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AGAWAM

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Mayor opposing economic development bill

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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AGAWAM – Mayor Christopher Johnson is asking the Agawam City Council to join him in opposing an economic development bill currently in the state legislature.

The bill would allow duplexes (two-family homes) by right in all residential zones in the senate version. The House version would allow highly density multi-family housing by right on land owned by religious institutions.

Johnson's resolution says the bill would undermine current zoning ordinances that are on the books in Agawam.

"(It would) remove the voice of residents in the local zoning process," Johnson's resolution states.

Johnson also states infrastructure needs caused by such zoning would also be ignored, and it is not in Agawam's best interests to support the legislation.

The resolution from the mayor is symbolic in nature and, if passed by the council,

would only state the town, as represented by the city council's, position on the issue.

Resolutions like this typically have come from city councilors who are opposing bills at the state and federal level.

If passed, the resolution would be sent to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House along with Agawam's local legislators.

The council was scheduled to take up the issue at their last meeting.



Sunshine Village holds Third Annual 'Little E'

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE/AGAWAM - Sunshine Village held its Third Annual Little E event at its Litwin Lane location on Sept. 18.

The event featured a variety of activities, including a baked potato bar and

walking tacos, numerous traditional and non-traditional carnival games, a K-9 demonstration with the Chicopee Police Department, members of the Hampden County Sheriff's Office with their equine unit and information about Project Lifesaver, a photo booth with props, client artists, crafters and entrepreneurs showing off their creations for purchase, entertainment provided by the Just Go With It Band and more.

State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) and Tevin Colon, aide for State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), also presented a special proclamation to celebrate the occasion.

Jennifer Guzman, client relations manager at Sunshine Village, explained the event was the organization's way of bringing their version of The Big E to their community to coincide with the fair's opening day. She is also one of the folks who help organize the event.

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Committee learns about summer updates to Agawam Public Schools

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

AGAWAM – Agawam Public Schools went through a variety of updates over the summer to prepare for the new school year.

School Business Administrator Robert Clicksteine came before the school committee on Sept. 15 to present on the various updates APS went through over the summer.

All of the projects completed over the summer were funded by the Massachusetts School Building Authority, the town building maintenance budget and the Agawam after school program.

Each of the school buildings now has a carbon monoxide detector within it. Additionally, schools received various painting, plumbing, electrical and HVAC updates.

Benjamin J. Phelps school received some new landscaping updates, including a new parking lot.

Roberta G. Doering School had an upgrade to their media center, including new floors and chairs.

"Walking in there it looks a lot brighter and it feels

more homey," Clicksteine said.

Several schools also received updates to their gymnasiums. William P. Sapelli school was the proud recipient of a new climbing wall for all students to enjoy.

"Each of the [rock sections] on the wall can be adjusted for different heights and skill levels," Clicksteine said.

The rock wall includes color-coded holds for various difficulty levels so children can practice and improve at their own rate.

Clifford M. Granger, James Clark, Doering and Sapelli Schools also got new basketball hoops that are self-adjusting and have glass backs.

Additionally, Phelps was fitted with new padding within the gym.

These updates are all intended to help the schools run smoother and be more enjoyable for the community.

The school committee was grateful for all of the work Clicksteine and his team had put in over the summer.

"I don't think people realize all the little things that

SCHOOLS | page 12

Agawam librarians gearing up for busy fall, winter season with exciting programs

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

AGAWAM - Agawam Public Library has some new and returning exciting events and programs planned for this upcoming fall. Children's Librarian Pamela Weingart and Adult Services Library Associate Kristen Frost shared some of the many offerings.

