

Pair opens new vintage store

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

AGAWAM – Karen Cabana and Kara Phadael opened a new vintage store in Agawam.

The store, called Karen & Kara's Vintage Vibes and Curiosities sells a wide variety of items including kitchen ware, glassware and jewelry.

Selling vintage items has been a dream of Cabana's for a long time. Prior to opening the store she had been looking to set up a stand at a local store. Then, the opportunity opened for her to purchase her own space.

"My first instinct was 'oh my gosh, no, that's too much,' but then I said 'well, don't be negative,'" Cabana said. "I thought about my friend Kara and I jumped up from my desk, ran over to where she sits, and I said to her, 'do you want to go into business with me?'"

Phadael had also long been interested in vintage items. She had already had some experience selling pieces she had found, but she was interested in expanding further.

So, when Cabana asked, Phadael quickly agreed.

Three days later, they rented the space and started preparation for opening the shop. They have yet to regret the decision.

"It's a job that doesn't feel like a job," Phadael shared. "I can't wait until it takes over my life."

Both Phadael and Cabana are grateful for the welcome they have received from the people of Agawam.

"The community has been really welcoming, and it's pretty amazing," Cabana said.

Already they have several customers who they think will become regulars. They also make sure to always greet repeat customers with new items.

"We are constantly bringing in some new stuff, even if we have to take things out that didn't sell to make room



Karen & Kara's Vintage Vibes and Curiosities has opened in Agawam.

for the new items," Phadael said. "So every time you walk into our shop, you're going to see things you didn't see last time."

Phadael and Cabana think that their success is, at least in-part, due to their prices.

"We want to let people enjoy vintage items at affordable prices," Cabana said.

Additionally, they take a lot of pride in the environment of their store.

"We wanted Karen & Kara's Vintage Vibes to be different from the stereotypical antique shop," Phadael said. "We want people to feel comfortable browsing, gathering inspiration, and enjoying the experience—not just shopping."

They also shared their gratitude to the employees at Cooper's Gifts. Cabana and Phadael share a building

with Cooper's Gifts and all of the employees have been very welcoming.

"The staff at Cooper's have been great," Cabana said. "They helped us learn how to style a window because we had never had to style a front window before. They met us here early on days they didn't even have to work."

Cabana and Phadael look forward to establishing themselves further in Agawam as the months go by. They also hope to potentially expand to a second store in the future so they have more space to display their items.

Karen & Kara's Vintage Vibes is open on Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To keep up to date on the store, go to their website at <https://kkvintagevibes.com/>.

Obituary

Robert J. Cecchi, 1944-2026

Robert J. Cecchi, 81, of Feeding Hills, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, June 9 following a tragic accident while on the 2026 Hot Rod Power Tour. He was traveling in his vintage '37 Plymouth Hot Rod with his beloved wife, Clarice, doing what he loved. Born on October 1, 1944 in Springfield, Rob was the son of the late Erminio and Anna Cecchi, of Feeding Hills. He grew up on the family farm, a place that shaped his character and would later become his life's work.

As a second-generation farmer and proud owner of E. Cecchi Farms, Rob leaves behind a remarkable legacy of hard work, perseverance, and dedication to serving the local community. Through his commitment to providing fresh produce and flowers, he touched the lives of generations of families throughout the region. Leaving school at an early age to help raise a family and run the farm, he was instrumental in its growth and success. Rob was never daunted by challenges, whether from Mother Nature or the ever-changing economy. He simply accepted them as the nature of the business; "If farming was easy, everyone would do it."

Though he "retired" years ago, retirement never quite seemed to suit him, and in recent years, he could still be found tinkering in his garage, fixing tractors and trucks, welding parts, or offering advice - whether it was requested or not. He had a natural talent for trouble shooting mechanical problems, and his sons kept him busy with a never-ending list of machinery and tractors

that needed attention.

Through his example, he instilled a strong work ethic and sense of responsibility in his children and grandchildren that will continue on for generations. It brought him great joy to see his sons grow up working alongside him and carry on his life's work. Rob was deeply rooted in the community; he was an active member of the Agawam Chapter of The Lions Club and supported local food banks through contributions from the farm.

When he wasn't working on the farm, Rob could be found adventuring with the woman he loved the most, Clarice, his wife of 22 years. He loved the open road, and enjoyed traveling the country with Clarice on road trips and weekend drives, frequently stopping at casinos, visiting Harley dealerships, or enjoying a meal at one of their favorite restaurants. They loved to include friends and family in their trips when possible, and would often make new friends along the way. Spending winters in Punta Gorda, FL in recent years, they enjoyed the sunshine, going for bike rides, square dancing, and gardening. They were members of Harley Davidson clubs in both locations, and Rob will be missed greatly by their club members and neighbors.

Rob was an avid collector and lover of vintage tractors and trucks, agricultural tools and equipment, and a pig enthusiast, developing an impressive collection despite only having acquired the hobby later in life. Rob and Clarice attended many annual "pig conventions" and even hosted one on the farm.

