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AGAWAM

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Town remembers 9/11 attacks on 25th anniversary



The September 11 Memorial, showing the World Trade Center buildings.

TURLEY PHOTO BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

AGAWAM – Last Friday morning, Sept. 11, the Agawam Fire Department Headquarters held a Remembrance Ceremony. Speaking at the ceremony was Agawam Fire Chief Alan Sirois, Rev. Stephen Thee with Bethany Assembly of God, Mayor Christopher Johnson, and Pastor Tim Sheranko with First Baptist Church.

This year's ceremony marked the 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

During Sirois's speech he

highlighted the bravery shown by the men and women who were police officers, firefighters, or civilians that ran to help save lives that day. Sirois called on the audience to be inspired by such bravery and help others throughout life.

During Johnson's speech he recognized the courage shown by veterans, police officers, firefighters and everyone who fights and works everyday to keep people safe.

A major point multiple speakers mentioned at the ceremony was the choice to remember. It is important that each

and every year we remember what happened on 9/11 and reflect on the lives lost and also how the world changes because of the tragic events that day. Several speakers highlighted the importance of educating the younger generations and ensuring that they realize the true impact that 9/11 still has on the world today.

"I mean this day 25 years ago sculpted the country that we live in today," Sirois said. "Make no doubt about it, it was the events of 9/11 that crafted our current government, our policy, our current economy, everything that

we do day to day; our levels of security. The level of security that we feel on a personal basis. It's a generational moment, our nation was never attacked like that before. To have almost a thousand people killed in a matter of minutes, it was unheard of. Unless you've experienced it, it's hard to describe. But the stories that people tell are moving."

Sirois said first responders knew what they were doing and entered the buildings without any reluctance.

"I mean, the men and wom-

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Library screens 9/11 film, discusses impact

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

AGAWAM – Agawam Public Library had two viewings of a 25th Anniversary of 9/11 Commemorative Film, and a discussion about the film and tragic events after. This event was in collaboration with the 9/11 Memorial and Museum. The thirty-minute film highlighted the stories of different people who were at the World Trade Center that day or lost family members on Sept. 11, 2001.

Frost shared how on 9/11 firefighters, police officers and regular civilians were able to band together to help each other as much as possible, "We were just all talking about, you

know, our experiences, and I certainly was not there that day but it was a frightening day. But seeing the first responders and the bravery that they executed on that day, I think it was just overwhelming for all of us to know that those courageous people put themselves in harm's way like that; knowing that something really tragic could and was probably going to happen. I think people just wanted to be helpful and do what they could. And I feel like this major tragedy, in some ways, brought people together in the country, in a really important way. So, I think everyone wanted to help in the best way they could. And those would be the stories, I guess, that we may nit know all



Books for all ages reflecting on 9/11 set out in the community room for attendees to check out at the film viewings.

TURLEY PHOTO BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

of them ever."

Frost says it's important to remember the events of 9/11 and teach the younger generations about it.

"I don't think the younger folks in the country realize what an unbelievable event

this was for those of us who were witnessing it that day, in whatever capacity, whether you were watching it on TV or you were there," Frost said.

"I think schools try to present

LIBRARY | page 10

Increase in e-bike violation fines passes first reading

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

AGAWAM – The city council discussed increasing the fines for violating the E-Bike Ordinance at their meeting on Sept. 8.

The council unanimously agreed that this was needed in order to keep E-Bike riders safe.

"We've seen an influx [of modified E-Bikes], creating a hazard to not only the people

riding them but people on sidewalks," Councilor Dino Mercadante said.

This was the first reading of the amendment. The second reading will take place at an upcoming meeting and, should it be passed, the amendment will go into place.

The fines would change to \$50 for the first violation, \$100 for the second and \$300 for the third. Additionally, people who violated the ordi-

nance could have their bikes impounded for up to 15 days.

The goal of this increase in fines is to spread awareness of the dangers of modification of E-Bikes.

"Ultimately the purpose of this is to save lives, and if that is how you get people's attention, by fining them, so be it," Mercadante said.

"The town of Agawam is not looking for another revenue stream, the town of Agawam is looking to be proactive to

save your kids' lives."

The ordinance itself focuses on banning modifications on the speed of the bikes and on exceeding the passenger limit of the bikes.

Many of those riding E-Bikes are younger children, and the council does not want to see anyone injured due to improper use of E-Bikes.

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Majority of city council supports reducing taxes on overtime, tips

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

AGAWAM – The city council had an intense discussion about a resolution supporting the reduction of income tax on overtime pay and tips.

The resolution passed 8-3, with Councilors Robert Rossi, Rosemary Sandlin and Tom Hendrickson voting against it.

Since it passed, the resolution will be sent to state legislators showing that Agawam is in support of a reduction on income tax on overtime pay and tips.

The majority of the council felt that this resolution would support workers who need the extra income in the current

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SPORTS

Brownies girls soccer splits opening week



Bella Santaniello advances up the field for the Brownies.

AGAWAM – Last week, Agawam High School girls soccer got their season off to a fair start with a win and a loss in their first two games.

In their season opener at Chicopee Comprehensive, the Brownies shut out the Colts 2-0. Mena Stellato and Nawra Ahmed scored the goals for the Brownies while

Kayleen Sullivan made 10 saves for the shutout.

Agawam was shut out by South Hadley 1-0 last Thursday at home to fall to 1-1.

Coming up, Agawam faces rival Ludlow on Thursday, Sept. 17 at 4 p.m. The Brownies are back home against Northampton at 4 p.m. Tuesday afternoon.



Samantha Izzo goes after a 50/50 ball.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



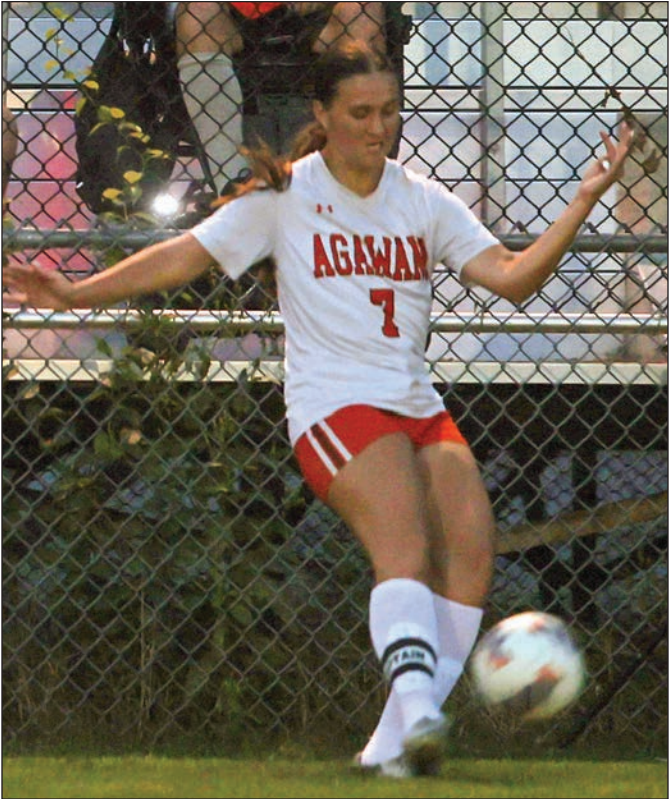
Alyssa Rondinelli looks to pass.



Gabriella Ramos gets ready to shoot.



Mena Stellato moves the ball to her left.



Victoria Papova clears the ball away.