"In terms of recurring events, the library has weekly chair yoga on Wednesday mornings. This is a very well attended class the people truly enjoy," Frost said. "We have a monthly writers group that meets the third Thursday of the month at 6 p.m., hosted by author Katherine Anderson where writers can share their work, learn about

publishing opportunities and give and receive feedback on their writing. We have 5 monthly book clubs available at the library, Page Turners, a daytime fiction book discussion, Nightbookers, an evening fiction discussion, the Non-Fiction Book Club, meets in the evening to discuss non-fiction books, the Read With the Pride, meets

in the evening to discuss books or films with a LGBTQ+ connection, and we recently added the Silent Book Club, gives people a place to come and read together without having to discuss. Folks can refer to our online calendar for all the monthly book discussion titles and dates. The library also offers a monthly Tea and Trivia program which

is offered once during day and once in the evening. Library technology classes and individual sessions also take place on a monthly basis, featuring different topics throughout the year. A monthly walking group is offered one Saturday a month in the fall and spring at various parks throughout Agawam and Feeding Hills. We also try to offer some

kind of craft on a regular basis as well as occasional escape room programs and music bingo. The library has been lucky to have a fall and a spring session of Qigong classes which meet on Tuesday mornings. We offer a class for ESOL, English for Speak-

LIBRARY | page 12

Marching band makes first performance

The Agawam High School marching band gathers after its first performance, which took place at the School Convocation event on September 1. Coming up, the band will perform at the Big E on Salute to Agawam Day on Wednesday, Sept. 30.



SPORTS

Girls soccer falls in Ludlow

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – Entering the third week of the regular season, the Ludlow girls' varsity soccer team had a 3-1 overall record and a 2-1 mark against Kurty/Fielding Division opponents.

Junior forward Geia Guzman, who's a second-year member of the varsity squad, played a key role in two of the three Lady Lions victories.

In the first meeting of the regular season against league rival Agawam, Guzman delivered a goal in each half, as the Lady Lions began their home slate with 2-1 victory, last Thursday afternoon.

"It feels really good to score two goals and help my team win a game," said Guzman, who scored only two goals for the varsity team as a sophomore. "I couldn't have done it without the help of my teammates."

Guzman also scored a pair of goals in Ludlow's season opening 2-0 win at South Hadley on September 8.

She was credited with an assist in a 3-2 road loss against Northampton, which was the Lady Lions only setback.

The Brownies (1-4, 1-2), who haven't beaten the Lady Lions since 2019, lost their fourth consecutive match after beginning the 2026 campaign with a 2-0 non-league victory at Chicopee Comp.

The home side was given a penalty kick by the referees a minute into the opening half following a foul in the box.

Guzman took the PK but Agawam junior goalie Kayleen Sullivan made the save.

"I was shocked when I made the save on the PK because goalies usually don't make them," said Sullivan, who made a total of nine saves in the road match. "Even though we lost, it was still a very competitive game."

After making the initial save on the PK, the ball slipped away from the Brownies keeper. Guzman pounced on the rebound and her shot attempt clanged off the right post leaving the contest scoreless.

The Lady Lions had a couple of other scoring chances during the first twenty minutes of the opening half.

Down at the other end of the field, Ludlow senior goalie Maddy Riley (10 saves) made a save on the Brownies first shot attempt taken by sophomore Grace Curto in the 27th minute.



Nawra Ahmed heads up the field.



Bella Santaniello competes to keep possession.

The Lady Lions took a 1-0 lead seven minutes later when a shot by Guzman slipped past Sullivan into the back of the net.

"I really didn't think I scored on that shot," Guzman said. "The ball just bounced into the net."

Senior Maeve Carter was credited with the assist on the Lady Lions first goal.

With a minute remain-

ing in the opening half, the Brownies tied the score following a free kick goal. The kick was taken by junior Gaby Ramos and sophomore Olivia Izzo put a shot into the net for her first goal of the season.

The match was tied 1-1 at halftime.

The Lady Lions retook the lead eight minutes into the second half.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

The scoring play began with a long punt by Riley. Guzman gained possession of the loose ball before lining a shot into the back of the net.

"Maddy always does a very good job punting the ball down the field," Guzman said. "I'm very glad that I was able to score another game winning goal."

Seconds after the field



Olivia Izzo brings in a pass.



