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# AGAWAM

## ADVERTISER NEWS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

August 29, 2024 | Vol. 46, No. 27 | \$1.00

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### Preliminary work gets underway

By Quin Suomala  
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – As the new school year begins, the work on the Agawam High School project continues forward.

Some in the community may have noticed that the junior varsity soccer field is offline for practices and games.

This is because the architects have used the field as a test site for boring for the new building. Therefore, they drilled into the ground and thus the field will not be usable for soccer, though people are welcome to walk across it as needed.

“They’re covered up but they have rendered the field unplayable for the fall,” AHS Principal

PROJECT | page 15

### Art Festival shows area’s talent

By Quin Suomala  
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Agawam Community Artists and Artisans and Agawam Rocks held an art show

at the Polish American Club last week. This show was open to a variety of artists from the community, who came in with pieces

FESTIVAL | page 13



Janice Cormier had a variety of her art for sale at the Agawam Community Artists and Artisans art show.  
TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA

### Library’s Lego hour opens up world of masterful fun, creativity



Pola and Riley proudly displayed their lego creation of a vet and a zoo.  
TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA

By Quin Suomala  
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Agawam Public Library hosted an open Lego hour for kids in grades one through four to attend.

This event was run by Youth Associate Izzy Malvezzi who thought it would be a good event for kids to enjoy before the start of school.

“We thought it would be something that was simple for us to do and that we knew people would really enjoy,” Malvezzi said.

Malvezzi and the others at the

childrens’ desk often get requests for Lego-related events, so she thought this would be a good opportunity to act on the idea.

Additionally, when Malvezzi was younger she would volunteer at her town library where they would often do Lego events, so she wanted to try it out at APL. “We would always kick off summer reading with Lego building,” Malvezzi said. “So I thought it would be fun to try it here.”

Kids were welcomed into the childrens’ room at the library and provided with several buckets filled with Legos. They then had an hour to put together any kind

of Lego design that they wanted.

After the hour was up, the kids could either take their creations apart and put them away or they could put them up on display in the library.

The displays were complete with little place cards, labeling the Lego creation with a title and stating the name and age of the creator.

Malvezzi most looked forward to seeing everything the kids came up with throughout the hour.

“This is a nice primer to let

LEGO | page 8

### Magician George Saterial amazes children at KidsFest summer finale

By Quin Suomala  
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Magician George Saterial closed out the KidsFest summer performance series with a mystical show earlier this month.

His performance was an interactive magic show that was perfect for kids and their families to attend.

“I get members of the audience involved, they get to do some of the magic with me, it makes it a lot of fun for everyone involved,” Saterial said.



The gathered audience at Magician George Saterial’s magic show applauded his magic tricks. Saterial makes a card slide into a balloon.  
TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA

MAGICIAN | page 15





# Pet of the Week

## Meet Misty Rose!

She is a 1 year old Cavachon. She is a sweet, smart & happy, little girl that loves everyone she meets. She loves playing ball, wrestling with her sister, Honey Bun and helping take care of her 2 senior siblings, KD and Molly. Her favorite time, of the day is getting to go on the big bed and snuggle with Mom, Dad and her sisters.



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### Attention Readers!

We feature your pets here FREE. All pets are welcome! Dog, cat, chicken, lizard, horse, bird, mouse, etc. Is there a pet you're fostering and trying to re-home? We want to hear all about it! Email a high-resolution photo of your pet with a little information including your name and your pet's name to [wdelcamp@turley.com](mailto:wdelcamp@turley.com).

## ACAA takes talents to Suffield

SUFFIELD, CT – The Suffield Arts Council will host a group show of work by members of The Agawam Community Artists and Artisans. The club, formed in 1992 by our neighbors to the north has more than 90 members. This dynamic group is active throughout the year participating in many local shows and exhibits.

Members of all ages work in a variety of media. This show will feature more than 50 entries, in a wide range of subject matter.

The group holds monthly meetings, on the second Wednesday, at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. Meetings

begin at 6 p.m. Each meeting features a demonstration by accomplished artists, and are open to the public. In addition, ACAA offers educational programs in a variety of subjects

The Suffield show opens Sept. 3 and runs through Sept. 30. A reception, in the gallery will be held on Thursday evening, Sept. 12 from 6 to 8 p.m. It is open to the public.

This event is made possible thanks to the efforts of the Suffield Arts Council, The Agawam Community Artists and Artisans, and the Kent Memorial Library staff.

