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AGAWAM

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National Night Out

promotes public safety



TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA

A variety of emergency vehicles and other crucial vehicles for the town were on display for people to check out at Agawam's National Night Out.

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Community members came out to School Street Park in order to enjoy Agawam's annual National Night Out.

During this event the community gets to learn more about the police that protect their town every day. This event happens every year on the first Tuesday of August.

Patrol Officer and School Resource Officer Jeff Hichborn

organized the event. He looks forward to this event as an opportunity for the community to get to know the police.

"It's good to have the community interact with us in a manner that's not being stopped for speeding, they've done some-

thing bad or there's an emergency," Hichborn said. "So we try to get out here and interact with the public so they can meet us when everyone is on neutral ground and can see that the po-

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Councilor wants meetings recorded

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – City Councilor Tom Hendrickson filed a resolution to record subcommittee meetings in order to make them easily available to the public.

Hendrickson hopes that recording the meetings will allow for increased availability for the public to see what is happening in the meetings.

"We've had important discussions in sub committees," Hendrickson said. "I've found myself sitting in some of those meetings and thinking that it should be recorded so people can understand."

Hendrickson brought up the example of a discussion about a zone change regarding the hotel being built in town.

According to him the developer and the business owner gave a thorough presentation on the zone change and why it was needed, which helped the councilors to understand the issue at hand.

The discussion occurred solely in sub committees, and Hendrickson felt that it would have been beneficial for more of the public to hear it.

MEETINGS | page 3

Johnson discusses traffic concerns in town

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – At the City Council meeting on Aug. 5, Mayor Christopher Johnson came before the body to provide a community update.

Throughout this meeting, Johnson addressed different traffic concerns that had been brought to him or the council in recent months.

Johnson mentioned that the Suffield and Silver Street project is almost complete. The traffic signals went in at the end of July and the project team is preparing to do the final inspections.

The sidewalks for this project, however, will be delayed.

"We went out to the marketplace for the Silver Street ones and we got a ridiculously high price, so we're back to the drawing board to figure out a better way to do it," Johnson said. "So likely the sidewalks aren't going to get done until next year."

Johnson and the others involved on the project hope that they will get a better price from the surveyors at a later time. They are trying to talk to other surveying companies and they hope they will be less busy in

TRAFFIC | page 3

'Heist' at the Agawam Public Library

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The public library hosted a museum heist escape room for adults to attend and attempt an "art heist".

The library held three different sessions where groups of about six people could come in and attempt to complete the escape room in the allotted time of 40 minutes.

"The theme of the escape room is that everyone in attendance is an art thief that has been hired to steal a famous painting," Adult Services Library Associate Charlie Pope said. "The setup of the room is the museum curator's



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

One of the three teams that went into the escape room at the library and successfully completed the puzzle.

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Parish Cupboard seeks players and sponsors

AGAWAM— The West Springfield Agawam Parish Cupboard, a food pantry and hot lunch center serving the needy in West Springfield, Agawam and Feeding Hills, is holding its second annual Pickleball Fundraiser Saturday, Sept. 7 at Mittineague Park in West Springfield.

They are seeking sponsors for the event, as well as players to raise funds to continue their mission of easing food insecurity in the communities they serve. Play is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. Rain date will be Sunday the 8 with a noon start.

The field will be limited to 32 participants in two player brackets. Recreational (beginner to intermediate) and Competitive (intermediate to advanced). Entry fee is \$40 per person if paying by check mailed to The Cupboard and \$45 if paying by credit card via the Cupboard's website. Registrations can be mailed to: The Parish Cupboard, 738 Main Street, West Springfield, MA 01089. Online registrations can be made through www.theparishcupboard.org following the "Donate" option. Registrants should include their name, phone number, email address and preferred playing bracket. The event will include lunch, prizes and a raffle. For more information on playing or sponsorship opportunities call Bob Fastie at 413-734-7969 or Chip Arnold at 413-265-8446, or email parishcupboard@aol.com.

Stanley Park holding annual fundraiser

WESTFIELD – In celebration of Stanley Park's 75th Anniversary, this year's Annual Fundraiser on Sept. 14 will reflect the desire to keep the beautiful Park the way it's founder, Frank Stanley Beveridge, envisioned.

Music from Sarah the Fiddler will be in the air as guests are entering the Beveridge Pavilion. This year's Diamond Jubilee will feature mouthwatering choices from Tansey's Catered Table. Stations of food, from the grazing table to the dessert table and the main dishes inbetween, will be available, offering a wide variety of choices.

A preview of the virtual auction will begin on Monday, Sept. 9 at 8 a.m., with

bidding beginning at 8 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 12 and ending at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 14. Auction items will be on display in the Beveridge Pavilion, and attendees will be able to place their bids via their cell phones. A live auction will complete the evening, featuring the ever-entertaining auctioneer and his assistant, Rock and Carol Palmer. Over 120 auction items will be available for bidding with larger items being auctioned off at the live auction. Auction items include gift certificates to local businesses to eat, shop and play and much more!

Among the live auction items, which you must be present to win are: A trip for 4 to Mexico, a Blackstone Griddle and a

Whimsical Birdhouse made by Bob Jensen, which is always popular.

Guests are invited to arrive at 5 p.m., choose their favorites from the grazing table and start bidding. Stations featuring the main meal selections will open at 6 p.m.

Reservations for the event must be made by Aug. 23. You can reserve your seats online at <https://auctria.events/DiamondJubilee> and select Buy Tickets.

Please call the Development Office at 413-568-9312 x108 or x 112 or email development@stanleypark.org with any questions.

Run Stanley 5K Run/Walk

AGAWAM— Come Run, Stroll and Roll. Stanley Park will be hosting the 12th Annual Run Stanley which has grown into a fun yearly tradition for the whole family, whether they like to run, walk, roll, or bark.

Join in for this all-inclusive event on Sunday, Oct. 6, at 10 a.m. at Stanley Park. This event includes the 5K trail run/walk, a 5K K9 trail run/walk, the Munchkin Run hosted by Dunkin' Donuts, and The Stroll & Roll. The Stroll & Roll is a wheel friendly 1-mile non-competitive walk through Stanley Park's accessible pathways.

There is also the Stanley Cup School Spirit trophy for the school with the most partic-

ipation in Run Stanley. Form a team and get friends and family involved. When you register, be sure to enter your school name.

Run Stanley 2024 continues the fundraising efforts to benefit the care of the Frank Stanley Beveridge Wildlife Sanctuary. Please join the community of runners, walkers, hikers, dog owners, and nature lovers of all ages who care about Stanley Park for a fun event that will help to improve the safety and accessibility of its wildlife trails.

Registration is now open! You can register by going to <https://runsignup.com/Race/MA/Westfield/RunStanley>.

Field Hockey coaches needed

AGAWAM – The Agawam Parks and Recreation Department is looking for youth field hockey coaches for bantams (grade 3 and 4) and juniors (grade 5 and 6). Youth field hockey runs mid-August through early October. Anyone interested in coaching or assisting should contact the Parks & Recreation Department at 821-0513.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Three teams went into the escape room at the library and successfully completed the puzzle.

HEIST from page 1

office and in the storage closet is the painting.”

As soon as the attendees entered the escape room alarms started going off declaring a break-in and stating that there would be 40 minutes until the police arrived. This kickstarted the

escape room puzzle, in which the art thieves had to get the key to unlock the storage closet and get the painting before the time ran out.

