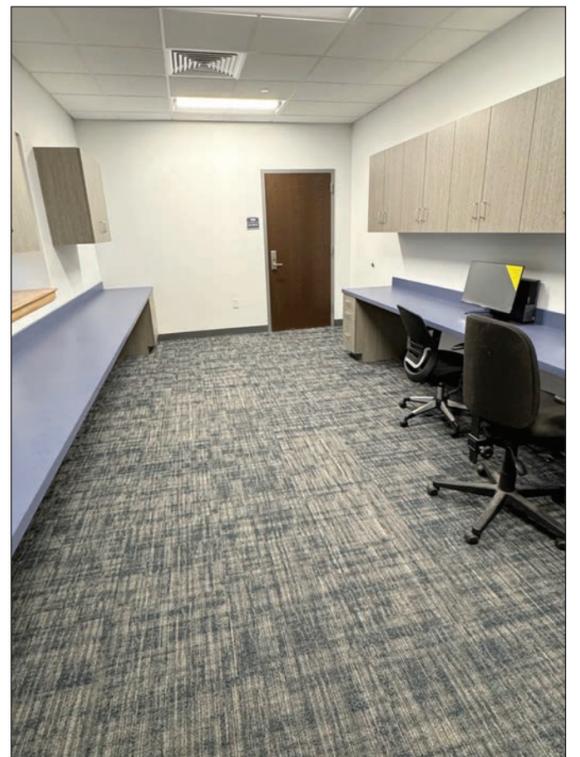
A new training area for officers.



Police officers now have full-size lockers to fit uniforms and other personal items.



This is an interrogation room located within the booking area.



One of the new offices that will be for command staff.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

STOP ■ from page 1

Johnson's said the intersection was "selected" by MassDOT for conversion to an all-way stop-controlled intersection. The city council approved the change in early September.

Residents should approach the intersection with caution, especially in the

next few months as motorists get used to the change. Especially with those less familiar with the area, as those motorists may run the stop sign at high rates of speed.

Prior to that, the last major change made by the city council to a traffic pattern in the town was adding a school zone on Mill St. in front of Agawam High School.

The council established a 20-miles-per-hour speed limit during arrival and dismissal hours along Mill St. from just in front of the stadium and turf field, past the school entrances and ending near the entrance to the Rte. 57 highway. That change was done for the safety of students arriving and leaving the school.

PROJECTS ■ from page 1

the road, which leads toward the West Springfield border, have seen a lot of road work along with utility poles having been moved. New curbing is being installed and

Johnson expects the project to be completed sometime in 2026.

"The project will soon be shut down until spring," Johnson. "The road will be narrowed. There will be traffic calming enhancements. It

is a \$3.5 million project and the state is funding about \$3 million of it. We are responsible for the land-takings in the project."

There will also be bike lanes as part of the project.

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