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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

October 8, 2026 | Vol. 48, No. 32 | \$1.00

www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com

Good Neighbor Day event brings community together

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

AGAWAM – Last Monday evening, Agawam Library hosted a gathering for Good Neighbor Day. The goal of Good Neighbor Day is to bring the community together and help combat loneliness. The Church Cupboard at Feeding Hills Congregational Church was there collecting donations. A workshop by People Change People were there, Adult Services Library Associate Erica LeFebvre said, “Their mission of encouraging in person interaction really resonated with me.”

LeFebvre hoped those who attended were able to meet new people and enjoy some in-person conversation.

“I hope that attendees were able to talk with one new

and enjoy in person communication for a bit,” LeFebvre said. “I hope they were able to find folks who might think like them or at least live near them, and make connections that they might not have been expecting at the start of the evening, especially with members of local government. There is a loneliness epidemic in the country, as illustrated by multiple scientific reports from various health agencies at differing levels. Loneliness can damage both physical and mental health in ways few other things can. Libraries are well suited to behave as a ‘third place’ in a world where there are fewer and fewer of

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Adria and Ryan Woods with People Change People.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA



Many students participated in the summer reading program, and helped raise money for the Granger School Library.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Students earn money for school library

AGAWAM – Over the summer the Agawam Public Library, together with the Friends of the Agawam Public Library, held a reading contest for students in the Agawam elementary schools. The goal of the contest was to determine which elementary school could encourage their students to log the highest average number of minutes read per student during the Agawam Public Library’s annual Summer Reading

Challenge. The winning elementary school received \$400 for their school library. While each of the other three elementary schools received \$200 for their school library. This contest is generously funded by the Friends of the Agawam Public Library.

Many students participated, and many books were read but there can only be one winner. This year Clifford M. Granger Elementary School was the victorious

school! Granger School received \$400 for their school library. The other three Agawam elementary schools each received \$200. This money will be used to buy books and materials that can be used by students as they further their love of reading.

We are grateful to the Friends of the Library for funding this challenge. The purpose of the Friends of the Agawam Library is to support the Agawam Public

Library, and to support programs that are sponsored by the library. The Friends of the Agawam Library are always looking for more members. A yearly family membership to the Friends of the Agawam Library is only \$20 a year. Become a Friend today! To learn more about the Friends of the Agawam Public Library, or to become a Friend of the library, go to the website <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/about-2/friends/>.

Sacred Heart hosts fall picnic

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

AGAWAM - On Sunday, Oct. 4, Sacred Heart Parish in Feeding Hills hosted their fall picnic. This included food, music, a 50/50 raffle run by members of Saint Martha’s Guild, a bounce house, and an apple pie baking contest. Parishoners attended for free, tickets for non-parishioners were ten dollars, individuals who helped with the event such as band members and the boy scout troop were comped for their tickets. The band was Heritage Pops Polka Band. Judging the apple pie baking contest was the bishop, Father Steven with

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Outdoor classroom



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Last week in his update to the community, Agawam High School Principal James Blain highlighted a recent opportunity for students to explore science outside of the school building. He said Mrs. Fleury’s Environmental Science classes sampled water quality of the stream in the outdoor classroom last week. Their work highlights the ever-present effort to utilize the outdoor classroom in practical learning scenarios.

Historic gravestones to be highlighted

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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AGAWAM – For all of 2026, the Agawam Historical Association has been celebrating the 250th anniversary of the nation’s birth.

Like many small towns, Agawam’s history is contained in its many historic graveyards containing graves from people who died more than 200 years ago. Over the past several years, Agawam’s historians have worked to clean and restore many of the older graves through Community Preservation Act grants aimed at historical preservation, one of the three purposes CPA money is used for.

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SPORTS

Taeva Brogan is pressured by the Comp defense.

SOCCKER

Girls shut out Comp

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School girls soccer team scored early and often and defeated Chicopee Comprehensive on a rainy evening last Monday night at home. Taeva Brogan had two goals for the Brownies to lead the way. Unfortunately, the momentum did not last and the Brownies fell to South Hadley last Thursday. With a 2-7 record, Agawam looks to get on the winning track against Ludlow on Thursday, Oct. 8 at home at 6 p.m.



Samantha Izzo keeps moving up the field.



Olivia Izzo steals the ball and takes over possession.



Gabiella Ramos chases down a loose ball.

SOCCKER

AHS boys suffer pair of losses

AGAWAM – Last week, the Agawam High School boys soccer team was looking for a win to stay above .500. But they were defeated twice in one-goal games. Last Thursday, the Brownies were defeated at home against Pope Francis 2-1. Then last Saturday afternoon, East Longmeadow edged Agawam 1-0. Agawam is 3-4-3 on the season. They are next facing Pittsfield at home on Friday, Oct. 9 at 7:30 p.m.



Mark Stepchuck turns toward the opposing goal.



John Carra hustles to evade an opponent.



Joseph Uneeggar tries to keep play moving up the left sideline.



Benjamin Grechka clears the ball.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

FIELD HOCKEY



Sophia DiBella winds up to shoot on goal.



Olivia Govoni clashes with an opponent for the ball.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Gianna Battista inserts a pass on a penalty corner.

DiBella's goals lead to win

AGAWAM – Last Friday night, Sophia DiBella scored twice to help Agawam defeat Westfield 2-0. The Brownies are now 4-3-2 on the season. Stella Christopher had five saves for the shutout. Agawam also defeated Green-

field 3-2 last Thursday afternoon. Agawam has a tough challenge against rival Longmeadow on Friday, Oct. 9 at 4 p.m. The Brownies then have a week off before facing East Longmeadow on Friday, Oct. 16.



Alyssa DaSilva sends a pass deep.



Lily Charest makes a shot on goal.