Pope went with the museum heist theme as they thought it could be interesting to have a lot of art history books, clues and decorations involved with the

event.

The character of the museum curator was working on writing a book on art history, so the office was piled high with books on art history. Within those books and the paintings on display around the room were the hidden clues for the escape room.

Throughout the escape room

Pope was present to offer hints as people needed. They varied the hints depending on how close a group was to solving a particular clue.

In the end all three groups completed the escape room puzzle, with the fastest time being 32 minutes and twelve seconds.

Pope loved seeing everyone come in and enjoy the escape room. In particular they liked seeing how different groups interpreted all of the different clues.

“There was one clue where all three of the teams interpreted it in a much different way then I had intended and they all interpreted it in a different way, so it was cool seeing where everyone's minds went,” Pope said. “It gave me ideas for future escape rooms and clues I could use.”

They also enjoyed seeing how well all the different groups worked together in order to solve the puzzles in the room.

“They went into the escape room not

really knowing each other and then they formed a good team and worked really well together,” Pope said. “It was awesome.”

This was the library's first time doing an escape room to Pope's knowledge and they were excited to give the idea a try.

They were inspired to do the event as they had participated in an escape room at the Clapp Memorial Library in Belchertown. They had thought the event was a lot of fun and wanted APL to give it a try.

“I thought it would be fun to recreate it and have it here in Agawam,” Pope said.

Pope had put a lot of work into pulling this event together. They did a variety of research on escape rooms to ensure that the experience was as good as it could be for all in attendance.

The library intends to have this event again in September for more people to be able to come in and give it a try.

Each session for this event had waitlists, so Pope knew that there were more people interested in giving this event a try and they wanted to ensure they had the opportunity to do so.

To learn more about the different events the library has to offer, go to their website at <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/>.



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Agawam Community Artists and Artisans holding festival

AGAWAM— The Agawam Community Artists and Artisans will be holding their 4th annual pioneer valley art festival on Saturday, Aug. 24 and Sunday Aug. 25, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Festival will be held at the Agawam Polish American Club 139 Southwick St.

There will be over 70 artists and artisans. ACAA encourages visitors to enjoy the demonstrations of the various artists and artisans during their visit. ACAA will be featuring the Gloria McLellan Scholarship

silent auction, that will benefit area high school seniors seeking a career in visual arts.

ACAA are especially proud to introduce the New England Mosaic Project, a 24 ft wall of art created by 250 participants from the community. There will be "Art With A Heart" painting workshops and the "Agawam Rocks" group with free rock painting for all ages.

Please visit our website for further information: www.agawamarts.com

TRAFFIC from page 1

the fall so the town can get a better price for this project.

Johnson also addressed the signal changing lights at the Poplar intersection. Poplar is now operating on a timed basis.

This is because the lights were initially constructed with the circuits put into the ground and when the town put in the new gas line the circuits were torn up by the construction crew. Therefore, the town moved forward with the timed basis as the new operating system for the light.

Additionally, the town hopes to also update the lights at the Sacred Heart intersection.

"When someone pulls up to pull out of the church parking lot, it activates the light, so the problem there is trying to get the timing of the east/west traffic on Springfield Street so that you don't end up spending two and a half minutes waiting for the light to change heading west on Springfield Street," Johnson said.

Johnson is hoping that it will be possible to get infrared sensors put in at this intersection. However there is only one company in the area that does this work, so it may

take a while for them to come into Agawam to do this work.

The council also asked Johnson about the intersection at Pine and Barry Streets. Johnson mentioned that he and the engineering department have begun the process of studying the intersection to determine what the best next steps would be to improve it.

While looking into this they have to consider all possible alternatives for how they could improve the issue.

They are considering a roundabout, signaling the intersection, new signage, putting up four-way stop signs and other options.

The police and the department of public works are looking at the data collected by the police department about the speeds of people driving along the intersection. Using this data and other factors they will decide upon the best method to move forward with.

Johnson hopes that by late this year or early next year they will have decided upon their preferred option to move forward with.

MEETINGS from page 1

"That was just one example of something that really should be publicly available information that isn't necessarily getting out there in the way that it should," Hendrickson said. "There were a lot of good questions that were asked, there were a lot of clear explanations that were given and it all doesn't get recorded or put out there."

The city council is expected to vote on the resolution at their meeting on Sept. 4 and Hendrickson is optimistic that it will pass.

"I think it's just a matter of it's not how we did things in the past so all we needed was somebody to step up and file a resolution to get it changed," Hendrickson said.

Once the resolution passes, Hendrickson believes that the new system will be quickly implemented.

Head of Agawam Media Les Tingley would come in on Sept. 4 to test out the recording system at any subcommittee meetings prior to the council meeting. If all goes well, Hendrickson believes the system will be up and ready by the next council meeting.

"I would imagine it will be a pretty quick

timeline as soon as it gets passed," Hendrickson said. "I think we've got a decent plan in place. We're doing it in a way that we shouldn't have any issues."

If there is additional funding needed to get this system in place, it will come out of the city council's allocated funds for their administrative assistant.

This is because Administrative Assistant Barbara Bard is now also Mayor Christopher Johnson's Chief of Staff and she is working to combine both of those positions.

Therefore, the allocated salary for the administrative assistant is now combined with the chief of staff salary and both come out of the mayor's office budget.

"So we have some money in the city council budget now that we no longer have to pay her salary," Hendrickson said. "Hopefully any costs that would be incurred would be paid with that money."

Initially Hendrickson had hoped to have the subcommittee meetings televised as well as recorded, but that was not feasible with current circumstances. Therefore, they will be recorded and put up on the town website for all to access.

Hazardous Waste Collection Day set for Sept. 7

AGAWAM – The Agawam Department of Public Works is planning to hold its annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Saturday, Sept. 7 at the DPW Annex, 1000 Suffield Street between 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Although this event is free to Agawam residents, pre-registration is required. Appointments may be scheduled by calling the DPW at 821-0600 ext.4 or 821-0624 beginning Monday, Aug. 19.

Participants should remain in their vehicle and place all waste in the trunk, rear

cargo area, or truck bed.

This program offers residents a safe, economical way to dispose of household items that are flammable, reactive, corrosive or toxic. Solvents, pesticides, caustic cleaners, and oil-based paints are some examples of the different types of items that will be accepted. Latex paint will not be accepted at this event. For a more detailed list of acceptable materials visit the town website at www.agawam.ma.us

Harmony House holding spaghetti dinner fundraiser

CHICOPEE – Harmony House of Western Massachusetts, a home for the terminally ill, has scheduled a spaghetti and meatball dinner to be held on Friday, Sept. 6 from 4:30 to 8 p.m. at the Moose Family Center, 244 Fuller Road, Chicopee. Dinner will be served from 4:45 to 6:45 p.m. Bring your friends and family for a fun evening of food and fun, including entertainment and exciting raffles for prizes. The donation is \$15 and dinner is free for children under the age of six. Tickets can be purchased by calling and leaving a message at 413-315-9784, Jennifer at 413-654-0821, or by Venmo at @harmonyhousewma and entering #tickets Spaghetti Dinner. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Founded by the late Ruth Willemain, a hospice volunteer for many years, the goal of Harmony House is to provide a comfortable, compassionate, and lov-

ing environment to people who have little or no resources or family and are entering the final stages of life. The organization provides personal care with honor and dignity at little or no cost to terminally ill individuals.

