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Town marks Veterans Day at new memorial

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

AGAWAM – On the morning of Wednesday, Nov. 11 at the Veteran's Memorial in School Street Park, The Agawam Veterans Council honored veterans with a program including, speeches, a ribbon cutting ceremony, and a brunch hosted by the Knights of Columbus at St. John's Church after the ceremony. Some of the speakers from the ceremony include Senator John Velis, Representative Nick Boldyga, and Mayor Christopher Johnson. In their speeches, each of them spoke about how Veteran's Day is at its roots, a day to put aside differences in this country and come together to celebrate veterans and show appreciation for their bravery and the sacrifices that they made for the

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Top, members of the Agawam Veterans Council raising the American Flag at the start of the ceremony on November 11. Above, Ms. America's Classic Yankee Karyn Brown and singer Linda Turner at the Veteran's Day Program hosted at the Veteran's Memorial in School Street Park.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

New veterans home addresses modernization

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

HOLYOKE — Last month, the new, state-of-the-art Massachusetts Veterans Home—a long-awaited sanctuary built to serve our nation's greatest heroes for generations to come—officially opened its doors on Oct. 29.

The modern facility stands in sharp contrast to its ill-fated predecessor, which is slated to be demolished soon to make way for additional parking and greenspace.

The current project budget stands at $465 million, representing one of the largest public investments in Western Massachusetts history. It is backed by a $400 million state bond authorization approved by the Legislature alongside $263.5 million in matching funds from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) State Veterans Home Construction Grant Program.

Spanning eight stories, the 234-bed facility features 212 single rooms—each coming in at 150 square feet with private bathrooms and large windows overlooking the Paper City—along with 11 double-occupancy rooms. True to modern comforts, the rooms come equipped with built-in storage, desks, and 55-inch televisions. Designed around the VA's small-house model, the building organizes living spaces into smaller, home-like communities with shared dining, living, and gathering areas to promote independence, connection, and personalized care.

The facility also houses an array of upgraded clinical and rehabilitation spaces, including a dental suite, a sa-

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School committee reminds community of official AHS logos

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

AGAWAM – The school committee voted unanimously at their meeting on Nov. 10 to approve a resolution designating the official logo of Agawam Public Schools.

Within this resolution, which was read in full to the record by Mayor Christopher Johnson, the school committee reminded the community that both the Native American headdress and the collegiate "A" logo are official logos of APS, specifically grades seven through twelve.

"The school committee desires that both official logos be used interchangeably and equally throughout the district, with neither logo designated as primary or held as more prevalent than the other," Johnson read.

The logos are official for only grades seven through twelve, as the elementary schools are encouraged to let the students create and decide upon their own mascots or logos.

This clarification came after School Committee Member AJ Christopher noticed that the collegiate "A" logo was being used frequently in APS sports uniforms rather than the headdress logo.

He had raised concerns that the APS logo had been

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Community attends tour of AHS





Several members of the community turned out for the first of two opportunities to walk around and tour the current and outgoing Agawam High School building. The process of moving furniture and materials into the first phase of the new AHS building is getting underway with the majority of moving taking place during the holiday break late in December. Meanwhile, community members were invited last Saturday to take in the nostalgia of old building. It will be demolished in phases as more new construction takes place in the next few years. There is on more opportunity to view the building coming up on Saturday, Nov. 28 between 12 and 4 p.m.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

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SPORTS

Brownies set to host rival Terriers on Thanksgiving

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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AGAWAM – The turkey always tastes better after a win.

But it has been 10 years since Agawam has tasted that victory in their annual Thanksgiving Day rivalry with West Springfield.

On Thanksgiving morning, at 10 a.m., Agawam High School football will host their rivals once again in one of the longest standing holiday rivalries in the country, never mind the state.

This rivalry, however, has been one-sided for a decade. West Springfield has won the last eight matchups with the ninth game cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic.

Agawam's last victory came on Thanksgiving Day in 2016 when they were victorious 40-28. West Springfield has dominated since that time. However, last year was one of the closest games in recent memory.

Agawam scored a pair of touchdowns in the fourth quarter to close their deficit to just one point. But the Brownies could not score after either touchdown and Agawam lost to West Springfield 41-40 on Thanksgiving morning last year at Clark Field in West Springfield. Agawam's Cole Ingham had a big game with 281 yards rushing on 28 carries. He scored four touchdowns for the Brownies. Joe Duffy caught one touchdown pass for 66 yards.

This year, both teams are coming off a tougher season. Agawam enters with the better overall record at 3-7. The Brownies' victories this season came later in the season with wins over Putnam, Chicopee Comprehensive, and last week against Northampton

West Springfield enters the game with a record of 1-9. Their only win was on Nov. 5 against Chicopee Comprehensive.

One advantage for the Terriers, on paper, is their offense. Despite nine losses, West Springfield managed a lot more offense than Agawam did during the season. West Springfield also plays in the AA Conference, the highest league in the region.

But schedule strengths and records go away when the two rivals hit the field on Thanksgiving morning with Agawam looking to bust up West Springfield's winning streak.



Nicholas Iellamo makes a block on the offensive line.