Gabriella Ramos settles the ball after collecting a pass

lights clicked on during the 62nd minute, Agawam freshman Mackenzie Lynch lofted a shot from about 25 yards out. Riley managed to knock the ball over the crossbar resulting in a corner kick and keeping the one goal lead.

Ten minutes later, Agawam sophomore Mena Stelato fired a shot attempt from the right sideline that skipped wide of the net.

While the scoreboard clock ran for whole 40 minutes in the first half, the ref-

erees had the clock turned off with three minutes remaining in regulation.

Sullivan prefers the clock to keep running throughout the entire match.

"It was very stressful when they stopped the clock late in the second half," Sullivan said. "I like to breakdown the game in ten minute segments. I had no idea how much time was left when the turned off the clock."

SOCCER | page 12

Brownies boys soccer in search of first win

AGAWAM – Last Thursday afternoon, the Agawam High School boys soccer team battled to a 1-1 draw with host Pittsfield. The Brownies got their lone goal from Ben Gechka. In the tie, Jace Wayne made nine saves.

So far this fall, Agawam has a pair of losses and two ties. In addition to Pittsfield, the Brownies also tied

Amherst to go with losses against Northampton and West Springfield.

After facing Minnechaug earlier this week, Agawam comes home for its next three games, starting up first with Monument Mountain on Thursday afternoon, Sept. 24 at 4 p.m. They face Frontier Regional the next day, also at 4 p.m.

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Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a

weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper.

Owls football rolls up 463 tards to gets first win

WESTFIELD – Westfield State University football rolled up 463 yards of offense and got a pair of long TD receptions from electric first-year receiver Malachi Hymes (E. Hartford, Conn./East Hartford) as the Owls downed Dean College, 26-8 at Alumni Field on Westfield State's Family and Champions Weekend.

Westfield improves its record to 1-2 overall and 1-1 in the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference, while Dean is now 0-3 and 0-2 MASCAC.

Hymes finished with four catches for 166 yards and touchdowns of 61 and 46 yards. His day could have been bigger as a reverse that looked like a 89- yard score was called back by a penalty, and later he stepped out

of bounds while avoiding a tackle on 53-yard reception that initially looked like a 73-yard score.

Westfield opened the scoring with a 1-yard TD plunge from QB Quinn Sumner (Dayville, Conn./Killingly), who finished 6-11 passing for 180 yards and the two TD tosses to Hymes.

Hymes caught a go route down the left side for the 61 yarder, out sprinting the full defense, then out-leaped his defender around the five-yard line to with the ball on the 46-yard grab before waltzing into the endzone.

Westfield set up the big passing plays with the run as sophomore fullback Manny Mengata (Tewksbury, Mass.) battered the Bulldogs for 136 yards on 18 carries, and Cole Ingham (Agawam, Mass.)

added 69 yards on five carries.

Westfield senior PK Andrew Currier (Attleboro, Mass./Foxboro HS) booted a pair of 33-yard field goals and a pair of extra points to account for the final score.

Dean's lone TD of the game came midway through the second quarter on a 12-yard touchdown pass from Chris Donahue to Yasir Moses. The Bulldogs tried to feature a short passing attack with Donahue connecting on 32 of 45 attempts for 186 yards with one TD and one INT. His longest completion of the day went for 12 yards.

The Bulldogs totaled just 33 yards rushing. Tay Scholtz finished with nine catches for 75 yards and seven catches for 62 yards.

Westfield's defense bent but rarely broke, allowing 219 total yards on the day. The Owls sacked Donohue eight times for a loss of 61 yards.

LB Aydan Verba (Albany, NY/Colonie Central) led the Owls with eight tackles and 2.5 sacks. Tedi Hunt (Littleton, Mass.) made eight stops and had 2.5 TFLs. Eight different players had a hand in the sack column. First-year Caedan Burns (N. Grafton, Mass.) picked off the Bulldogs late to help seal the win.

Colin Brady and Herman Esquivel Menzdez led the Bulldogs with eight stops each.

Westfield State will travel to Worcester State for a conference matchup next Saturday, Sept. 26 with a 1 p.m. kickoff at Alumni Field.