Harmony House is totally privately funded through the generosity of individuals, businesses, and foundations. Contributions are gratefully accepted at all times. "Someday you may need us; right now, we need you." Donations are always appreciated. Please visit the website at www.harmonyhousewma.org or send your checks to Harmony House of Western Massachusetts, 66 View Street, Chicopee, MA 01020. Harmony House is a 501(c)(3) corporation. If interested in learning more or becoming a volunteer, please contact Harmony House at 413-315-9784 or by email at harmonyhousewma@gmail.com.

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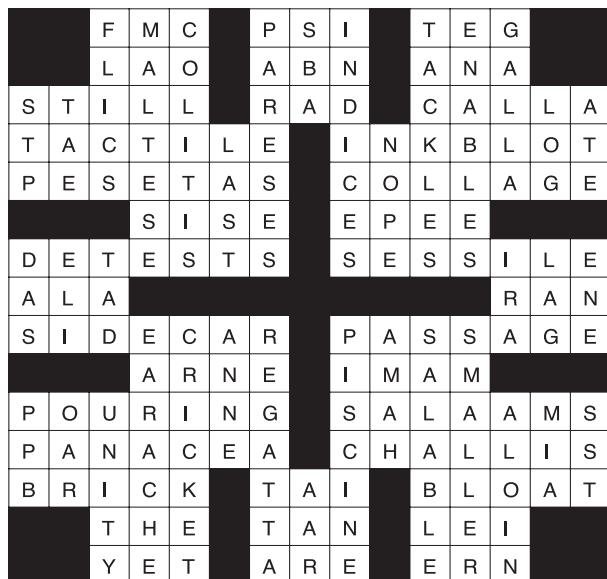
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Opinion

Guest Column



Will my wife get a spousal benefit from me?

Dear Rusty:

I will be turning 70 (yikes) this coming November. I will begin taking my Social Security benefit at that time. My age 70 SS benefit will be approximately \$4,500 per month. My spouse (who is currently 74) began receiving her SS benefits about 10 years ago before her Full Retirement Age. She receives approximately \$1,900 per month.

My question is, based on my expected SS monthly benefit of approximately \$4,500, would my spouse be eligible for an increase in her monthly SS benefit? I've read some articles about this topic, but none of them seem to be on point so I thought I'd reach out to you.

Signed: Seeking Answers

Dear Seeking:

Congratulations on choosing a claiming strategy, which will maximize your Social Security. Waiting until age 70 to claim guarantees you will get the most you can personally receive for the rest of your life, along with annual Cost of Living Adjustments. But the spouse benefits available to your wife when you claim are not based on your age 70 amount. Rather, spouse benefits are calculated using Full Retirement Age amounts. Here's what that means:

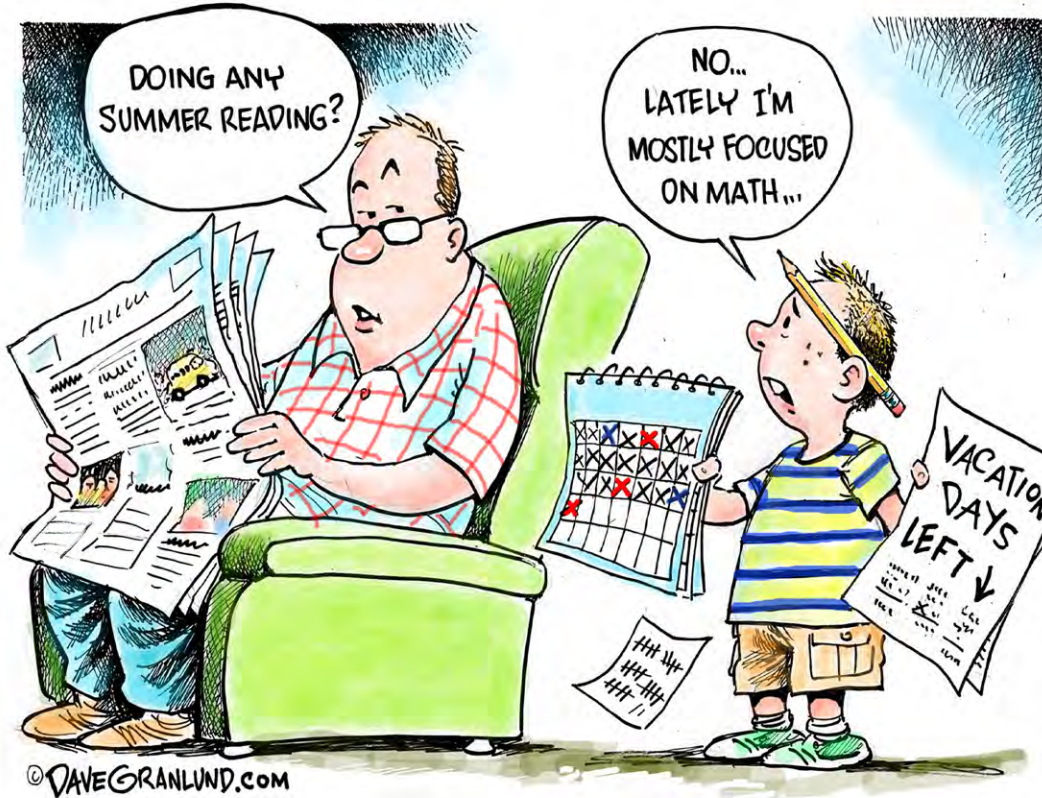
If your age 70 benefit will be about \$4,500 then your FRA amount was likely around \$3,450. If your wife claimed at, say, 64, then her FRA entitlement would probably have been around \$2,200. Your wife will only get a spousal boost if 50% of your FRA amount (not your age 70 amount) is more than her own FRA entitlement. From what you've shared, 50% of your FRA amount would be about \$1,750, which is less than your wife's FRA entitlement and her current age 64 amount, which means that she would not be eligible for a spousal boost to her own amount from you.

Spouse benefits can be tricky, because they're based on FRA entitlements, regardless of the age at which benefits are actually claimed. That is not so, however, for surviving spouse benefits. If you were to predecease your wife, her benefit would be your entire \$4,500 amount, instead of her own smaller current amount. Surviving spouse benefits are based on the amount each of you are currently receiving, not on your amounts at your full retirement age.

I hope this answers your question, but we're always here if you need any further assistance.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated

SOCIAL SECURITY | page 6



A question that will encourage blooms for a non-blooming peony

A reader wrote in with this question for the Garden Lady regarding Peony culture: "I hope you can offer some suggestions for me. I have a couple peonies that my mother-in-law gave me. I just kind of put them in the back of our property. They are sad in that they do have foliage but no flowers. I want to transplant. My question is, where do I plant them and at what time of the year?"

You are in luck! Peonies are best planted in the fall, September or October in our area.

This timing will give the plants an opportunity to develop a healthy stand of feeder roots before the ground freezes. Choose a location that receives six or more hours of sun a day.

Without knowing the exact size of your plants or if you will be able to lift and move the whole clump, it's hard to advise on the exact size of the hole. Just make sure there is ample room around the plant so that the roots will be able to extend out easily.