Above all else, Rob loved his family and friends, and they all loved him back in equal measure. He was fondly referred to by his children as "Pop" and by his grandchildren as "Nono". Though he was at times a man of few words, he didn't need many to convey his feelings for the people

he loved. It was a quiet, unspoken love that could always be felt by those closest to him. He would drop anything to help a friend or family member, and frequently lent his handiness to helping take on a new project. He had a great sense of humor, which was often on display at family gatherings or on his many escapades with Clarice. Rob's grandchildren will forever remember the many Friday night pool nights, flea market visits, and road trips with him and Clarice, who worked as a team to ensure every occasion was unique and exciting, often including games, contests, or costumes.

Rob's legacy will live on in the family he cherished, the farm he devoted his life to, the community he served, and the many lessons he has passed on through his example.

Rob was predeceased by his first wife Emily Cecchi. He is survived by his loving wife, Clarice Cecchi, his children, David (Laurie), Bobby, and Michael (Michelle) Cecchi, step-daughter, Jenny Lafond, his sister, Carol (Jim) Kaleialoha, and his grandchildren, Dillon, Joseph, Megan, Bailey, Bethany.

In honor of Rob's wishes, there will be no public services or calling hours. Donations can be made in Rob's memory to the Agawam Lions Club.

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.

DEATH NOTICE

Robert J. Cecchi
Died June 9, 2026



MUSIC ■ from page1

of representation, and I had lots of comments on my thousands of comments on my TikTok's. Lots of comments that she can't have dementia and play piano that well. She can't have dementia and have a sense of humor. All these things. So that's when I started recording some of her dementia. And showing that, yes, this woman really is lost in space and time, until you get her to a piano.

Lebar's mother walked into a room and began to play for people, the energy in the room shifted and people seemed to wake up. "That is honestly a physical thing to watch. It is a natural part of humanity, going back millennia, that people will respond to rhythm and sound and people will tap their feet and it creates a unison, cause everybody's doing the same thing. And it just wakes people up; it's just magical."

A large portion of Lebar's presentation discussed ways to gently lie or distract in order to keep the peace, she tells us why she believes this method works well, "Mostly that book and then watching some of the more experienced aids in my mother's memory care unit, who knew how to do it. Who knew how to distract, divert attention, those kinds of things. It's not a natural thing to lie. But when you see the positive impact of it, and really the car keys thing was for me that was a switch flipping in my head because I'm like, 'oh this worked like right away' and it didn't embarrass her."

Adult Services Library Associate Kristen Frost wanted to have the presentation at Agawam Public Library

"The journey of Randi and her mom Elaine is one that anyone who knows someone with dementia will be familiar with," Frost said. "Randi presents their story in such a

compassionate and relatable way, so that anyone who may be experiencing something similar will connect with. The Music and Memory helps others realize they are not alone in dealing with the stages of dementia a loved one is experiencing. Randi's message is ultimately encouraging to others, demonstrating that there are pathways to connect with someone in a meaningful way throughout their dementia diagnosis. Alzheimer's Awareness Month is a perfect time to showcase this kind of information."

Lebar is dedicated to spreading all the information, tips and tricks she learned through her journey with her mother to communities everywhere to provide some answers and comfort for those going through similar journeys with their loved ones. For more information about upcoming events at Agawam Public Library visit the library's website.

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outdoor relief, Agawam's Spray Park is open now at School Street Park. It operates daily from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and is available to all visitors because it was created using funds from the Community Preservation Act Fund.

Perry Lane Pool is also now available for limited

hours. It is available Monday through Friday from 4 to 6 p.m.

Campers at the Perry Lane day camp utilize it during the daytime. The pool is also open for residents from 12 to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sunday.

Updates for all of these locations can be found on the town's website at www.agawam.ma.us.

Johnson also said all residents should do their part and look out for their friends and neighbors, including checking on elderly residents who live alone or are otherwise vulnerable.

The summer is very early, it is more likely than not that cooling centers will be utilized at more points between now and September.

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.
HD24P2583EA
Estate of:
Patricia M Maynard
Date of Death: 10/25/2024
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Clark P Maynard of Feeding Hills, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, a determination of 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 07/31/2026.

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. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 29, 2026
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
07/02/2026

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.
HD03P185476TP1
In the matter of:
Hortense H. Bergeron
Date of Death: 01/01/1900
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ALLOWANCE OF ACCOUNT

To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by: **Bank of America, N.A. of Springfield, MA / Timothy J Ryan of Springfield, MA** requesting allowance of the thirty-seventh to the forty-second account(s) as Trustee 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 07/30/2026.

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

date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

Witness, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 17, 2026
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
07/02/2026

Town of Agawam
Legal Notice

The **Agawam Planning Board** will hold a public hearing on Thursday, July 16, 2026 at 6:00pm and the **Agawam City Council** will hold its public hearing on Monday, August 3, 2026 at 7:00pm at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of these hearings will be to hear the petition of Mayor Johnson & Council President Russo for a proposed zoning amendment for "An Ordinance Enacting a Temporary Moratorium on Data Centers in the Town of Agawam." The 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 zoning amendment can be obtained from the Planning Department between the hours of 7:30am and 3:30pm 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, Chairman
Agawam Planning Board
Anthony Russo
City Council President
07/02, 07/09/2026



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