## Catholic Women's Club to hold show on Sept. 9

AGAWAM – The annual entertainment of The Catholic Women's Club of Agawam will be held on Monday, Sept. 9 at 7:30 p.m., at the St. John the Evangelist Parish Center, 833 Main St., Agawam, MA.

Doors will open at 6 p.m., open seating. Appetizers, hot hors d'oeuvres will be served at 6:30 p.m. and desserts later in the evening. Cost is \$10 and checks made out to Catholic Women's Club or C.W.C. should be sent to Betty Chapman, 70 Tracy Drive, Agawam, by Sept. 3. A short business meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

Members will be able to pay their dues (\$15) that evening. Any Catholic woman presiding in Agawam/Feeding Hills or member of St. John the Evangelist or Sacred Heart Parish is welcome to attend this fun event. Any questions, call Paula at 789-0244.

## Church to hold traditional Polish dinner

WESTFIELD – Back by popular demand, St. Joseph's National Catholic Church at 73 Main Street in Westfield is hosting a Community Polish Fare Dinner on Sunday, Sept. 22 at 12 noon. This community dinner will feature delicious cheese pierogi, lazy cabbage pierogi, galumpki, kielbasa, pickled beets, rye bread, and dessert. coffee, juice, and water will also be available.

Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$10 for children under 12. For tickets, contact Cliff at (413) 977-2007. Deadline for purchasing tickets is September 19th. A limited number of Meals-To-Go will be available at 12:30 p.m. (when buying your tickets, please indicate if you are eating with us at the Social Center or planning take-out). Parking is available at our Clinton Avenue parking lot. All are welcome. Please join us for a traditional Sunday Polish dinner.

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**Desserts**

# Concert series concludes with Enter the Haggis

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The Summer Concert Series finished off with a spectacular performance by Canadian Celtic Rock band Enter the Haggis.

Community members gathered at School Street Park to enjoy the show, as well as the food provided by Agawam Rotary Club and Agawam Lions Club.

This show was a great way to close out the summer concert season. The music was enjoyable and many people danced along throughout the show.

Agawam's summer concert series has been every Wednesday from 7-9 p.m. at School Street Park. There has also been a variety of kids shows on some Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

These different shows and performances each drew a significant crowd and brought a variety of music and fun to the people of Agawam.

They all provided a great opportunity for community members to get out, spend some time together and enjoy their summers.



Community members gathered at School Street Park to enjoy the music by Enter the Haggis.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA



Agawam Veterans Council volunteered their time at the Enter the Haggis concert at School Street Park.



Agawam Lions Club and the Agawam Rotary Club sold snacks for people to enjoy while attending the Enter the Haggis concert.



Canadian Celtic Rock band Enter the Haggis put on a great performance at School Street Park.



## You're invited to our **NEW** Agawam location!

### Service Times

9:30 am  
11:00 am

### Location

The Southgate Plaza  
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# Opinion

## Guest Column

### Busy fall to come

Greetings, Agawam. It's that great time of the year where the activity is beginning to pick up, kids are putting on those new school clothes, and the fun of Friday (or sometimes Thursday) Night Football returns to Harmon Smith Field.

Here at the Agawam Advertiser News, we are excited for what the upcoming fall and winter has to offer.

Though we are a small staff, we are committed to continuing to provide you with the information you need for your daily life right here in Agawam and Feeding Hills as well as some of the great things happening around the region that is important for you to know.

It will be a busy season with a big presidential election forthcoming, along with your local legislators up for re-election.

As you will read in this week's free edition mailed right to your home, the beginning steps of the Agawam High School project will be getting underway. We hope to bring you all the ongoing and updated information so you know what is happening and how it affects you and your families.

Meanwhile, there will also be plenty of action in the other schools, and on our sports fields with football, soccer, field hockey, cross country, golf, and girls volleyball set to get underway next week. Our sports department will bring you the action as we navigate the season.

But as always, we do need your help. If you have good story ideas, or see issues in the community that you believe need to be addressed, then we definitely want to hear from you. You can contact us at [aan@turley.com](mailto:aan@turley.com) with your story ideas, photos, and press releases.

Thank you again for reading the *Agawam Advertiser News*, and please check us out again next week!

**Gregory A. Scibelli**  
Editor

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## Letters to the Editor

### Retiree asks about his Social Security



**Dear Rusty**

I retired with a (gross) \$4,600 per month Civil Service Retirement System annuity from the U.S. Postal Service in December 2022. I am 66 and will attain Full Retirement Age in November of this year.