If your soil is average, the addition of a balanced fertilizer may be all that is necessary at planting. Soils that are lean should be improved prior to planting by amending the hole with roughly equal parts good soil and aged compost or manure.

Peonies prefer a pH of 6.0-7.0, a wide enough range to accommodate most home garden situations. If your soil is more acidic than that, bring up your pH by



adding lime.

Peonies fertilized at planting time require no additional food until the following fall. Bear in mind that too much nitrogen will encourage lots of leaves but few roots and flowers, and I know you are looking forward to flowers!

For that reason, choose a fertilizer that is lower in nitrogen than the other nutrients. After the third season fertilize after blooming, as well as in the fall.

An established peony is drought resistant, but if spring rains are scarce, a weekly watering will also help to promote good flowers.

Heavy peony flowers, especially the old-fashioned types will no doubt bow down to the ground in the wind and rain unless staked. I usually pick some for the vase in the bud stage in an attempt to avoid this task, but nevertheless it makes the plant nice and tidy and should be accomplished.

Middle weight bamboo stakes inserted into the ground on the outer edge of the plant cut to three-quarters its height, work well. Run two rows of twine or jute at one third and two thirds up the bamboo, respectively.

Simply start by tying a knot on one stake, wrapping around the next and tightening as you go. If green bamboo and jute are used the staking will hardly be visible, especially if you don't tighten so much that it looks unnatural.

One year my peony buds wilted and dried up just prior to bloom. The culprit was botrytis.

Good hygiene can reduce the risk of this fungus invading your garden. Each fall simply cut the stems of herbaceous peonies down to the ground.

Haul them off to the trash, don't compost. If watering is necessary, do so early in the morning and water at the plant's base rather than overhead to keep foliage dry.

Any stems that show signs of wilting should be cut away and thrown in the trash as well. Disinfect clippers in between cuts.

I hope that this additional information will help you to achieve the long-awaited flowers that you are hoping for! It may take a year or two for transplanted peonies to get adjusted and do their thing, but once set they will bloom happily for decades!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



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Election letters to the editor welcome

The Agawam Advertiser News welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Agawam Advertiser News, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to aan@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered

for that Friday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election. For more information, call 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the news-

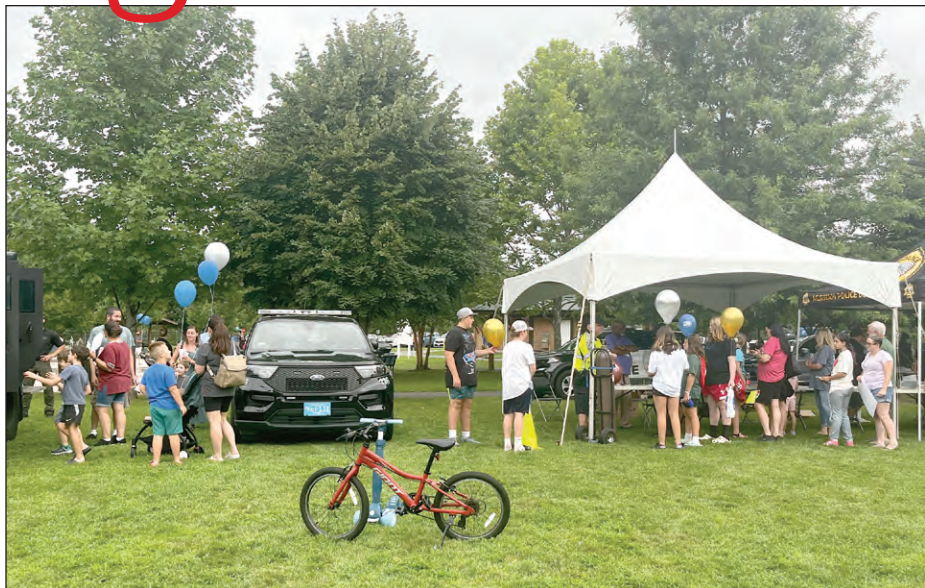
paper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Agawam Advertiser News.

National Night Out



The Emergency Management Department came out to support National Night Out.



The police in attendance at National Night Out gave out balloons and other items to attendees while also answering any questions they had.



The state police had their different vehicles on display for community members to explore.



The Springfield Thunderbirds and the King Gray Bus Line came out to support Agawam's National Night Out.



People gathered around the Friends of the Agawam Cemetery tent to receive different bead necklaces and learn about their organizations.

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lice are just like them.”

Many communities around the country participate in National Night Out as a way for communities to get to know their police departments and the other resources around them.

“Every community has a police force and I think it’s important for communities to know what resources are available to them and as a police department we might have a greater reach to bring resources to one place,” Hichborn said.

Hichborn made sure that police, community and entertainment assets were all present at the event so the community could easily engage in all of them.

There were over 20 non-emergency organizations and a total of over 30 emergency and non-emergency organizations, including state police, the fire department, river valley counseling, the veterans counsel and Sacred Heart Parish.

“It’s a great way to get everything in one place so that maybe people that come here

for the canine demonstration but didn’t know about, let’s say, mental health, they can come and talk to them and network and find that resource,” Hichborn said. “Whatever it is while the people are here to see the entertaining stuff...they can walk around and actually talk to resources in the community.”

Hichborn hopes that by allowing people to talk one-on-one with community resources they will be able to form connections and get any information they need.

He also enjoys seeing all the community members who come out for the event each year.

“I look forward to interacting with everyone,” Hichborn said. “I love interacting with the community.”

Additionally throughout this event there were a variety of demonstrations for the community to see including a jaws of life demonstration from the fire department and a dog showcase by the state police. Rosie Robotics also did robot demonstrations.

Hichborn was grateful for all of the

community members who came out and supported this event.

“I just want to thank the community at large for supporting us and participating and I want to thank everybody that is here for volunteering their time,” Hichborn said.

Hichborn starts planning this event around Memorial Day and works over the next few months to pull everything together.

Everyone at the event was there for free. The vendors, the community organizations and the different departments all volunteered their time.

“All the vendors that come out to represent do it in their own time, nobody is paid for anything they do and we don’t sell anything during the event,” Hichborn said.

Hichborn was glad that so many people were willing to come together in their free time to support this event.



Rosie Robotics brought out their robot, which throws rubber rings, for a demonstration at National Night Out.



(Left to right) Michelle Day and Pam Franco from the Health Department and Town Auditor Cheryl St. John enjoyed National Night Out.

National Night Out



(Left to right) Marvin Howard, Mike Brunetti, Dan Florian and Angelo Adorno from the Agawam Friends of the Veterans Cemetery attended the National Night Out event.



The city council members, Mayor Christopher Johnson and School Committee Member Shelley Reed take in the event.



Michelle Brunelle and Nivia Berrios represented Foster MA at National Night Out.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA



The Agawam Veterans Council was happy to support the community by attending National Night Out.



People from around the Agawam community came out to enjoy the annual National Night Out.



The fire department put on a jaws of life demonstration for the gathered audience.

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SOCIAL SECURITY from page 4

ed with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



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SPORTS

SOCCER

Here for Beer comes up short in PVSSL finals



Here for Beer were the Women's Division runners-up.

By **Tim Peterson**
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Six of the ten women teams in the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League qualified for the playoffs.

