

BBB Scam Alert: Shoppers beware of Facebook Marketplace cons

AGAWAM – Facebook Marketplace can be a great place to find deals on items for sale in your neighborhood. But like any online classified site, watch out for warning signs before handing over money. BBB is seeing reports of Facebook Marketplace scams in BBB Scam Tracker, especially for big-ticket items like used cars and RVs.

How the scam works

You are shopping on Facebook Marketplace and spot a listing that looks like a good deal, so you contact the seller. The seller replies by saying that she or he is out of the country, in the military, or otherwise unavailable. Instead, the person tells you they are using eBay, Amazon, or another

reputable third-party company to sell and ship the item.

The seller assures you that you will have a chance to see and test drive the vehicle before committing to a purchase. However, you must first wire money or send funds via pre-paid debit card to “Amazon” or “eBay.” They will act as an escrow service. If you are unhappy with your purchase, you can simply return it for a full refund. Since you have confidence in the site being used for escrow, you agree.

Unfortunately, both the third-party service and the seller are a con. The car or other item doesn't exist. Some scammers have even gone as far as creating fake invoices from “Amazon” or “eBay,” stealing their lo-

gos to make the invoices look real.

How to avoid scams on Facebook Marketplace:

- Always meet the seller and see the item for sale before purchasing. This will help you avoid most scams on Facebook Marketplace. This is also true for housing rentals. If you can't tour the house or apartment before renting it, it's likely not available.
- Avoid deals involving shipping or escrow services. This scam is only one take on this trend. Avoid them by purchasing directly from the seller.
- Report scams to Facebook. If you've encountered a scam on Facebook Marketplace, report them to Facebook.

• Check BBB Tips: Many sales scams use similar techniques. Check out tips on BBB.org/scamtips to learn more.

For more information

For more ways to protect yourself from social media shopping scams, see BBB's tips for smart shopping online. You can also find more general tips at 10 Steps to avoid scams.

If you've been the victim of a social media ad scam, share your experience at BBB Scam Tracker. Your report could help other consumers avoid falling victim to similar scams.

Note: eBay and Amazon are BBB Accredited Businesses.

BBB Scam Tracker is being honored by the Global Anti-Scam Alliance

AGAWAM – “We are incredibly proud of BBB Scam Tracker and grateful for this recognition from the Global Anti-Scam Alliance,” said Melissa Lanning Trumpower, executive director of BBB Institute for Marketplace Trust, the educational foundation of the International Association of Better Business Bureaus. “BBB Scam Tracker allows people to search previous reports to determine if they're being targeted. As a result, we estimate that our scam-fighting tool helped people avoid losing \$24.3

million in 2023. We want to thank GASA, ScamAdviser.com, and the esteemed panel of judges, for honoring BBB Scam Tracker with this award.”

BBB Scam Tracker is supported by Amazon and Capital One, members of the BBB Corporate Trust Council, a coalition of select companies that join with BBB Institute to build a trustworthy marketplace by

providing their expertise, resources, and funding support.

Following the launch of the upgraded BBB Scam Tracker in 2022, BBB Institute added a Scam Prevention Guide on the homepage to help people learn how to spot and avoid scams.

“Our goal is to continue building out the BBB Scam Tracker platform to empower

people to protect themselves from fraud,” said Trumpower.

The ability to search reported scams is made possible thanks to the dedicated, collaborative work of Better Business Bureau professionals working in communities across the US and Canada to review and publish scam reports.

Launched in 2015 and retooled in 2022, BBB Scam Tracker had 4.58 million views and published more than 65,000 scam reports in 2023.



Public Notices

**TOWN OF AGAWAM
Public Hearing –
Thursday,
February 29, 2024
6:00 PM
Agawam Senior Center –
954 Main St.,
Agawam, MA 01001
Proposed FY 2024 CDBG
Application**

The Agawam Planning Board will conduct a Public Hearing on **February 29, 2024 at 6:00 PM** in the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam.

The public is encouraged to attend this hearing to discuss the Town's FY24 application to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities for up to \$950,000 in available Community Development Block Grant Funds. All persons with questions or comments regarding the grant application will have an opportunity to be heard. Those unable to attend can send written comments to the Agawam Town Planner,

Agawam Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001, Attn: Pamela Kerr, or pkerr@agawam.ma.us.