I know at that point I will not be subject to the "earnings" test, but I will be affected by the dreaded "government offset." I have earned enough quarters and will be eligible for a small social security benefit.

First question: will my Social Security benefit

just be reduced or will it be eliminated? Second: will it make a difference if I apply in November or when I turn 70? I am currently working part-time and paying Social Security FICA taxes.

Third: if my SS is being eliminated, do I even have to apply? Fourth and last: I am married, filing jointly and my wife is currently receiving SS benefits (only). Could I also be affected by the "windfall" provision if my wife predeceased me?

Thank you in advance for your service as a Social Security Advisor.

**Signed: Upset to Offset and Downfall to Windfall**

**Dear Upset**

You are correct that when you reach your Full Retirement Age in November you will no longer be subject to Social Security's "earnings test,"

SECURITY | page 5

### Next year I will not...



It's just about now when I feel, to some degree, embarrassed to be called the Garden Lady. You see, my garden is not as well kept as I'd like it to be. I skimped in a few areas that I shouldn't of.

As my oldest is about to enter her last year of high school I reflect back on the year of her birth, and how dismal my garden was that year. It was the first summer without a dog to keep critters at bay. We had a whole family of woodchucks eat pretty much everything in the garden.

I consoled myself by saying that I was growing a human that year and not a bunch of vegetables.

While responsibilities have changed in the fact I am no longer changing diapers or zipping up avocado and sweet potato in the blender, I'm still pretty busy with the kids and that has taken priority over a tidy garden. Usually it comes down to getting out what you put in and honestly, the garden has pretty much been on it's own since mid June. Gasp.

Maybe you can relate. So, the column today will be about what I plan to do better on next year, especially since I don't anticipate life slowing down anytime soon.

Next year I will not, absolutely not, skimp on fertilizer. My nature is to be frugal, but I will go back to the statement above of getting out what you put in.

I know that 12-foot squash vines probably need more sustenance than the few shovels of compost I put in their hills. This is evident by how pale the leaves are.

Contrast that to the self-sown decorative squash plants that grew in my compost pile comprised mainly of chicken bedding and manure. They are unbelievably healthy, replete with numerous healthy fruit.

My soil test did indicate that nitrogen was low, and I did intend to go back when I bought that new bag of blood meal and amend it further but alas I did not. Next year I will not skimp on fertilizer.

Next year I will not, absolutely not, skimp on mulch. When I looked at what was left for mulch from the previous year I figured I had enough to get by.

Wrong. Part of the reason the yard looks like a jungle is because I should have mulched thicker. Mulch serves several purposes. It covers bare soil and prevents weed seeds in the soil from seeing the light of day, germinating and turning into a nuisance.

Mulch also breaks down over time into or-

GARDEN | page 5

## 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](mailto: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.



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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters. All letters are subject to editing for content and length. The deadline is Monday at noon. Please send letters to Agawam Advertiser News, care of Turley Publications Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, or e-mail [aan@turley.com](mailto:aan@turley.com).

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The Agawam Advertiser News (USPS 001-170) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.



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# Opinion

## GARDEN ■ from page 4

ganic matter then humus, and feeds the soil. It also helps to conserve moisture.

Until this week we didn't really need help with that, but the abundance of rain, added to not nearly thick enough mulch, surely made for numerous weeds! Next year I will not skimp on mulch.

Next year I will not, absolutely not, let the weeds take over. The first two "will nots" relate to this paragraph entirely.

I prepped the garden and knew I should till in the old strawberry plants. I looked at a few sparse blossoms and thought, "I may get a few berries, I'll leave them in place

and till them in later."

Well, the berries were few and far between but the surrounding weeds took over. Then the necrotic squash plants grew all over the weeds and the strawberry plants so I'm forced to wait until the first frost to deal with the whole mess.

I'm not sure who said it first, but it's a smart diatribe: "Do not put off until tomorrow what can be done today."

With all this said I must cut myself some slack, and if you failed anywhere along the line with your garden, you should as well. Our gardens are a work in progress and although I wish I had done a better job, I did OK.

We enjoyed some yummy green beans and I froze some kale. I did make tomato sauce on a couple of occasions and hopefully will have another chance at it and maybe I'll get a few butternuts to eat.

I know for sure I'll get some nice decorative squash, thanks to the composted chicken manure. Live and learn I guess.

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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



## SECURITY ■ from page 4

which limits how much you can earn while collecting early benefits. But if you apply for your Social Security to start in November, your SS benefits will be affected by the Windfall Elimination Provision due to your non-covered CSRS pension because you didn't pay into SS while earning your CSRS pension. As you may know, only those federal employees, who retired under CSRS are affected by WEP; newer Federal employees, who retire under the more recent Federal Employee Retirement Program program are not affected.