The Lusitano Women and Here for Beer finished the regular season with 6-4-2 records and a coin flip was held to determine their playoff seeds. The two squads wound up facing each other in the championship match.

The fifth-seeded Lusitano Women took home the championship trophy for the first time since 2019 with a 3-0 shutout victory over the sixth-seeded Here for Beer at historic Lusitano Stadium, last Friday night.

"We've always made the playoffs, but it feels really good to win the championship game for the first time in five years," said Lusitano Women player/coach Taylor Jordan. "We're an experienced team this year, and

everyone showed up ready to play in tonight's match."

Jordan shared the coaching duties with Stephanie Goncalves.

The Lusitano Ladies, who play their home matches at Lusitano Stadium, advanced into the finals after defeating the fourth-seeded Western Mass. Extremes, 1-0, in the quarterfinals, and the second-seeded Heat, 3-1, in the semifinals.

"We won our first two playoff matches on the road. We just wanted to end the season by playing another game on our home field," Jordan said. "It's always very special to play a match here."

Back in 2019, the Lusitano Women celebrated a 3-0 victory over the Xtremes in the championship match. The previous year, they lost by the same score to Here for Beer in the finals.

Following the last Friday's championship match, Julia Farnham, who's

a third year member of the Lusitano Women, received the M.V.P. award.

"I didn't score any of the goals or had an assist, but I did help my teammates set up the goals," said Farnham, who's a midfielder. "It feels great to win a championship game for the first time in the three years that I've been playing for this soccer team."

Farnham lives in Amherst, and played soccer at Vassar College, which is in Poughkeepsie, New York. She led her college soccer team in minutes last fall as a senior.

Here for Beer, who plays their home matches at South Hadley High School, advanced into the finals after posting a pair of road victories. They beat the third-seeded Monson Mustangs, 4-3, in the quarterfinals, and upset the top-seeded Westside Sports Shop, 2-0, in the semis. Westside Sports Shop had won the last three

Please see **PVSSL**, page 8



Mackenzie Shean of Agawam dribbles up the field.



Emily Landry, of Agawam, heads past midfield.



Lindsey Marjanski, of South Hadley, makes her way up the field.

Conte leads way in Owls golf tourney

WESTFIELD – Sunny skies met the 33 registered foursomes for the 18th annual Owl Club Tournament at Crestview Country Club in Agawam, Mass. on Monday.

The tournament is a key fundraiser for Westfield State athletics with alumni, sponsors, families and university coaches and staff all participating to net more than \$21,000 to support Owls' athletics. Westfield Bank again served as the lead sponsor of the event.

Westfield State president Linda Thompson welcomed the players at dinner and thanked them for the support of the University and Owls athletics. She mentioned her increased focus on the success of the Owls athletic teams and their role in university life, and reminded players that the University will be celebrating its 185th anniversary this fall with a gala event as part of the home-

coming weekend on Oct. 18.

Westfield State director of athletics Richard Lenfest, Jr. formally introduced Westfield State's new head football coach Lou Conte, Jr., as the guest of honor at the tournament's post-round dinner, sponsored by Westfield Gas and Electric and Whip City Fiber.

"Coach K and Coach Marino I held in high regard as a young man," said Conte in his remarks about the Owls previous two head coaches, both in attendance at the tournament. "I knew what I wanted to do, I wanted to coach football They were kings to me, and to be able to follow in the footsteps of the path that they laid out, both individually and together, and I am so appreciative, and so lucky to be here. I'm so excited for the season and there are many great things here that makes it feel like the right move for us."

Conte, an Agawam native, noted that he and his wife and children were excited to be able to set down roots in Western Mass again after stints coaching at Lenoir-Rhyne and the Citadel in South Carolina.

Players played in the scramble format at Crestview, former home of the LPGA's Friendly's classic and a qualifying site for the PGA's Travelers Championship. Players received lunch, sponsored by College Hype Sportswear and Screenprinting, and competed in variety of contests on the course, including long drive, pot of gold, a putting contest, shot for a \$5,000 hole in one prize, and contested closest-to-the-pin on multiple holes. Carts were sponsored by the Follett Campus Bookstore.

The Owls 2023 MASCAC Champion women's soccer team helped out as volunteers on the course, running several of the

contests and staffing the players' Oasis on the course, which was sponsored by Pepsi and Commercial Distributing. Part of the proceeds from the event will help support women's soccer's season-opening trip to the Nashville, Tenn. area for a multi-day tournament.

Conte's big day continued as his foursome won the tournament's open division with a remarkable score of 17-under par.

"I hope his playbook is as good as his scorecard," joked tournament director Dave Caspole, the Owls associate director of athletics, in announcing the winners.

A foursome headed by Conte's father, Lou Sr., topped the senior division with a 16-under score.

Westfield State athletic trainers Cheryl Lee Sccecina and Katie Sylvain were part of the winning coed foursome with a score of nine-under.

Other honors went to baseball alumnus Jack Mosko '78 who won the putting contest, hockey alumnus Chad Lesage '78 who topped the long drive, and Deb Murphy p'17 who topped the women's long drive. Closest to the pin honors went to Tom Mathis, Jake Hough, and former Owls men's basketball guard Austin Joseph '18. Retired Owls cross country coach and Owls Hall of Famer Bill Devine '73 won the pot of gold drawing after hitting the green in regulation on the 11th hole.

The tournament is annually contested the first Monday in August, as the Owls ramp up for their teams to arrive for fall pre-season. Conte's football team will be the first ones back on campus beginning Aug. 13.

Sports



Seth Allen looks to get things going for PeoplesBank.



Pete Hogan hustles down the first.



Dave Clark connects on a home run to left in the first inning.



Jimmy Flahive delivers a pitch home.

Bankers take 11th consecutive playoff title

HOLYOKE – PeoplesBank of the Tri-County Baseball League continues to field one of the best rosters in Western Massachusetts. Last Tuesday evening, the Bankers would capture their 11th consecutive championship with a two-game sweep of Hilltown Tents, ending with an 8-3 win last Tuesday night. The Bankers had an unusual playoff path, having to wait nearly two weeks after the end of the regular season to compete in the playoffs. The quarterfinal series went through several postponements following the end of the regular season. When the Bankers finally came to play, they rounded off four wins in five days to take the semifinals and finals. The Bankers defeated St. Joe's, their longtime rivals, in the semifinals.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
Joe Ferry fields a base hit to left.

Gulls win NECBL title

NEWPORT, RI – The final game of the 2024 season was one for the history books, as the Newport Gulls capped off their 2024 campaign with a bang in extra innings for an 8-7 victory following the continuation of game two on a sunny Saturday evening at Cardines Field.

In the bottom of the second, the Gulls struck first as Tyler Hare (Wofford) crushed a solo home run to right center to put the Gulls up 1-0 early. However, the Mainers responded immediately in the top of the third. The Mainers tied the game on an error and then Jackson Tucker (St. John's) hit an RBI double to put the Mainers up 2-1.

In the bottom of the fourth, the Gulls put up a crooked number to take the lead 6-2. Dixon Williams (Eastern Carolina) crushed a two-run home run to the thrill of his teammates. After that, Matt Ossenfort (NC State) crushed his own three-run home run to add a cushion for the Gulls.

