



**YOUTH**  
Mayor recognizes  
litter busters, page 9



**SOFTBALL**  
Homer-happy win  
over 'Hamp, page 12



**COMMUNITY**  
Church celebrates a  
half-century, page 20

# AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

May 18, 2017 | Vol. 39, No. 11 | \$1.00

www.agawamadvertiser.turley.com

**ZONING ORDINANCE**

## Solar farm restrictions rejected by 1 vote

*Tweaks sought as majority support was not enough*

By Michael J. Ballway  
mballway@turley.com

City councilors plan to try again to pass a solar energy zoning ordinance after falling one vote short this week.

The proposed law would

have restricted large-scale ground-mounted solar arrays to industrial zones only, barring them from business, agricultural or residential areas. It also would have placed screening and setback requirements on solar farms. The town's current zoning code does not explicitly permit or restrict solar installations.

Though the proposal saw broad support in a 7-3 vote, it failed to reach the two-thirds supermajority, eight out of the

11 councilors, required to pass a zoning ordinance. One councilor, Gina Letellier, was absent from the May 15 meeting. The three who voted against the ordinance were Council President James Cichetti and councilors Christopher Johnson and Anthony Sufriti.

Councilor Richard Theroux, one of the proposed ordinance's supporters, said he wants to continue working on it to find that eighth vote.

"I hope that those who chose not to be in favor will come back with their own ideas so we can put something together to protect our community," Theroux said. After the meeting, Cichetti said he would be willing to work with Theroux to craft a second proposal.

Mayor Richard Cohen, who also supported the proposed ordinance, had sharper words for its opponents.

"I'm disappointed [that] the

three councilors who voted 'no' had no concern for our residents," Cohen said on Tuesday. "The council should have addressed this years ago."

Johnson, a lawyer who formerly served as mayor and as town solicitor, said restricting large-scale solar farms to industrial zones only — a relatively small and already built-out portion of the town's zoning map — would

SOLAR | page 6



## Sparkle AND SHINE



Left: Rouge Stevens hugs her granddaughter Devon Peabody, 6, at the annual Granger Gala last week. Devon, a kindergartner at Granger School, chose Stevens as her "special star." TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY MIKE LYDICK

Right: With a gold star balloon tucked under his arm, Granger first grader Camren Ducharme is all smiles at the gala with his mother and "special star," Bonnie Borden. More photos from the Granger Gala on page 10-11.

**CITY COUNCIL**

## CPA repeal may have to be advisory question

*Council withdraws binding referendum to end tax program*

By Michael J. Ballway  
mballway@turley.com

Voters won't have a chance to repeal Agawam's participation in the Community Preservation Act this November.

It may yet be on the ballot, however.

City Councilor George Bitzas this week withdrew his proposed council resolution to revoke the CPA tax surcharge — which would have triggered a binding referendum at this year's town election — after it became apparent that the measure would fail in a vote of the full council. He said he plans to retool it as a non-binding ballot question.

"It has nothing to do with whether you support the CPA," Bitzas said in a subcommittee meeting on Monday, speaking about his original proposal. "I support it. I love the CPA. I'm voting to let the people vote."

Opponents had said regardless of a councilor's intent, a vote to revoke the CPA would be exactly what it says it is — a vote against the CPA program.

"This is a motion to revoke acceptance of the CPA," Councilor

CPA | page 6

**PARKS AND RECREATION**

## Rec registrations now will be offered online

By Michael J. Ballway  
mballway@turley.com

That annual midday pilgrimage to the Parks and Recreation office may be the latest victim of e-commerce.

After hearing years of complaints about parents having to appear in person, during business hours, to sign up children for recreation programs in town, Parks and Recreation Director Christopher Sparks recently announced

that an online registration tool will be in place in time for summer season signups next month. For the first time, Agawam families will be able to register for town recreation programs from home.

"People have asked for it," Sparks said last week. "There's a lot of people who don't have the flexibility to leave work early."