Because of your CSRS pension, your So-

cial Security benefit will be reduced, but not eliminated. The amount of reduction will be based on the number of years of non-government employment you had where you paid into Social Security. Usually, those who have spent a lifetime earning a pension without contributing to SS, but who have a separately earned SS pension, will see their SS benefit cut approximately in half.

To answer your second question, your benefit will, indeed, continue to grow if you wait until you are age 70 to claim Social Security. Benefits taken after one's FRA earn "Delayed Retirement Credits," which add to your final benefit amount. Your benefit will still be reduced by WEP, but your final

amount will be more because you waited longer to claim.

Regarding your third question, your SS benefit will only be reduced, not eliminated, so it's always worthwhile to apply. Otherwise, you are forfeiting Social Security money you are entitled to.

And lastly, if your wife dies before you, your CSRS pension will also cause another provision called the Government Pension Offset provision to apply. The GPO will reduce your surviving spouse benefits by 2/3rds of the amount of your government CSRS pension, which will likely eliminate any spousal benefit you are entitled to except the so-called "death benefit," which is

a one-time lump sum \$255 benefit paid to a surviving spouse).

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for informational 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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

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Agawam Advertiser News

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One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

**Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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**CLUES ACROSS**

- Microgram
- After B
- Everything
- An unfortunate development
- Coat with sticky substance
- Cylinder of tobacco for smoking
- Minimum interval take off
- Yuck!
- NBA sensation Jeremy
- Where some rockers work
- Midway between northeast and east
- Snake-like fishes
- Groups of homes
- Swiss river
- Useful towel
- "The Wire"

**CLUES DOWN**

- Lunatic
- Actress Danes
- Buttock muscles
- The 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet
- Popular 70s rockers
- Electronic communication
- Trigraph
- Sea eagles
- Low-pitched, resonant sound
- Northeastern US university (abbr.)
- Home of the Bulldogs
- Exclamation of surprise
- Advantage
- Monkeys love

character "Moreland"

29. Oafish creature

30. A major division of geological time

31. Bird-like Chinese dinosaur

32. Sporting events

39. Body part

41. Clerical vestment

42. Shows data

43. Some are "special"

44. Expression of disappointment

45. Students' rights document (abbr.)

46. Vacation locale Costa \_\_

48. Pop singer

49. Distract outside a city

50. Mark Wahlberg comedy

51. Coniferous tree

52. Midway between

south and southeast

them

- Wood
- Paddle
- Past participle of be
- Tall, rounded vase
- Device manufacturers
- Financial institution (abbr.)
- Paper product
- A type
- Atomic #43
- Red Hot Chili Peppers' drummer
- Behaviors
- Decays
- Walked confidently
- Voice (Italian)
- Class of adhesives
- Bar bill
- One-time aerospace firm

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 15**

# Reduced fees, new events for September at senior center

AGAWAM – The Agawam Senior Center announced new events and classes starting in September. The center also announced reduced fees for those classes.

If you participate in any of the several classes that we offer here at the Senior Center...well hold onto your hat do we have news for you. Due to Grant funding that we have acquired starting, Tuesday, Sept. 2 all classes that are offered at the Agawam Senior Center will now be at the reduced fee of only \$3 per class. The Agawam Senior Center will honor this reduced class fee until June 30, 2025. We hope this will give more seniors an opportunity to participate in our fabulous classes that we offer. Of course any classes that are currently at no cost or lower than \$3 will remain at their current fee. So come one, come all and add an extra class to your weekly routine or try a new one. The Agawam Senior Center is overjoyed to be able to offer this to you.

**High five for healthy hands**  
*Wednesday, Sept. 11 1 p.m.*  
*in the Seminar Hall*

Join Julianne to discuss some of the common hand and wrist problems that active adults encounter.

