

Cooper's Gifts accepting supplies for Homework House

AGAWAM – From now through Sept. 14, Cooper's Gifts, Apparel, Home of Agawam, Mass., is accepting classroom supplies donations for Homework House, a nonprofit organization located at 54 North Summer Street Holyoke, MA 01040.

Homework House strengthens our community by promoting educational success and providing free tutoring and mentoring for children living in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. Homework House provides a safe and nurturing place for children to grow and learn. Acceptable supplies includes disinfectant wipes, facial tissues, paper towels, copy paper, dry erase markers and erasers. Donations will be collected at Cooper's for a limited time.

"We invite everyone to help Homework House. Those that donate are entered for the chance to win a

\$100 Cooper's gift card," said Kate Gourde, owner of Cooper's Gifts, Apparel, Home. "We hope that people will remember these needs while they are purchasing items to send their own children back to school, and that guardians will then consider picking up a few extras for Homework House."

"We will swap a raffle entry for every item donated to the Homework House," Gourde continued. "The lucky winner of a \$100 Cooper's gift card will be notified on September 15. It's easier for people in the Greater Springfield area to bring donations here instead of searching for Homework House in Holyoke, and we are open 7 days a week," Gourde explained. Items may be brought to the shop anytime during Cooper's regular hours of operation up until September 14. The gift boutique is located at 161 Main St. in Agawam, Mass., and

is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays, Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays 12 to 4 p.m.

"Homework House is also our August Round-Up charity, so this is the perfect time to spread the word about their mission and really help them out," Gourde said.

Each month Gourde chooses a local charity to receive the profits of the store's Round-Up Program through which customers are invited to round up their purchase total to the nearest dollar amount. Gourde will then match 50% of the total collected.

The program has totaled more than \$62,000 in donations to local organizations since its inception in 2014. More information on the Round Up program and how to nominate a charity may be found on Cooper's website www.coopersgifts.com/round-up/.



Cooper's Gifts is now accepting supply donations to benefit Homework House. Drop off donations between now and Sept. 14.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

Councilor George Bitzas announces re-election bid

George Bitzas has officially announced his candidacy for re-election to the Agawam City Council. A longtime public servant and dedicated member of the community, Bitzas is proud to continue his work representing the people of Agawam with integrity, honesty, and common sense.

"It has been my great honor to serve the people of Agawam," said Bitzas. "I am proud of my record of accomplishments, and I pledge once again to work with all residents and my colleagues on the Council to improve our city, protect taxpayers, support our seniors, and strengthen services for our children and families."

During his years of ser-

vice, Councilor Bitzas has championed many initiatives that directly benefit Agawam residents, including:

- Taxpayer Relief & Fiscal Responsibility: Consistently voting to keep property taxes as low as possible, supporting small business tax reductions, and sponsoring property tax exemptions for seniors in need.
- Education & Youth: Advocating for increased Chapter 70 education funding from the Commonwealth, sponsoring efforts to improve athletic facilities at Agawam High School, strongly supported the building of the much needed new High School, and continues supporting programs that benefit local

students.

- Public Safety & Infrastructure: Working to improve road, sidewalk, and keep all the Town services while supporting our Police and Fire Departments and ensuring resources for first responders to keep Agawam safe.
- Support for Seniors: Serving as Vice President and Chair of the building committee for Agawam's Senior Center, which has become a model facility in the region, and continuing to advocate for programs that enhance the quality of life for seniors.
- Veterans' Advocacy: Leading efforts to protect and support veterans, including sponsoring resolutions to preserve the

Northampton VA Medical Center and expand property tax relief for veterans and elderly residents.

- Community Initiatives: Sponsoring outdoor dining, affordable housing repair assistance through CPA funds, and resolutions to address rising prescription drug costs.

Councilor Bitzas co-sponsored a resolution urging Congress to protect Social Security and preserve the Old Age and Survivors Insurance Fund, reflecting his dedication to protecting seniors and working families.

Councilor Bitzas also co-sponsored a resolution supporting the passage of House bill No 4557 requiring local approval of Battery

Storage Facilities to protect our neighborhoods.

He also sponsored a resolution to accept MGL C59 sections 5N to establish a property tax work-off program for Veterans and Seniors.

"I am deeply committed to preserving the small-town character that makes Agawam such a special place, while ensuring we grow in a way that protects our values and quality of life," said Bitzas. "Together, we can continue to build on our progress, strengthen services, support our businesses, and keep Agawam an inviting place to live, work, and raise a family."

About George Bitzas
George Bitzas has proud-

ly served the City of Agawam for many years as a member of the City Council. Known for his dedication, accessibility, and advocacy on behalf of residents, he has been recognized with the prestigious Anthony Galano Award from the Agawam Council on Aging for his leadership and service to the community. He also received the State of Massachusetts American Legion Outstanding Foreign Born citizen award, the Rotary International Presidential Citation for engaging Rotary and changing lives, the Rotary Club's Paul Harris Award and the Town of Agawam Certificate of appreciation for the 9/11 Memorial, McGrath Park of design and implementation.

Public Notices

Legal Notice
Town of Agawam
The Agawam Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, September 4, 2025 at 6:00pm** and the **Agawam City Council** will hold a public hearing on **Monday, September 15, 2025 at 7:00pm**, both in the Veterans Hall at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of these hearings will be to hear the petition of VIP Homes & Associates, LLC for a zone change request for **430 North West Street** from Business B to Residence B. City Council's public hearing will be livestreamed on the Town of Agawam's website at www.agawam.ma.us and will also be televised on Cable Access Channel 15 or Channel 1074. Copies of the proposed zone change can be obtained from the Planning Department between the hours of 8:30am and 4:30pm at the Agawam DPW, 1000 Suffield Street, Agawam, MA or by emailing the Office of the City Clerk for an electronic copy at vgioscia@agawam.ma.us

By Order Of:
Violet Baldwin, Chair
Agawam Planning Board

Rosemary Sandlin, President
Agawam City Council
08/21, 08/28/2025

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. HD25P1711EA
Estate of:
Andrew Joseph Griffin
Date of Death: 07/18/2025
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 **James Griffin of Boylston, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **James Griffin of Boylston, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in

unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/16/2025.** 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 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: August 19, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
08/28/2025

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of LABOR DAY, there will be an **EARLY AD DEADLINE**

To advertise, place your ad no later than **NOON Thursday, August 28**

– Thank you!

A TURLEY PUBLICATION
www.turley.com

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 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 Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com