

BBB Tip: Don’t scan QR codes on unexpected packages

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A package you didn’t order could be a fun surprise, but be careful, especially if it comes with a QR code. It might be the setup for a scam.

What you’ll learn:

- **How brushing scams use fake packages-and now QR codes-to trick consumers and post fake reviews**
- **Why scanning a QR code from an unexpected package can expose your personal information or device to scammers**
- **What steps to take if you receive a package you didn’t order, including how to protect your identity and report the scam**

In a “brushing” scam, you receive a package you didn’t order, often without a return address. This is often a setup

by unscrupulous companies who found your address online. After the company ships the product to you, they can post a fake, positive review on your behalf to improve their store’s ratings and get more sales.

Reports to BBB Scam Tracker over the last few months show a twist on brushing scams where the package contains a QR code. The code comes with instructions to scan it to find out who sent the package or how to start a return. Scanning the QR code can lead to a phishing website or download malware onto your device.

In a recent BBB Scam Tracker report, a consumer shared this experience, “I received a small package at my door marked UNIUNI from: LEO This person/company has my name and address

- when I googled them the information states this is a brushing scam and that someone has obtained my personal information from either AliExpress, TEMU, or Amazon. I have an Amazon account but have not used those other sites. The label has a tracking number, QR code, customer number, and reference number. I have not opened the package, nor do I wish to - this is highly suspicious. I did not order anything from this company/person.”

In one BBB Scam Tracker report, a consumer received a package of pasta via Amazon in her name. Thinking it was a gift from a friend, she scanned the QR code that came with the package. The QR code took her to a website that appeared to be Amazon. The consumer said she has received a higher-than-normal

amount of scam emails since scanning the QR code.

In another BBB Scam Tracker report, a consumer received a ring in the mail that he did not order. The ring came with a QR code. The consumer checked BBB Scam Tracker before scanning the code, and after reading other reports about brushing scams, he decided not to scan it.

It might seem like there are no downsides to a free package, but it could be a sign that someone is using your personal information for their own gain. If this happens to you, BBB recommends checking the security of your accounts and notifying the retailer who sent you the package.

What to do if you receive a package you didn’t order:

- **Don’t scan QR codes.** They might take you to a

phishing site that steals your personal information or download malware onto your device.

- **Protect your identity.** If you did scan the QR code and enter personal information, change your passwords for any compromised accounts and enable two-factor authentication. Also, keep a close eye on your credit reports and credit card bills after you receive the package.
- **Notify the retailer.** If you can tell where the package is from, go directly to the retailer’s website to get their contact information and report the package as a scam. Retailers like Amazon have policies banning brushing and fake reviews, and they will investigate your report.
- **Check for fake reviews.** If you can identify the company that sent you the packages,

look for false reviews in your name and report them to the retailer.

- **Pause deliveries.** One package is no big deal, but some targets of brushing scams are overwhelmed with a floor of unordered packages, creating a serious problem. If this happens, you may want to consider temporarily refusing package delivery at your home address and directing your real orders to a package acceptance service.
- **Keep the package.** The one silver lining of brushing scams is that you get to keep the gift - the Federal Trade Commission says you have a legal right to keep unordered merchandise. Don’t try to return it, especially if there are instructions to scan a QR code or enter information. It could needlessly compromise more of your personal information.

Senior Center to reveal day trips

AGAWAM – Joanne Locke and Debbie Sorcinelli of Insiders Travel, LLC, in partnership with the Agawam Senior Center, will host a 2026 Day Trip Reveal Party on Tuesday, Jan. 20.

The event will be hosted at the Agawam Senior Center located at 954 Main St. with two presentations times. One will be at 12:30 p.m. following lunch and the

second will take place at 6 p.m. Attendees will have the opportunity to preview exclusive 2026 day trips curated for adults age 55 and over. While the trips are designed with this age group in mind, all are welcome to attend. RSVP to the reveal party is required. Guests who RSVP will be entered into a raffle to win a \$25 gift of adventure. A \$99 gift certificate

will also be awarded, with a raffle ticket for each \$20 trip deposit made that day. Cash and checks are accepted. To RSVP or for more information about 2026 trips, contact InsidersTravel2025@gmail.com or call/text Joanne Locke at (413) 478-4698 or Debbie at (413) 478-2834. A sign-up sheet is also available on the Agawam Senior Center bulletin board.

NAMI holding calendar raffle

HOLYOKE – NAMI-WM is holding a calendar raffle fundraiser for February 2026. Participants will pay \$15 for a chance to win prizes awarded each day of the month. These prizes include gift cards to various local businesses, and cash prizes. Through our fundraising, we are able to raise

awareness and provide essential education, advocacy, support groups and programs throughout your Western Mass area. Mental health support and awareness has become an increasingly important issue with all of the changes in the world. Our dedication and

commitment to mental health awareness and support within our communities is vital. Our Board of Directors, along with our dedicated staff, colleagues and volunteers work together with an ongoing goal to get our services, advocacy and assistance out into the community.

Town nurse announces last-chance flu shots

AGAWAM – Flu season is upon us. The Agawam Health Department still has a very limited supply of senior High-dose flu vaccine and regular

flu vaccine available. Once gone there will be no more until next year. Home visits available to be scheduled for homebound seniors.

Don’t be sick for the holidays, get vaccinated today. Please call Nurse Pam at 726-9722 to schedule an appointment.

Agawam Day in Florida tradition continues

ST PETERSBURG, FL – The 45nd annual “Agawam Day in Florida” will be held on Wednesday, March 4, 2026 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Former

Agawam residents, old friends, classmates and relatives will meet at Fort DeSoto National Park, St. Petersburg, FL. for a reunion, picnic, raffles, hugs

and to share old memories. For more information, contact: Hank Drewnowski call/text 860-462-7273 or email - hdrew2452@gmail.com.

Department of Public Works hosts used holiday light collection for community

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 curb-side trash or recycling collection cart. Holiday light strings are known as “tangles” in the recycling industry. Tangles 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. Light strings may be delivered to the Department of Public Works front office from Dec. 1 to Jan. 16. This program is for light strings only: incandescent, 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

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.
HD25P2693EA
Estate of:
Adeline R Ayers
Also known as:
Adeline Rose Ayers
Date of Death: 10/18/2025
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 **Arlene J Mazza of Feeding Hills, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Arlene J Mazza of Feeding Hills, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain

a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/05/2026. 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.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE

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: December 31, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
01/08/2026

**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.
HD25P2665EA
Estate of:
Deborah I Kelly
Date of Death: 09/03/2025
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Public Administration** has been filed by **John J Ferriter of Holyoke, 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 **John J Ferriter of Holyoke, MA**

be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Corporate 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 01/21/2026. 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.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE

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 inter-

ested 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: December 24, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
01/08/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No.
HD25P2646EA
Estate of:
Elizabeth Jane Kida
Also Known As:
Elizabeth Kida, Elizabeth J Kida, Betty Kida
Date of Death:
September 4, 2025
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Sheila A. Kida of Westfield, MA** a Will has been admitted to in-

formal probate.

Sheila A. Kida of Westfield, MA

has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety on the bond.**

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

From the Law Office of W. Rockne Palmer
48 E. Silver St., Suite 1
Westfield, MA (413) 568-4351
rock@rockpalmer.com
01/08/2026

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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.

FUNDS ■ from page 5

college students to assist 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 businessman, 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.