You will learn about adaptation techniques, several helpful tips and simple ex-

ercises to prevent worsening symptoms. Julie is an Occupational Therapist and Certified Hand Therapist who has been working in the orthopedic environment for over 25 years. She finds passion in teaching both the aspiring therapists within the local colleges and the community at large with regards to simple solutions to maintain functional independence. In 2022, she joined the New England Orthopedics team working directly for the surgeons doing postoperative care and custom orthoses as a way to help people who want to maintain current functioning or prevent further injuries through exercise and education. This community outreach program gives her an opportunity to provide education and prevention of common injuries. These talks are interactive and provide take home information to start on the road to feeling healthy and stronger the same day! 726-2836 to register

**Seminar with Dr. Matt Costanza from Resilience Physical Therapy**  
*Wednesday, Sept. 18 at 1 p.m.*

My name is Dr. Matt Costanza. I am a Physical Therapist from Resilience Physical Therapy and Wellness. We have two locations, in Agawam and in Suffield where I am Clinic Director. I will be presenting on

the importance of movement and exercise for the senior community and how physical therapy can help with that. I will also be discussing direct access, which allows patients to receive physical therapy without the need of a referral from a Doctor. This seminar will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 18 at 1 p.m. in the Seminar Hall. Call Kristina at 726-2836 to register.

**The Four Things: Further Conversation On Grief**

*Wednesday, Sept. 18 at 1 p.m.*  
*in the conference room*

It is only 4 things. 11 words total. And yet...they can be so difficult to say. Please forgive me. I forgive you. Thank you.

I love you. These 4 things are what palliative care doctor Ira Byock learned were the words people most needed to say when they were coming to the end of their lives. This session offers nurturing space and time to ponder the healing medicine of these words for in your life. Call Kristina at 726-2836 to register.

**African drumming**

*10-week class beginning Sept. 6*

We at the Agawam Senior Center are

very excited to partner with the Community Music School of Springfield again, and bring the exciting class of African Drumming to our community. This class will run from Friday, September 6 – November 8. There will be a beginner and an advanced class. Beginner class will begin 10 to 11 a.m. and 11 a.m. to 12 noon for advanced.

Presented in partnership with Community Music School of Springfield, Jason Arnold offers African Drumming at Agawam Senior Center. Jason has been playing drums since he was 6 years old, having studied with his father Billy Arnold (drummer for Young at Heart Chorus, and also a CMSS faculty member). Jason performs with rhythm & blues and rock groups throughout the Northeast. In 2010 he was honored for his work with children as a recipient of a Key Player Ambassador Award, and directs many Community Partnership programs throughout Springfield. Call Kristina at 413.726.2836 to secure your spot. The classes will be limited to 20 people.

Beginner Class will be free of charge for participants.

The Advanced Class fee will be a one-time payment of \$35 per participant, due on Friday, Sept. 6.

## Grange to hold next tag sale

AGAWAM – Community Grange #382 located at 47 North West St. in Feeding Hills will hold a tag and bake sale on Saturday, Sept. 7 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will also be a few crafters and vendors. The bake sale will include baked beans and homemade soups to go. Proceeds will be used for our community service projects.

## Agawam Garden Club set to meet next on Sept. 10

AGAWAM – The next meeting of the Agawam Garden Club will be Tuesday, Sept. 10 at 6:30 p.m., at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam. After a short business meeting Dan Ziomek will present a program on Hydrangeas. Dan has extensive knowl-

edge of the different hydrangea varieties, their characteristics and care. He has over thirty years in the plant industry and is currently the manager at Sugarloaf Gardens located in Sunderland, MA. All meetings are open to the public and not restricted to Agawam residents.

## ACC tag sale in September

AGAWAM – On Friday, Sept. 6 and Saturday, Sept. 7, Agawam Congregational Church, located at 745 Main St. in Agawam, is having a huge tag sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Toys, books, household items, seasonal décor, sports cards, clothing, shoes, bags and much more. There will be something for everyone.



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# Parrotta's Auto Service honors former employee

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Owners of Parrotta's Auto Service Bruno and Shayna Parrotta were proud to present their Living Wall which honors their former employee Fred Trimboli.

The wall consists of a variety of plants and a photo of Trimboli from when he was an employee at the shop.

Trimboli was an employee at Parrotta's for over 40 years and was a crucial part of their team.

"He was more than an employee, he was a family member," Shayna said.

"He was just a wonderful, kind person," Bruno said.

Trimboli started at the Auto Service as a gas pumper, back when the place was still a gas station. He was there for when they began to do inspections, and quickly took over that section of the shop.

When people came to get their inspections, Trimboli would always welcome them into the shop and strike up a conversation. Many people in town missed these friendly conversations while getting their cars inspected.

"Most people never knew anything but Freddie for a sticker," Bruno said. "People were deeply lost...they didn't know what to do when they came here for a sticker."

The Parrottas hope that this wall will help to keep the memory of Trimboli alive.