Agawam Football (3-7)

Friday, Sept. 11 – East Longmeadow 34, Agawam 7
Friday, Sept. 18 – South Hadley 35, Agawam 0
Thursday, Sept. 24 – Holyoke 14, Agawam 6
Saturday, Oct. 3 – Amherst 37, Agawam 14
Friday, Oct. 9 – Taconic 24, Agawam 20
Thursday, Oct. 15 – Agawam 32, Putnam 20
Friday, Oct. 23 – Agawam 41, Chicopee Comp 24
Friday, Oct. 30 – Wahconah 40, Agawam 8
Thursday, Nov. 5 – Longmeadow 33, Agawam 0
Friday, Nov. 13 – Agawam 45, Northampton 40
Thursday, Nov. 26 – vs. West Springfield, 10 a.m.

West Springfield Football (1-9

Friday, Sept. 11 – Taconic 28, West Springfield 21
Friday, Sept. 18 – Wachusett 50, West Springfield 0
Friday, Sept. 25 – Hingham 38, West Springfield 15
Thursday, Oct. 1 – Minnechaug 46, West Springfield 14
Thursday, Oct. 8 – Westfield 49, West Springfield 15
Saturday, Oct. 17 – Longmeadow 42, West Springfield 21
Friday, Oct. 23 – East Longmeadow 54, West Springfield 32
Friday, Oct. 30 – Central 54, West Springfield 7
Thursday, Nov. 5 – West Springfield 54, Chicopee Comp18
Friday, Nov. 13 – Easthampton 20, West Springfield 8
Thursday, Nov. 26 – at Agawam, 10 a.m.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Domenick Pisano sends a pass attempt away.



Cole Ingham rushes toward the right side for the Brownies in last year's Thanksgiving Day game held at Clark Field in West Springfield





Left: Josiah Wyner sprints down the left side of the field after a reception.
Above: Joseph Duffy gets a tackle.

AGAWAM VS. WEST SPRINGFIELD

Agawam leads series 63-34-3

2025: West Springfield 41-40
2024: West Springfield 51-0
2023: West Springfield 37-20
2022: West Springfield 29-16
2021: West Springfield 40-19
2020: No game - COVID
2019: West Springfield 48-0
2018: West Springfield 19-6
2017: West Springfield 34-0
2016: Agawam 40-28
2015: Agawam 34-32
2014: Agawam 38-36
2013: Agawam 19-18
2012: Agawam 50-36
2011: West Springfield 17-14
2010: West Springfield 20-0
2009: West Springfield 32-20
2008: West Springfield 39-0
2007: Agawam 34-27
2006: Agawam 20-12 (OT)
2005: Agawam 18-12
2004: Agawam 42-6
2003: Agawam 30-8
2002: Agawam 26-0
2001: Agawam 14-6
2000: West Springfield 17-14
1999: Agawam 27-6
1998: Agawam 21-14
1997: Agawam 27-8
1996: Agawam 29-21
1995: West Springfield 7-6
1994: West Springfield 14-6
1993: Agawam 22-0
1992: Agawam 14-7
1991: West Springfield 14-0
1990: West Springfield 16-8
1989: West Springfield 12-7
1988: West Springfield 22-21
1987: Agawam 48-6
1986: Agawam 21-0
1985: Agawam 15-12
1984: Agawam 23-6
1983: Agawam 18-7
1982: West Springfield 20-3
1981: Agawam 13-6
1980: West Springfield 26-0
1979: West Springfield 42-15
1978: Agawam 42-6
1977: West Springfield 28-8
1976: Agawam 15-14
1975: Agawam 15-2
1974: West Springfield 16-6
1973: Tie 14-14
1972: Agawam 13-12
1971: Agawam 28-8
1970: Agawam 32-6
1969: Agawam 30-28
1968: Agawam 14-6
1967: Agawam 20-6
1966: Agawam 24-0
1965: Agawam 32-8
1964: Agawam 34-8
1963: Agawam 22-2
1962: West Springfield 26-12
1961: West Springfield 12-8
1960: West Springfield 48-8
1959: Agawam 41-0
1958: West Springfield 8-0
1957: Agawam 54-0
1956: West Springfield 28-13
1955: West Springfield 33-7
1954: Agawam 19-12
1953: Agawam 34-21
1952: West Springfield 13-7
1951: Agawam 34-21
1950: Agawam 20-12
1948: West Springfield 18-14
1947: Agawam 13-7
1946: Agawam 26-0
1945: Agawam 65-0
1944: Agawam 13-0
1943: Tie 7-7
1942: Agawam 14-13
1941: West Springfield 13-7
1940: Agawam 27-0
1939: Agawam 7-0
1938: West Springfield 7-0
1937: Agawam 6-0
1936: Agawam 33-6
1935: Agawam 34-6
1934: Agawam 7-0
1933: Tie 0-0
1932: Agawam 19-13
1931: Agawam 34-0
1930: Agawam 7-6
1929: West Springfield 6-0
1928: Agawam 30-6
1927: Agawam 25-0
1926: Agawam 7-0
1925: Agawam 20-6
1924: Agawam 6-0