



SENIORS
New
activities
PAGE 2



LIBRARY
October kids/
teens programs
PAGE 3



SPORTS
Boys soccer
wins
PAGE 7

AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

October 1, 2026 | Vol. 48, No. 31 | \$1.00

www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com

More affordable housing needed in town, director says

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

AGAWAM – Executive Director of the Agawam Housing Authority Maureen Cayer came before the city council to discuss the difficulties the housing authority is facing.

Cayer addressed that since the 2014 change in regulation

to the legislature that governed the housing authorities, the housing authority has lost a significant amount of local control.

The goal of the legislature was to help with the housing crisis, however Cayer reports that it has done more harm than good.

“It took away the ability

for me to interact with the individuals who are in need of safe, affordable housing that do live here in town,” Cayer said.

As a result of this legislation, the Agawam Housing Authority receives applications from people all over the state with minimal ability to prioritize individuals based

on their current address.

Therefore, the housing authority is dealing with thousands of applications for a highly limited number of available units.

“Currently, on the Agawam waitlist, I have 24,554 people for my elderly housing alone,” Cayer said. “I have five units available right now.”

Many people who have applied for housing have to wait years to receive an answer due to the sheer length of the waitlist.

Some of the applications of people who do not live in town or do not have high priority will never even cross Cayer’s desk due to the sheer amount of applications she

and the rest of the housing authority have to deal with.

“That is sad to me because there are still people who are living without medication, with food insecurity, paying an exorbitant amount of rent that they can’t afford or

HOUSING | page 10

Student volunteers make event happen



This crew helped at Back to School Night. Whenever we need support for events, AHS students are quick to answer the bell, and lend their positivity to the cause. The high school is currently collecting feedback from those who attended the event. To offer some feedback, go to this website: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfMM6ZZIEuRQvNMKtPJ9Rqq9RMkudr0OT_vBz3YJRGpjGxpA/viewform

APL’s Nonfiction Book Club

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

AGAWAM – On Monday, Sept. 21, Agawam Public Library’s Nonfiction Book Club gathered for their monthly meeting. Dates and times of meetings can be found on the APL website. The club is run by Adult Services Library Associate Kristen Frost. The club begins with members going around and saying their overall opinion of the book, as well as rating it out of five if they so wish. The club uses provided questions about the book to fuel discussion.

On Sept. 21 the club discussed, Know My Name by Chanel Miller.

Frost has been running the club for a while now with the goal to be able to discuss nonfiction books at length.

“I’ve been running the NF book club for two years, but before I worked here the club was in existence,” Frost said. “I think it started back in 2020, so it has been going for quite a few years now. The group meets on the third Monday evening of the month, and if there is a holiday, we move it to either the week before or after. The aim of the club is to read many kinds of nonfiction titles and discuss them. I think giving people the opportunity to discuss something they have read provides the chance to process the ideas in the text and reflect more deeply on them. I think people appreciate the discussion and giving their opinions on the books. I think it is important

CLUB | page 10

Springfield Technical Therapy students teach seniors to prevent falls

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

AGAWAM – On Monday, Sept. 21, Agawam Senior Center hosted a falls prevention screening in collaboration with students from Springfield Technical Community College. With the PTA and OTA students were Professor Laura Cecchi and Professor Tom Guzowski.

Cecchi said the goal of the screening is help older adults with their awareness

“We’re doing a community fall screening for the first day of fall to help communi-

ty dwelling older adults become more aware of falls and focus on fall risk prevention. So, if we identify any individual here who may be at risk for a fall, we will make a recommendation that they go to their primary care physician and perhaps they could see some outpatient therapy services to reduce their risk of falls. Falls is a pretty significant health issue among older adults that can result in catastrophic injury, that may lead to not being able to stay in the community in a private residence, that it could lead to institutionalization.

And so, we want to do everything we can to bring awareness to the fall risk, to screen individuals for fall risk and to identify resources to help address whatever issues they might have, strength issues, balance issues, some people it’s a matter of vision, it also could be pain. You know, there’s a lot of folks living with arthritis, which can be very painful. And so, whatever we can do to educate, increase awareness, and identify resources to keep people living in the community and aging in place with an excellent quality of life. So that’s

our focus today.”

Cecchi was happy to collaborate with the senior center on the screening event.

“Working with the Agawam Senior Center is delightful. We are very fortunate,” Cecchi said. “Cindy (Sullivan) is very welcoming to our students. This spring the OTA students ran a memory cafe here. And it was very well received and we’ll be doing it again in the spring semester. But yeah, Cindy embraces any supportive

STUDENTS | page 12



PTA and OTA students Megan Perry and Erica Guzman at the falls prevention screening.

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SPORTS

Offensive struggles continue for Agawam football



Ryan Sexton holds the ball tight as he runs into traffic.



Gavin Cruz punts the ball away.



Thomas Fox heads up the field on a carry.



Jacob Roy protects the quarterback.



Quentin Scafuri holds the ball tight after making a reception.



Domenick Pisano takes the snap.



Jonathan Chechile makes a block.

Brownies golf out to 4-5 start

AGAWAM – With more than half of the season out of the way, Agawam High School golf has a 4-5 mark in regular season matches. So far, the Brownies have defeated South Hadley twice, Northampton, and East Longmeadow. Their losses have come against Longmeadow twice, Pope Francis, Minnechaug, and Westfield.

Last week, the Brownies defeated South Hadley 157-177 on the road. Brady

Klinakis had the top score with a 36. Other qualifying scores for Agawam came from Owen Finley with a 38, Luca Gauthier with a 41 and Zach Hollister with a 42. The Brownies had their second matchup of the season with Minnechaug earlier this week, and are next scheduled to face Chicopee Comprehensive on Thursday, Oct. 1 at 3 p.m.

West Springfield visits Agawam on Monday, Oct. 5 at 3 p.m.

T-Birds drop preseason finale against Providence Bruins

PROVIDENCE, R.I. - The Springfield Thunderbirds dropped a 4-1 decision to the Providence Bruins on Saturday night in the back half of a two-game exhibition set.

Will Cranley drew the net for Springfield for the exhibition finale and proved to be busy in the opening period, denying all 10 Bruins shots. Providence would open the scoring just 21 seconds into the

second as Robert Cronin tallied his second goal in as many nights to make it 1-0 Bruins.

Not to be outdone, Springfield captain Chris Wagner also tallied his second goal in two nights in the period's final



minute, picking up a short-handed tally at 19:52 and sending a 1-1 tie into the third period.

However, the Bruins would regain the lead when Wyatt Bongiovanni beat Cranley at 6:58 of the third, making

it a 2-1 game. Springfield would not get any closer, with Loke Johansson and Ben Allison adding empty-netters with less than two minutes remaining to ice the game.

Springfield begins the 2026-27 regular season in Wilkes-Barre for a rematch of the Atlantic Division Finals against the Penguins.

The puck drops at 6:05 p.m. on Saturday, October 3.