"It reminds everyone of Fred's spirit," Shayna said. "Everybody really enjoys just sitting there while they're waiting for the sticker...everybody has really fond memories of Fred and they comment on how they miss him, so the wall keeps his memory alive."

So far this has been successful. The Parrottas report that people often stop by the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Bruno and Shayna Parrotta proudly presented their Living Wall that honors their former employee Fred Trimboli.

will to say hello to Trimboli.

"Everyone loves the wall and Freddie's old crew goes and sees him," Bruno said. "Everyone comes over and says hi to him, because the picture [on the wall], that's the way he looked every day."

The Parrottas also hope to put up another memorial area honoring former employee Michael Canty who passed from cancer last year.

Parrotta's Auto Service has been in town since 1975, and they have become a staple of the town.

They are proud that all their employees are treated like family, and they make customers feel welcome as they come

into the shop.

"There is a lot of respect for each other, we just work together," Bruno said. "We keep it professional and a family atmo-

sphere and everybody loves that."

This kind of environment is clear the instant a customer enters the shop. All of the workers chat with one another easily and are eager to welcome customers into the conversation.

"They care about each other, they sit and eat lunch together every day," Shayna said.

"We work as a group," Bruno said.

As this shop has been around for so long, they have a wide range of experience in fixing different cars. They have kept up to date with new technology, while also retaining the skills to take care of older vehicles.

Bruno has attended training monthly for the past 20 years in order to keep up with the newest techniques. The shop can work on all European, Japanese and American vehicles up to the latest models.

"I am most proud of the fact that we have kept up with the latest techniques and diagnostic equipment," Bruno said. "We are proud that we never have to send our customers to the dealer for anything. We can do it all ourselves."

Bruno hopes that through his and his fellow workers' dedication to the shop they can make Bruno's father proud.

"Everything is done here for our name, for my father," Bruno said. "We do it to make him proud."

## Fire Dept. to host 9/11 ceremony

AGAWAM – The Town of Agawam will be conducting a brief September 11th remembrance ceremony on Wednesday, Sept. 11 at 9:30 a.m. in front of Agawam Fire Department Headquarters, 800 Main Street, Agawam. The ceremony will honor those who lost their lives in the at-

tacks of September 11th 2001. Speaking in remembrance at the ceremony will be: Agawam Fire Chief Alan Sirois, Agawam Mayor Christopher Johnson Father Bill Hamilton, Agawam Fire Department Chaplain, and Reverend Dr. Harvey Hill, St. David's Episcopal Church.

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Kids gathered around the lego bins in order to see what kind of legos were available inside. TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA

**LEGO** ■ from page 1

them do whatever they want creatively, in a controlled format," Malvezzi said. "I'm so curious to see what they come up with, I know there is going to be some cool stuff that comes out of this."

The kids had fun getting to dig through all of the Legos, discover what tools they had at their disposal and getting creative with it.

Some kids even came together to create a joint project that they proudly put on display at the end of the event.

With the success of this event, Malvezzi hopes to make this a monthly opportunity available for kids in grades one through four.

The library has many more fun events planned for fall. Malvezzi will be hosting a stuffed animal show. The struc-

ture of this event will be similar to a dog show where kids get to show off their stuffed animals and the tricks they can do.

There will also be a paint and snack event on Sept. 25 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. This event will be open for kids in grades seven through twelve.

The Dungeons and Dragons club for teens will continue, as will the library's weekly joke days and the weekly hunts and riddles.

Kids with stuffed animals will also have the chance to get library cards for their stuffies. These cards will be different from last years', so even if a kid has gotten a card for their stuffed animal before, they can get a new one now.

To keep updated on all the fun events the library has going on throughout the month, go to their website at <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/>.



Pola and Riley collaborated on making a vet and a zoo for the different lego animals.



Youth Associate Izzy Malvezzi and some of the kids at the event talked through ideas for their lego creations.




All of the lego creations slowly began to come together as the kids went through and selected their lego pieces.

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# SPORTS

## FOOTBALL

### Preseason gets underway

AGAWAM – Last Saturday afternoon, Agawam High School football had its first preseason scrimmage against Pittsfield. The Brownies are also scheduled to meet Ludlow and

Granby, CT before their season opener. Currently, the Brownies are scheduled to meet Chicopee Comprehensive at home on Friday, Sept. 13 at 7 p.m.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY  
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM  
An Agawam quarterback hopeful attempts a pass.



The Brownies schedule opens on Sept. 13.



The Brownies next face Ludlow in the exhibition schedule.



The Brownies offense works during a scrimmage against Pittsfield.