Meanwhile on the mound, Gulls starter Kade Shatwell (Oklahoma City) brought the energy for the team. Shatwell pitched 6.1 strong innings, allowing just three earned runs with eight strikeouts, pumping up his teammates. However, after Shatwell came out, the Mainers marched back. In the top of the seventh, Devan Bade (Binghamton) hit a two-run single to cut the deficit to 6-4, then in the top of the eighth, Caleb Shpur (UConn) came through for the Mainers, tying the game with a two-run home run to even the score. Later in that same inning, the Mainers took the lead 7-6 on a single by CJ Willis (Quinnipiac), turning the tide once again in favor of Sanford.

Down to their final three outs, the Gulls sent Hare to the plate with one out and Hare delivered, crushing his second home run of the night into the right field netting to tie the score at seven apiece and force extra innings.

In the tenth, Drew Delucia (Franklin Pierce) did his job for the Gulls, keeping the Mainers off the board and giving the team a chance to walk it off. In the bottom half of the inning, the Gulls did just that. Williams came through with the game-winning RBI single, walking it off 8-7 to clinch the Fay Vincent Sr. Cup for the Gulls.



Hannah Duggan, of Palmer, goes for a header.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Macie Bolton, of Belchertown, crosses the field with the ball.

PVSSL from page 7

women's championship titles.

"We began the season well before suffering a couple of injuries," said Here for Beer player/coach Cassie Ashwell. "I never thought that we would make it to the finals this year, but we knocked out the top-seeded team in the semifinals. It was a fun season."

Ashwell, who was selected as the M.V.P. of the 2018 championship match, shares the coaching duties with Gina Lord.

Ashwell is normally a midfielder, but she was the starting goalkeeper in this year's finals.

"Our starting goalie, Sue Jenney, suffered an ACL injury during the regular season. Our back-up goalie, Kelly Callahan, suffered a season-end-

ing injury in our semifinal match on Wednesday," Ashwell said. "I've never been a goalie before the other night. I was our starting goalie in tonight's game and it's the first time I've played a full game at that position. You just need to have a different mindset being a goalie than a field player. I just needed to step up for my team."

The Lusitano Ladies took a 1-0 lead following a free kick goal during the eighth minute.

Ada Siepman, who plays soccer at Mount Holyoke College, fired a high shot that Ashwell couldn't save. The ball landed in the right corner of the net.

"I tried my best to make the save on their first goal," Ashwell said. "I just hesitated a little bit and the ball got past me."

Two minutes later, Lauren Cantin

delivered a pass from the left side to Trystin Burger, who finished off the play by scoring the Lusitano Women's second goal.

Burger also played soccer at Granby High School and AIC.

The final 30 minutes of the opening half was evenly played.

Here for Beer best scoring chance came on a shot attempt during the 18th minute of the first half from Lauren Majanski, who graduated from South Hadley High School.

The Lusitano Women built a 3-0 lead following a goal by Jordan Chatman with about twenty minutes remaining in regulation.

The Lusitano Ladies will be looking to defend their PVSSL women's championship title a year from now.

AHS to hold freshmen orientation Aug. 28

AGAWAM – Agawam High School’s Grade 9 and new student orientation will take place on Wednesday, Aug. 28 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. All students new to AHS are encouraged to attend.

This is a student-only event, and is an opportunity for students to meet new friends, school administrators, current AHS student leaders, and school staff. Chromebooks will be distributed and students will tour the building, and access their schedule through the Powerschool App.

Our Student Leaders are called “Chiefs”, and will bring them on a tour around the building where they will have time to learn and meet with students who participate in a wide variety of extracurricular clubs and sports.

Transportation will be available for students. There will be a bus picking up and returning students from the Feeding Hills section and another from the Agawam section. The [bus schedules](#) are posted on the Agawam High School website and are attached below. We look forward to seeing freshmen on Wednesday, Aug. 28.

Agawam Junior HS Maze days Aug. 26

AGAWAM— The Agawam Junior High School faculty and administration cordially invite you to attend our “Seventh Grade/New 8th Grade Student Orientation” on Monday, Aug. 26, in the AJHS Auditorium. Orientation is open to all seventh grade students, new 8th grade students, and their parents/guardians. We will have two orientation sessions for flexibility for families to attend. The first session will be at 4:30 p.m. and the second session will start at 5:30 p.m.

Prior to the orientation meeting, we will have the maze days journey from 4 to 6 p.m. in the cafeteria. These are flexible times and you are not required to attend the entire time. During the maze, you will receive and complete import-

ant paperwork, sign up for school activities and clubs and get more information regarding particular programs offered at the junior high school. In addition our PTO will also be on hand to provide information on upcoming events and activities being offered to the students, as well as get your input and ideas you’d like shared with the school and student body.

After completing the maze days paperwork, students will be provided their Homeroom (first period)/TEAM assignments for the upcoming school year. The process should not take more than 30 minutes to complete and, you will be able to complete the google form packet that will be emailed and also available on the

website (www.agawamed.org), and submit it before going into the Student Orientation meeting at 4:30 or 5:30 p.m.. There will be chromebooks available for families to complete the form during maze days as well. Students will also pick up their chromebooks from Mrs. Bruno-Santaniello in the library during maze days.

Maze days for returning 8th grade students will be held Tuesday, Aug. 27, from 4 to 6 p.m. in the cafeteria, no parent orientation. Any 7th or new 8th grade family (not returning 8th grade students) that is not able to attend on their scheduled date is welcomed to attend on this date.

Public Notices

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL AD

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on **Thursday, August 22, 2024 at 6:00PM at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St, Agawam, MA.** The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the **Request for Determination of Applicability** of Snow on property located at 49 Silver Lake Drive.

By Order of

Henry A. Kozloski,
Chairman
AGAWAM
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION

08/15/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD24P1658GD

In the interests of **Romero Job Calligos of Feeding Hills, MA Minor**
NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time:
A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **08/07/2024** by **Sandra Irma O’Quinn** of Feeding Hills, MA will be held **09/18/2024**

08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing. Located: **4th Floor, 50 State Street, Springfield, MA 01103.**

2. Response to Petition:
You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the Court; and

Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Counsel for Parents:
If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor’s best interests.
Date: August 7, 2024

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
08/15/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD24P1629EA

Estate of:
Irene Maryanne Gosselin
Date of Death: 06/16/2024
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Richard R. Gosselin of Canton, CT** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Richard R. Gosselin of Canton, CT has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety on the bond.**

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any,

can be obtained from the Petitioner.
08/15/2024

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given by Langonet Towing pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.255, Section 39A, that on **September 2, 2024** at 63 Ramah Cir S, Agawam the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy the garagekeeper’s lien thereon for storage, towing charges, and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.

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AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL AD

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on **Thursday, August 22, 2024 at 6:05PM at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St, Agawam, MA.** The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of MassDOT for resurfacing and related work on Route 57.

By Order of
Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
AGAWAM
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
08/15/2024

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH WARRANT FOR 2024 STATE PRIMARY

SS.