Until this year, the only way

online | page 6



Parks and Recreation Director Christopher Sparks demonstrates his department's new online registration page. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY



**GET YOUR A/C TUNED UP OR GO DUCTLESS AND BE READY FOR SUMMER!**



StateLinePropaneOil.com

Lic. S1: 303179 • PT: 204150 • HOD: 737 • 478

**OIL/AC — 413-998-0090**  
**PROPANE — 413-998-0080**

500•514 Salmon Brook St., Granby, CT

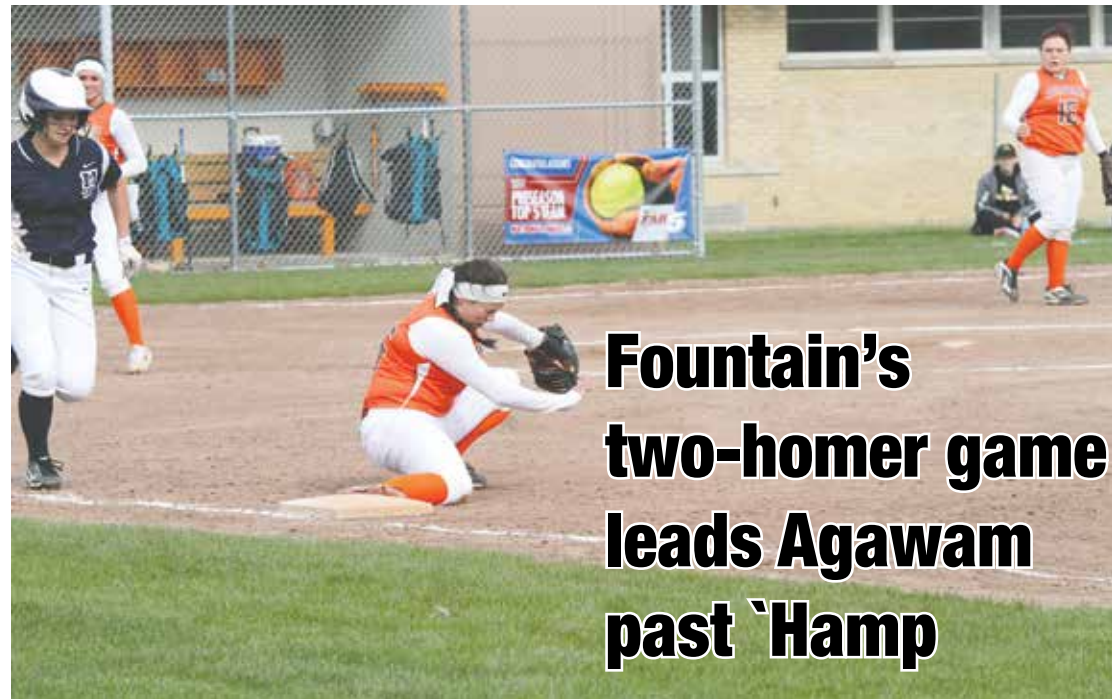
**HEATING • HOT WATER • HVAC • POOL HEATERS • FIREPLACES • GENERATORS • SERVICE PLANS**



413.786.7747 • Fax: 413.786.8457 • Facebook: @AgawamAdvertiserNews • Email: aan@turley.com

# SPORTS

## SOFTBALL



### Fountain's two-homer game leads Agawam past 'Hamp

Maria Moccio makes a pick at first base for an out. PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – Baseball and softball was always meant to be played with a fence.

This year, Agawam high School has such a fence as Athletic Director David Stratton installed a temporary fence in the softball outfield.

It played a huge role as home run derby commenced in a 7-6 win for Agawam over Northampton.

Five home runs between the two teams, including two in the top of the fifth inning in a game that Agawam almost blew.

The Brownies would jump out to a 5-0 lead with a four-run third leading the way. In that inning, Katie Grasso had a two-run double and Emily Fountain socked a two-run home run.

Northampton, a team that has had a very successful season, did not let the five runs stand as Katie Grasso and the Brownies cruised into the fifth inning.

Northampton struck for six hits in the fifth inning, including a two-run home run by Abby Pells and a solo home run by Anna Connly. Zoe-Driscoll-Sbar also



Third baseman Nikki Bates makes a long throw to first to get an out.



Samantha Saloio comes up with a throw from the outfield.

nailed a triple to drive in a pair of runs.

Northampton would then get another home run by Connly in the sixth inning and took the lead 6-5 as Agawam found its offense had stalled after the third inning.

But in the bottom of the seventh inning, Maria Moccio got things going with a single. That set the table for Fountain, who

has had an amazing season for the Brownies as their starting center fielder after few at-bats in the previous season.