Agawam's running back tries to escape a tackle.



Elijah Ramos is set to make a reception.



The Brownies practice a hand off.



Zoe Kellogg-Brodeur looks to make a backhand pass.



Oceana Pratt looks to shoot.



Stella Christopher heads up down the field side.

## FIELD HOCKEY

### AHS hosts play day

AGAWAM – On Sunday morning, Agawam High School's turf field was full of activity as the Brownies hosted a play day featuring several regional teams, including Southwick, Westfield, Frontier, and Greenfield. With Agawam hosting the event, it sent both its varsity and JV squads out on the field for short scrimmages. The Brownies will continue practicing this week and are set to open the regular season on Wednesday, Sept. 4 at West Springfield High School at 7 p.m. Agawam's home opener will be Friday, Sept. 6 at 4 p.m.



Finnola Mahoney slowly makes her way down the field.



Sophia DiBella sends the ball past midfield.



Olivia Govoni sends a hit away.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM  
Lili Atkins drags the ball down the field.

# Sports

## Former Red Sox prospect leads new baseball camp



Alex Nunlist fields a grounder.



Catcher T.J. Ryan catches a ball at the plate.

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – Many sports camps were held throughout Western Massachusetts during the past several months.

The Summer Sendoff Baseball Camp took place on the baseball fields at Spec Pond in Wilbraham from August 19-22. The camp was run by Dustin Brisson, who played Minor League Baseball for the Boston Red Sox.

“I held a couple of private baseball clinics with Doug Clark, who’s the WooSox hitting coach, during the offseason,” Brisson said. “I spoke with the Wilbraham Parks & Recreation Department about holding a baseball camp during the summertime. All these kids just love playing the game of baseball. I really wanted them to have high quality instruction and the resources to be successful.”

Brisson was aided at the four day camp by Bryan Barnowski, Ace Adams, Gary Burnham, who was an All-American baseball player at Clemson University, and Dan Gomez, who’s the head baseball coach at Western New England University. Minnechaug Regional varsity baseball coach Mike Netkovick worked at the camp for one day. Ray Fagnant, who’s the Boston Red Sox Northeast Regional Scouting Su-

pervisor, also attended the camp for a day. Fagnant grew up in Chicopee.

About 40 baseball players between the ages of 6-16 from Wilbraham and the surrounding communities attended the inaugural baseball camp.

“We have a few kids from South Hadley, Agawam, and East Longmeadow at this camp,” Brisson added. “This is a very good group of kids to work with. All of them listen to us and they’re having a lot of fun.”

The players were split up into two groups.

“We play a lot more games with the younger kids, who are in grades 1-5,” Brisson said. “We do more skills with the older kids.”

Brisson, who was born in Florida, played college baseball at the University of Central Florida from 1997-2000. He also played baseball in the prestigious Cape Cod League and is a member of Peoples-Bank, which captured another Tri-County League championship title this summer.

He was drafted by the New York Mets and the Miami Marlins before signing with the Red Sox.

He advanced to Double A before his professional baseball career came to an end due to an injury.

“I was blessed to have the opportunity to play professional baseball,” Brisson said.

“I’m now doing what I can to give back.”

Brisson also owns Forge Athletics.

“I started Forge Athletics back in May,” he said. “I want to run more baseball clinics in the future. I’m also looking forward to running this baseball camp again next year.”

Barnowski, who lives in Southwick, was one of Brisson’s teammates at the Single A level.

Bryan and I were teammates on a Single A team,” Brisson said. “His sister and my wife have been friends for 40 years. I met my wife when I went to visit him during the offseason, and we’ve been married for 22 years. My wife’s family is from Wilbraham, and we moved here in 2005. We love living in this community.”

Because it rained on the first day, the camp was held indoors down the street at the Soccer City Sportscenter.

“Soccer City isn’t really designed for baseball, but we made the best of it on the first day of the camp,” Brisson said. “The people there were very accommodating. We were able to use both of their soccer fields. We were able to have a full workout. The only thing that we didn’t do was to have a live batting practice. The baseball fields here at Spec Pond is one of the best in the area.”

Brisson main goal was to teach the players the fundamentals of baseball. He and his staff also held a meeting each morning to map out the schedule for that day.

“My main goal is to teach the players the basic fundamentals of the game,” he



Parker Duquette dives for a catch.



Wesley Beer lunges for a catch.