To the Constables of the City/Town of Agawam

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said city or town who are qualified to vote in Primaries to vote at:

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- Precinct 2:** Clifford M. Granger School, 31 South Westfield Street
- Precinct 3:** Agawam High School, 760 Cooper Street
- Precinct 4:** Roberta G. Doering School, 68 Main Street
- Precinct 5:** Benjamin J. Phelps School, 689 Main Street
- Precinct 6:** James Clark School, 65 Oxford Street
- Precinct 7:** Agawam Junior High School, 1305 Springfield Street
- Precinct 8:** James Clark School, 65 Oxford Street

on **TUESDAY, THE THIRD DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2024**, from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. for the following purpose:

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- COUNCILLOR:
EIGHTH DISTRICT
- SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT:
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PRECINCT TWO THRU EIGHT
- CLERK OF COURTS:
HAMPDEN COUNTY
- REGISTER OF DEEDS:
HAMPDEN DISTRICT

Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of said voting.

Given under our hand this 12th day of August 2024.

Vincent F. Gioscia, City Clerk
08/15/2024

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Cigar Tobacco History presentation on Aug. 24

AGAWAM— In 1915, more than 200 tobacco sheds stood in Agawam; only a handful remain today. One is just a stone's throw from the historic Thomas Smith House, 251 North West St., the site of a presentation by Duane Adams on "Shade Tobacco in the Connecticut Valley" on Saturday, Aug. 24, at 2 p.m. Adams spent 46 years working on shade tobacco farms in the valley, and currently serves on the board of directors of the Connecticut Valley Tobacco Museum in Windsor, Connecticut.

The mission of the museum is to preserve the history of cigar tobacco agriculture in the Connecticut River Valley. In the 1920s, the region saw approximately 30,000 acres of tobacco under cultivation; the museum reports only 25 acres of shade tobacco was grown here in 2025. The region's shade tobacco, known for its light color and mild, creamy flavor, was, and still is, prized as wrappers of premium cigars.

Tobacco was widely grown on farms throughout Agawam and Feeding Hills from the mid 1800s through the 1970s; some shade, but mostly broadleaf; and it is still grown today on a smaller scale. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the Hinsdale Smith / Cuba Connecticut Tobacco Company raised hundred acres of the "weed" at what is now the Agawam Regional Industrial Park and Tuckahoe Turf/Still Brook Park properties. Hinsdale Smith was the first company in the United States to have its tobacco crop insured against hail damage by Lloyd's of London.

The c. 1757 Thomas Smith House is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is preserved in largely original, unrestored condition, without central heat or central plumbing. The property's 1920s garage has also been preserved; both the house and garage will be open for tours from noon to 4 p.m.

The Agawam Historical Association is a private, non-profit organization working to preserve historic materials, documents, and landmarks pertaining to the Town of Agawam and to provide educational opportunities concerning Agawam's history. The association operates the c. 1757 Thomas Smith House at 251 North West St., and the Agawam Historical & Fire House Museum at 35 Elm St. The Smith House can be toured virtually. The museum occupies the former Elm Street Fire Station, and houses artifacts pertaining to the town and the Agawam Fire Department. New members are always welcome.

STCC celebrates free community college program in Massachusetts

SPRINGFIELD—Springfield Technical Community College is celebrating a groundbreaking development in higher education: The expansion of free community college in Massachusetts.

The new initiative known as MassEducate, part of the budget signed July 29 by Gov. Maura Healey, aims to make higher education accessible and affordable for Massachusetts residents. STCC, uniquely positioned as the only technical community college in Massachusetts, is thrilled to be part of this transformative change, said STCC President John B. Cook.

Expanding on the success of MassReconnect, which the Healey-Driscoll administration unveiled last year, MassEducate will now offer free community college to all Massachusetts residents, regardless of age, who have yet to earn a bachelor's degree.

"MassEducate and MassReconnect align perfectly with our mission to provide accessible, affordable and high-quality education to all," Cook said. "We are excited to welcome new students and support them in achieving their academic and career goals. Removing the burden of tuition and fees for students will dramatically affect the lives of residents in our region and across the Commonwealth."

MassReconnect, which offers free community college, plus an allowance for books and supplies to students aged 25 and older without an associate or bachelor's degree, remains funded in the

budget. Eligible students will have their full tuition and fees covered, plus students who meet certain income eligibility requirements will receive an additional allowance of up to \$1,200 per academic year for books, supplies and other expenses.

Together, MassEducate and MassReconnect provide the opportunity for all Massachusetts residents, regardless of age or income who have yet to earn a bachelor's degree, the opportunity to earn an associate degree or certificate at any Massachusetts community college, if they meet all eligibility requirements and complete the proper steps to enroll and matriculate.

"We are grateful to the legislature, and in particular the Western Massachusetts delegation, and the Healey-Driscoll administration for this investment in our future," Cook said. "Free community college for Massachusetts residents reflects a broader commitment to education as a public good, emphasizing that access to education should not be limited by financial constraints."

As the only technical community college in the state, STCC has been a cornerstone of the Springfield community for decades. The college offers a wide range of programs, from technical and vocational training to liberal arts and sciences. Programs include an open-access Health Science degree which provides students, including those from underserved pop-

ulations, with exposure to health care careers. In addition, some of STCC's degree programs such as photonics and dental hygiene are not offered anywhere else in the region.

With the introduction of the free community college program, STCC expects to see an increase in enrollment, as more students seize the opportunity to further their education without the burden of tuition and fees.

With the introduction of MassReconnect in 2023, STCC saw increases in the number of students 25 and older. This fall, STCC will continue to welcome back non-traditional adult students who might not have had the means to get a certificate or degree prior to MassReconnect.

Massachusetts residents qualify for MassEducate if they have not previously earned a bachelor's degree and have resided in Massachusetts for at least one year as of the start of the enrolled term. They also must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), or, if they are an approved high school completer, complete the Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA). In addition, they must enroll in at least six credits per semester in an approved program of study leading to an associate degree or certificate.

Prospective students can apply to STCC for the fall semester, which starts Sept. 3. There is no application fee.

Springfield Technical High School Every Class Reunion Sept. 28

SPRINGFIELD - The spirit and comradery of Springfield's Tech High School is alive and well as they gear up for another exciting reunion on Saturday, Sept. 28 at the Elks Lodge #61 at 440 Tiffany Street from noon to 6:00 pm. The reunion is open to ALL TECH CLASSES and friends.

An outside barbecue will be held rain or shine under the lodge's pavilion and a special tent. The BBQ will include hot dogs, hamburgers, sausage and peppers, salads, dessert and more. Cash bar. Free parking and handicapped accessible.

A fun-filled afternoon will include a live band and dancing, cornhole and bocce games, raffles and time to reminisce with friends over the years and make new friends as well. Donations will be accepted for raffle prizes.

According to committee chair Mike Borecki, "Last year we had a terrific turnout of over 300 people and we anticipate a larger group this year. We're thrilled that the Tech Spirit is alive and well and look forward to many years to come".

Seating is limited and tickets are \$25 each. All are on a first come, first served basis. Open seating. For tickets call Mike Borecki '72 at 413-351-6572, Dawn Duncan '71 at 413-896-3930, Paul Montefusco '69 at 413-596-6607, or Matt Villamaino '67 at 413-896-2206. We're always looking for volunteers. If interested, contact Mike Borecki.

Located on Elliot Street in Springfield, MA Technical High School was founded in 1906 and closed in 1986.

Dinnall appointed to HCC Board of Trustees

HOLYOKE — Sonia E. Dinnall, the new superintendent of Springfield Public Schools, has been appointed to the Holyoke Community College Board of Trustees by Gov. Maura Healey.

Dinnall's term will run until March 1, 2027.

