



REGION
Sheriff's Cuts
 PAGE 2



OUTDOORS
Fish Ladder Open House
 PAGE 3



SPORTS
Brownies baseball wins
 PAGE 8

AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

May 14, 2026 | Vol. 48, No. 11 | \$1.00

www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com



Members of St. Martha's Guild, Peter, Mary Ann, Debbie, Joyce, Tom, Mary, Gina, John and Joanne.



Sacred Heart Parish hosts annual Mother's Day Bake and Tag Sale

By Christina Gioscia
 Correspondent

AGAWAM – Last Saturday, May 9, Sacred Heart Parish held their annual bake and tag sale event in celebration of Mother's Day. Even with the rain, the bake and tag sale still had a large turnout of people ready to find a gift for Mother's Day or simply support Sacred Heart Parish. Joanne Cappuccilli, President of St. Martha's Guild at Sacred Heart shared that this event has been happening for over ten years now. Each year, Sacred Heart ac-

cepts donated items for the tag sale and donated baked goods for the bake sale. To get a table to sell for the tag sale, it was twenty dollars. All proceeds from this event go towards the scholarships that Sacred Heart Parish puts together. Along with the donated goods, St. Martha's Guild makes homemade Italian cookies and sells them for five dollars per box. Additionally, the boxes for the Italian cookies are carefully decorated with bows and flowers, making them the



Members of St. Martha's Guild, Bob, Sue, and Mary Ellen selling plants at the Mother's Day Bake and Tag Sale.

MOTHER'S | page 12

TURLEY PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

Town continues shelter agreement with Southwick

By Gregory A. Scibelli
 gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – While Agawam is a larger community, for many years now, they have relied on smaller neighbor Southwick for their needs when it comes to animal control.

The town renewed its intermunicipal agreement with Southwick to house animals picked up by the animal control officer.

More than a decade ago, a Southwick resident, Robert Polverari, donated the funding needed to take Southwick's dilapidated, failing animal housing facility, and created an entirely new building behind the Southwick Police Headquarters. The facility has adequate storage for cats, dogs, as well as areas dedicated to medical evaluations, retrieving animals and allowing them to go outside.

Agawam has no such facility in the community and the law requires the town to have a place to hold dogs or cats for a short period of time.

According to the agreement resolution submitted by Mayor Christopher Johnson, Agawam's most recent agree-

ment with the Town of Southwick expired at the end of the last fiscal year, June 30, 2025.

According to a renewal agreement, which is retroactive to July 1, 2025, the Town of Agawam agrees to pay Southwick a total of \$15,000 per year for the next three years. The payments are made in monthly installments of \$1,250 per month. The provisions of the contract do not have any provisions related to the number of animals Agawam houses in Southwick.

Southwick provides any training necessary to Agawam's ACO personnel if they require access to the shelter in order to process an animal during off-hours.

The Massachusetts mandated quarantine period for dogs brought to the facility is seven days. If an animal is not claimed by its owner in that time period, either Agawam or Southwick may be able to enter the animal into Southwick's Animal Shelter Programs to make the dog available for adoption.

Southwick has been a no-kill shelter for many years and strives to find homes for

SHELTER | page 10

Golf course looks to make major upgrades to maintenance equipment

By Gregory A. Scibelli
 gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – With continued success at the Agawam Municipal Golf Course, the Golf Course is seeking to utilize its retained earnings and make multiple equipment purchases heading into the

new fiscal year.

The course and the mayor's office was subject of some criticism late last year after Mayor Christopher Johnson asked the city council to approval a loan from the town's stabilization fund to temporarily fund the purchase of a new fleet of golf carts for the

facility to replace aging carts.

Johnson pledged the have the loan paid back in two years with 4% interest. Previous loans to the golf course at various stages of success have not been paid back, leading to reluctance that this loan would be paid back.

Johnson was true to his

word, and the two-year loan was paid back within months of the purchase.

Now, the course's stabilization fund is at nearly \$550,000 and Johnson is asking the Agawam City Council to approve to spending nearly \$240,000 in equipment purchases from the course

fund.

According to information provided to the city council for the fund transfer, a quote from Finch turf details the purchase of a utility tractor, a John Deer Progorator, a tow-behind widespin, a golf-lift, a pro-flex, and a sod cutter. There are also more pur-

chases also being made.

"The Course Superintendent has asked to purchase some new and used course maintenance equipment with funding from the Municipal Golf Stabilization Fund," Johnson states. "The

GOLF | page 10

Memorial Day Parade announced

AGAWAM – The Agawam Veterans Council is having their annual Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony on Monday, May 25. Please join us at the new Veterans Memorial in School Street Park. Parade starts at 10 a.m. at Bethany Assembly of God enters onto Main Street, turns down School Street and continue on to the new Veteran Memorial in School Street Park with the ceremony immediately following. There will be a picnic for those who wish to join the Veterans Council after the ceremony.

AHS sports teams flag graves



Members of the boys volleyball and softball teams recently helped flag graves at local cemeteries. The student-athletes joined forces with the Agawam Veterans Council to help flag veteran graves. It was a powerful morning of service, honoring those who have served our country and ensuring their legacies are remembered. AHS is proud of these players and their coaches for leading by example and showing that Agawam Pride extends far beyond the court and the field.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



Phone: 413.283.8393 • Facebook: @AgawamAdvertiserNews • Email: aan@turley.com

AC Tune-Ups & New Installations

PROPANE: 413.998.0080
 OIL/AC: 413.998.0090

500•514 Salmon Brook St., GRANBY, CT



STATE LINE

PROPANE • OIL
 SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATIONS

StateLinePropaneOil.com

Lic. S1: 303179 • P1: 204150 • HOD: 737-478

Looking for an AC solution for your home or office?