The Town is encouraging input on community needs and projects which would benefit from grant funding. The project currently being considered is comprehensive infrastructure improvements to Moore Street and Valley Street. Additional projects may be discussed and may be included in this and future grant applications.

Persons who require special accommodations for the hearing should contact the town at least one week prior to the hearing date at (413) 786 – 0400, ext. 8245. For further information contact Joseph Hagopian at PVPC at (413) 781-6045 or jhagopi an@pvpc.org. 02/22/2024

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Hampden, s.s.
TRIAL COURT OF THE**

**COMMONWEALTH SUPERIOR COURT CASE NO. 2379CV-00383
CHARLENE DEGRAY AND TOD A. DEGRAY
Plaintiffs**

vs.
ETHEL E. (SMITH) SLATER, deceased, her heirs, devisees, assigns and successors in interest, et als
THERESA (SMITH) MAY COOK, deceased, her heirs, devisees, assigns and successors in interest
WILLIAM I COOK, and/or his heirs, assigns, and successors in interest
Defendants

This case came on to be heard upon the motion of the Plaintiffs, praying for an Order of Notice and thereupon consideration thereof, it is

Ordered and Adjudged that an Order of Notice issue to said Defendant, THERESA (SMITH) MAY COOK, deceased, her heirs, devisees, assigns and successors in interest, and to said

Defendant, WILLIAM I. COOK, and/or his heirs, devisees, assigns and successors in interest by publishing an attested copy of this order once each week for three consecutive weeks in the Agawam Advertiser, a newspaper published in the Town of Agawam at least fourteen (14) days before the day of March 7th next, and that said defendants and/or their heirs, devisees, assigns, and successors in interest do cause their written appearance to be entered and their written answers or other lawful leadings to be filed in the office of the Clerk of said Court at Springfield in said County of Hampden on or before the said 7th day of March next. If THERESA (SMITH) MAY COOK deceased, her heirs, devisees, assigns and successors in interest, and WILLIAM I. COOK, and/or his heirs, devisees, assigns and successors in interest fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for

the relief demanded in the complaint.

Unless otherwise provided by Rule 13 (a) your answers must state as a counterclaim any claim you have against the Plaintiffs, Charlene DeGray and Tod A. DeGray, which arises out of the transaction or occurrence that is the subject matter of the Plaintiffs' claim or you will thereafter be barred from making any such claim in any other action.

Entered: 1/20/2024
By the Court:
Manitsas, J.
Clerk/Magistrate

02/08, 02/15, 02/22/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD24C0022CA
In the matter of:**

**Valerie Lauranda Warner
CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME**

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Valerie Lauranda Warner of Agawam, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Valerie Brochu Lauranda
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 02/29/2024.** 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: February 01, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
02/22/2024

Agawam Advertiser News

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

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

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

P	A	R	S		E	C	T		B	A	T					
S	L	A	K	E		A	L	A		E	A	C	H			
T	A	J	I	K		R	E	C		B	L	E	U			
	E	A	M	E	S		N	A	T		L	A	D	S		
						A	M	E	R	I	C	A	S			
P	R	E	M	A	T	U	R	E	L	Y						
E	N	E	M	I	E	S		R	E	M						
T	A	L	E	R						B	E	R	M	E		
						B	A	N		E	L	A	T	I	O	N
						U	N	A	V	A	I	L	A	B	L	E
						R	E	S	O	N	A	T	E			
M	O	A	B			D	K	M		S	A	B	E	R		
E	L	B	A			Y	E	P			A	I	L	E	D	
N	E	B	N			N	E	E			R	A	B	I	A	
D	A	I				E	N	D			S	E	N	D		

- Check Out Our For Sale, Services, Pets and Other Classifieds
- Real Estate: For Sale, For Rent & Vacation Rentals
- Help Wanted: Part Time & Full Time Career Opportunities

Call to place your classified ad: **413-283-8393**

the best around
CLASSIFIEDS
TURLEY PUBLICATIONS, INC.
Reaching readers in 50 local communities every week.