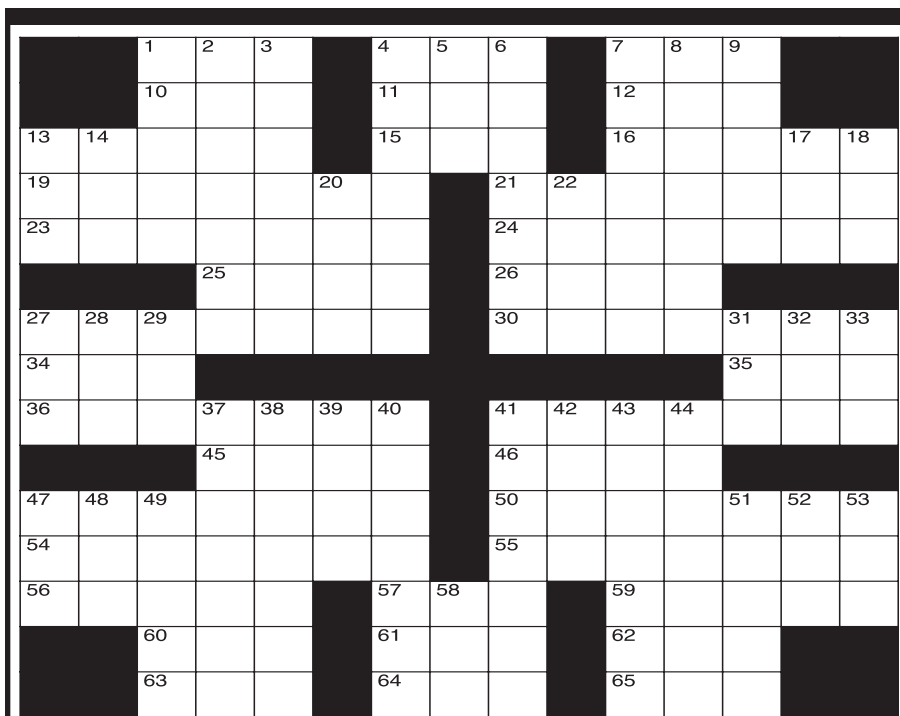
Dinnall was named superintendent of Springfield Public Schools in May and is the first woman to hold that position. She previously served as the principal of the Springfield High School of Commerce, executive director of college and career readiness for Hartford Public Schools, and supervisor of student support services for Springfield Public Schools. She started her career in education as an eighth-grade science teacher in Forest Park Middle School.

"Throughout my 34-year career in ed-

ucation, the vast majority has been dedicated to fostering the integration of secondary and post-secondary education," said Dinnall, who lives in Springfield. "As a member of the HCC Board of Trustees, I am eager to contribute my knowledge and skills to enhance and strengthen the connection between our secondary and post-secondary institutions. My ultimate goal is to improve student outcomes and institutional success."

Dinnall holds a Ph.D. in educational leadership from Lesley University, a master's degree in psychology from Westfield State, a master's degree in education from the University of Massachusetts, and a bachelor's degree in biology and psychology from Westfield.

Dinnall will attend her first HCC board meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 27.



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|---|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| CLUES ACROSS | 30. Immobile | CLUES DOWN | vehicle |
| 1. Major American automaker (abbr.) | 34. Pie __ mode | 1. Policemen (French) | 32. Fall behind |
| 4. Pressure measurement | 35. Moved quickly | 2. Toy dog | 33. Midway between northeast and east |
| 7. Two-year-old sheep | 36. Passenger's place on a motorbike | 3. Inflamed colon disease | 37. Head pain |
| 10. Indigenous person from Laos or Thailand | 41. A way through | 4. Can't move | 38. Popular sport in England and India |
| 11. Up in the air (abbr.) | 45. Former US Secretary of Education Duncan | 5. Helps little firms | 39. King Charles's sister |
| 12. Actress de Armas | 46. Leader | 6. Lists of names, subjects, etc. | 40. Boat race |
| 13. Not moving | 47. Flowing | 7. Takes down Constantius | 41. About fish |
| 15. Cool! | 50. Greetings | 8. Makes possible | 42. Maidservant |
| 16. Bog arum genus | 54. Remedy | 9. Wife of Julius | 43. Able to be marketed |
| 19. Perceptible by touch | 55. Soft lightweight fabric | Constantius | 44. Tinier |
| 21. Type of test | 56. Building material | 13. Engine additive | 47. Parts per billion (abbr.) |
| 23. Monetary units | 57. Sea bream | 14. Arctic explorers (abbr.) | 48. Paddle |
| 24. Collection of various things | 59. A way to cause to be swollen | 17. Written account | 4.9 Oneness |
| 25. Sum of five and one | 60. One and only | 18. Consumed | 51. Bitter chemical |
| 26. Type of sword | 61. People get one in summer | 20. Something the first shall be | 52. Not around |
| 27. Hates | 62. Wreath | 22. No (slang) | 53. Very fast airplane |
| | 63. Thus far | 27. Gov't lawyers | 58. Swiss river |
| | 64. They __ | 28. Peyton's little brother | |
| | 65. Sea eagle | 29. Small amount | |
| | | 31. Investment | |

Bates honored for sales work in assisted living

AGAWAM – On July 31, the Massachusetts Assisted Living Association (Mass-ALA) honored Andrea Bates, Sales and Marketing Director at Ruth's House Assisted Living, at their annual Excellence Awards Dinner with the 2024 Sales and Marketing Award. The honoree of the Sales and Marketing Award is a person who excels at promoting their Mass-ALA assisted living member community. This individual

uses innovative, creative sales and marketing techniques and grows relationships with residents, families, and key referral sources.

“At its core, assisted living values providing older adults with the highest quality of care, dignity and respect. Not always as apparent are the associates, volunteers, and leaders committed to this mission. It is our honor to recognize the 2024 Excellence Award winners for their dedication and enthusiasm. The involvement of these individuals in their communities exemplifies the standard of care we are committed to delivering across the Commonwealth,” said Brian Doherty, President and CEO of Mass-ALA.

Andrea, a resident of Agawam, has been with Ruth's House for 13 years and, in that time, has made a significant difference in

hundreds of residents' lives by focusing on personalized care, building strong relationships, and creating a supportive and welcoming environment. She enhances the resident experience by providing valuable information and resources during monthly lunch and learn events, and works to attract prospective residents by showcasing the community's commitment to learning, wellness, and fostering community. As a former Activities Director, she will also go out of her way to create opportunities for residents to engage in meaningful activities and socialize during events such as Kittens' Therapy where residents could interact with young animals. Andrea is a vital member of the management team and gives her all every day.

“Andrea Bates exemplifies the essence of compassionate and personalized care that we strive to provide at Ruth's House. Her dedication over the past 14 years has profoundly impacted our residents' lives, bringing joy, comfort, and a sense of community. Andrea's innovative activities and educational



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Massachusetts Assisted Living Association (Mass-ALA) recently honored Andrea Bates, Sales and Marketing Director at Ruth's House Assisted Living, at their annual Excellence Awards Dinner with the 2024 Sales and Marketing Award

body the values we hold dear. She is a vital member of our team, and her unwavering commitment to our community makes her incredibly deserving of this recognition,” said Executive Director of Ruth's House Assisted Living Jessica Spezzano.

initiatives not only enrich the daily lives of our residents but also em-



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