Turn to the experts

Go Ductless!

Let us design a system that works for your environment.



SPORTS

Ten-run sixth leads Agawam past Comp

CHICOPEE – Last Thursday afternoon, it was all Chicopee Comprehensive for the first four innings, as they built a 6-1 lead. But Agawam scored three in the fifth to close the gap, and then had a 10-run sixth inning to turn the game around and Agawam would defeat Chicopee Comprehensive 15-9. Cameron Vanderhoof went 3-for-5 with an RBI and three runs scored. Gavin Cruz had two hits and two walks and drove in four runs for the Brownies. Agawam improved to 5-10 for the season while Comp fell to 6-10.



Parker Bean slides into second.



Connor Glynn cleanly fields a grounder to second.



Dominic Chriscola sends a pitch home.



Cameron Vanderhoof slings a throw to first.



Gavin Cruz makes solid contact.



Zachary O'Connor catches a throw to third.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

WSU softball wins conference title

WESTFIELD – After 10 trips to the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference softball championship game, the top-seeded Westfield State University Owls finally cashed in when first year RF Lyla Dwyer pulled a ball through the hole on the left side infield and sophomore 3B Allysa Slack scored with a head-first dive across the plate in the bottom of the ninth inning as the Owls scored a 1-0 extra innings win over #2 seed Worcester State on Sunday.

With the win, the Owls improve to 38-1 on the season, and the Owls earn the league's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. Westfield will be making its third-ever appearance in the big dance, but first since 1983. Westfield will learn their destination and opponent in the NCAA's in a live selection show on NCAA.com slated for Monday at 11.

Worcester's season comes to a close at 25-15.

The two teams duelled through seven innings scoreless at 0-0, an old-fashioned pitchers duel between the Owls Angelina Vartuli, who was named the tournament MVP, and Worcester's Peyton Maloney.

Worcester put one runner aboard in the top of the eighth on a single by Emma LaPoint, but Vartuli invoked a pair of pop ups to Slack at third to end the threat.

Westfield appeared to catch a break in the bottom of the eighth as Hannah Wodecki singled to left with one out, and the ball slipped past the fielder to put Wodecki at second base, but Mia Alfonso popped to second and Latour lined to center to go to the ninth scoreless.

Vartuli sent the Lancers down in order in the top of the ninth, with a pair of ground outs to Slack sandwiched around one to Sarah

Hough at short.

Slack doubled to right center leading off the bottom half of the inning when the ball dropped between the center and right fielder after an apparent miscommunication, and after Caroline O'Donnell popped to right, Dwyer stepped in with one out, and slashed one pitch just foul down the third base line, before finding the hole for a base hit on the game winner.

Vartuli (W, 13-0) allowed six hits over nine innings, walking just one and fanning six for her 13th win of the season.

Worcester's Maloney (L, 10-6) matched her nearly pitch for pitch, working 8.1 innings, scattering 10 hits, and walking and striking out one against an Owls lineup that entered the weekend ranked third in the country in scoring offense at almost nine runs per game.

LaTour was 2-4 with a double and O'Donnell fin-

ished 2-3 with a walk to lead the Owl bats. Carisa Andrews was the lone repeat hitter for the Lancers, finished 2-4 with a stolen base. Bailey Tammaro's double in the fifth was the lone extra base hit for the Lancers.

Worcester put two runners aboard in the second before Vartuli got a pop up to end the inning. Andrews made it as far as third in the seventh, but again Vartuli got a pop out to short to end the threat.

The Owls first true scoring chance came in the second inning after a one-out single by Cassidy LaTour followed by a Lancers error put two in scoring position. O'Donnell followed and stung a line drive back up the middle, hitting Slack who had no way to avoid the ball, causing a dead ball and sending LaTour back to third base instead of scoring the first run of the game. Maloney then escaped the threat by getting a pop up in

foul territory.

In the fifth inning, the Owls put two aboard with two outs after a single into left by Rylie Camacho. Hough stepped in and laced a liner back up the middle forcing pinch runner Kalisa Pomfret to duck as she narrowly avoided getting drilled. She could only advance up to third base causing Camacho to overrun the bag at second in expecting the runner to be sent, but the Lancers were able to tag her out in a rundown before Pomfret could cross home.

Westfield wins the MAS-CAC tournament title for the first time since the league began a post-season tournament in 2001, though the Owls had played in 10 previous finals. Westfield lost as the #1 seed in 2024 and 2025, dropping two games in the championship round to Framingham at home in 2024, and falling to Worcester in the elimination semifinal in 2025

Brownies qualified for state tournaments

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School boys volleyball team is once again looking to challenge for a state championship. They will have some tough challengers to contend with this season as they move toward the final stages of the regular season.

Last week, Agawam was defeated by rival Westfield 3-1. It was the second loss of the season to Westfield, and between Western Mass. and the state tournament, it is possible both teams will see each other again at least one more time. Agawam also beat Central last week 3-1 and their final regular season is set for Friday, May 15 at home against Millford High School at 6:15 p.m.