Fountain socked another two-run homer over the fence to give Agawam the walk-off victory. The clean-up hitter would finish with four RBI and two runs

SOFTBALL | page 13

## BASEBALL

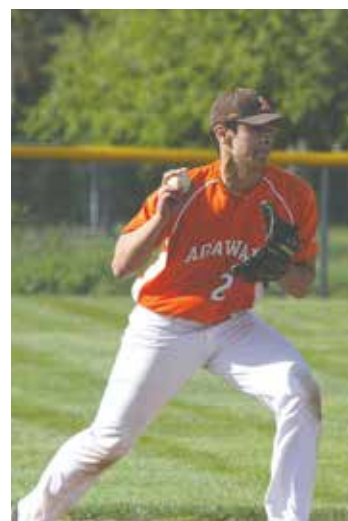
### Falcons outslug Brownies

By Nate Rosenthal  
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - It has been another strong season for the Minnechaug baseball team and they continued on their path forward with a 15-8 victory over Agawam. The Falcons took charge with a six run second inning and kept adding on from there. By the end of the fifth, it was 9-1 and then 15-2 through six. The Brownies scored some late runs in the seventh to make it closer.

Chris Goossens set down the six batters he faced in the first and second innings, striking out three. Jack Dunklee got to second on a double in the first but he was left stranded. That was not the case in the Minnechaug second. Joe Lucas and Rob Clark got things started with singles and Lucas came home on a base hit by Ethan Gasteyer. After the first out, double by Ryan Doyle brought home Clark and a sacrifice fly by Nick Scibelli plated Gasteyer for a 3-0 lead. Dunklee singled in Doyle and Steve Pickering doubled home Dunklee. The Falcons made it 6-0 as Tyler Galenski singled to score Pickering.

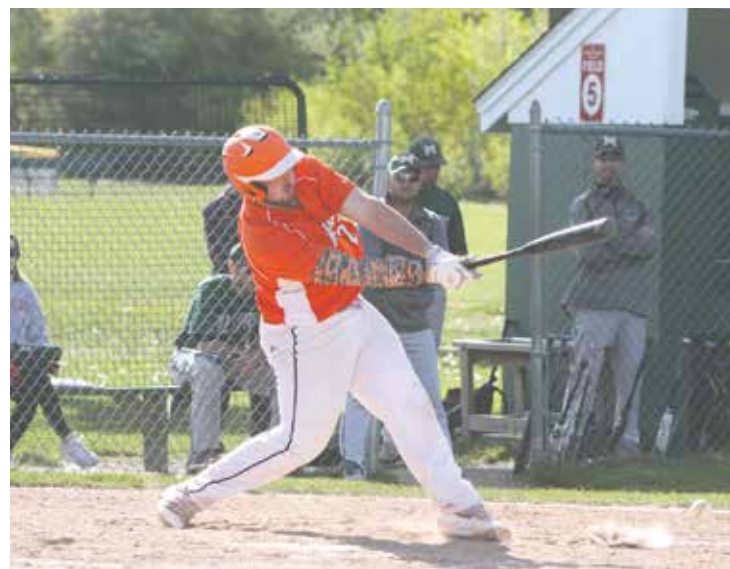
In the third inning, the Brownies got on the board. Mathew



Joe Oliver gets set to make a throw to second base. PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

O'Keefe and Tommy Grenier led off with walks. After the next two batters were retired, Aidan Page got the first Agawam hit, a single and on the play, O'Keefe scored. Agawam got a base runner in the fourth, an infield single by Steven Grasso. In the fifth, Goossens walked the first two, Grenier and Ryan White, then struck out two of the next three. Through four and a half, it was still 6-1. The

BASEBALL | page 13



Aiden Page swings and connects.



Allison Breton throws the javelin for the Brownies. PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

## TRACK

### Brownies fall in girls track

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School girls track continued to enjoy its first season on its brand new track and field facility. On Monday, the Brownies hosted a tri-meet with Ludlow and West Springfield visiting. Ludlow won the whole meet with 84 points. Agawam was in third place with 47 points. Caroline Hitchcock won the 110 meter hurdles with a finish of 16.2 seconds. She also captured wins in the long jump (16 feet, 10.5 inches), and triple jump (36 feet, 4.5 inches). Allison Breton won the shot put with a throw of 27 feet, 0.25 inches. Nicole Langevin won the javelin. She threw 95 feet, 3 inches.



Nicole Mercadante extends to get a few extra feet in her jump.



Loredana Randazzo makes her attempt at the long jump.