CAMP | page 12

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# Sports

## Fanning captures win in Street Stocks

THOMPSON, CT – A perfect Wednesday, Aug. 14 afternoon in the quiet corner of Connecticut brought the fans in droves for the annual NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Wednesday night showcase at Thompson Speedway. The Thompson 150 presented by FloSports headlined a seven division card of racing on Wednesday night that also included a fan-favorite visit for the New England Supermodified Series and the five track championship divisions that call Thompson home throughout the season.

The Street Stocks started off the evening's feature racing with Scott Sundeen at the head of the pack. Sundeen powered up looking to nab his first win of the season followed by Al Stone III, 'Leadfoot' Larry Barnett and Corey Fanning nose-to-tail behind him. The lone caution on lap 12 for the spinning Tim Poulin set up a final showdown between Sundeen and Fanning with Corey Fanning powering through to the win with Ryan Waterman making moves to take second and Al Stone III holding on for third.

Following NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour qualifying the Mini Stocks took on the highbanks with Steve Michalski and Rick LaFlesh. LaFlesh got the jump into the lead as heavy-hitters Jared Roy and Kevin Moore battled for second just inches off LaFlesh's back bumper. Roy sling-shot into the lead powering out of turn four under the halfway crossed-flags. Jared Roy would put the peddle down to return to his winning ways followed by Kevin Moore and Ryan Pomposelli.

Rookie Isaiah Newcomb brought the Thompson Sunoco Modifieds to the green flag with Jon Puleo quickly launching the head of the pack. By lap five, Todd Owen had charged up to second and began stalking the youngster with a few love taps on the bumper. Owen would charge under Puleo to lead lap seven with Puleo left to fend off Keith Rocco for second. Puleo would use the cross-over to lead lap 13 with Rocco and Owen getting physical for second. Content to run 1-2-3, the leaders waited for laps to wind down in their 30-lap main event and took it right down to the checkered flags with Jon Puleo taking his fifth win of the season followed by Keith Rocco and Todd Owen in victory lane.

Bobby Timmons and Jim Storace brought the New England Supermodified Series to green for their 30-lap main event. The heart-stopping move of the race would come on lap 4 as Ben Seitz and Dan Bowes took Storace three-wide,

shooting off turn two and down the back straightaway with Bowes coming out with the lead. Coming from mid-pack, Jon McKennedy also rounded Storace to take third, made the long march to take on Seitz and dove underneath to take position on lap 21. With a straightaway lead Dan Bowes took the win just nine lightning-fast laps later followed by McKennedy and Seitz at the line.

Fast time, Mayhew Tools polesitter Patrick Emerling brought the 26-car NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour field to green and quickly shot out front ahead of Craig Lutz. Dave 'Sap' Sapienza brought out the first caution on lap 20 with a flat right rear sending him in the spin-cycle in turn three. Emerling would maintain the lead under the return to green flag racing with a rear-view mirror full of Justin Bonsignore. The leaders would begin taking on lap traffic on lap 53 but remained settled in for the long-haul strategy. The second caution on lap 60 for the spinning Woody Pitkat off turn two saw the entire field jump pit-side for tires and adjustments in preparation for the second half of the Thompson 150 presented by FloSports.

Patrick Emerling again maintained his lead position by an impatient Justin Bonsignore began to show his hand, diving under Emerling in a look to the near future. Jake Johnson would slam into the turn one wall on lap 76 from mid-pack with an apparent mechanical failure to rereck the field once more. The subsequent restart saw top-5 runner Chase Dowling quickly fall through the field with obvious issues under the hood to swamp a great day for the Tinio Motorsports group as Emerling continued to dominate at the front. The final stretch would see Patrick Emerling dominant the Thompson 150 presented by FloSports for his fifth career NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour win and first at Thompson Speedway followed by Justin Bonsignore and Craig Lutz.

The AZ Roofing SK Light Modifieds and the Late Models wrapped up the Wednesday night racing action at Thompson. Cautions plagued the opening circuits of the SK Light feature, taking out point leader Tyler Chapman and rookie Steve Midford, leaving Meghan Fuller to battle Nick Hovey and John O'Sullivan. Nick Hovey would motor around Fuller for his first win of the season with John O'Sullivan coming home third. The Late Model 25-lap sprint would see Derek Gluchacki charge ahead of the field to take back-to-back wins followed by Nick Johnson and Matt Lowinski-Loh.

## 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. The event will include lunch, prizes and a raffle.

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.

Online registrations can be made through [www.theparishcupboard.org](http://www.theparishcupboard.org) following the "Donate" option. 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](mailto:parishcupboard@aol.com).



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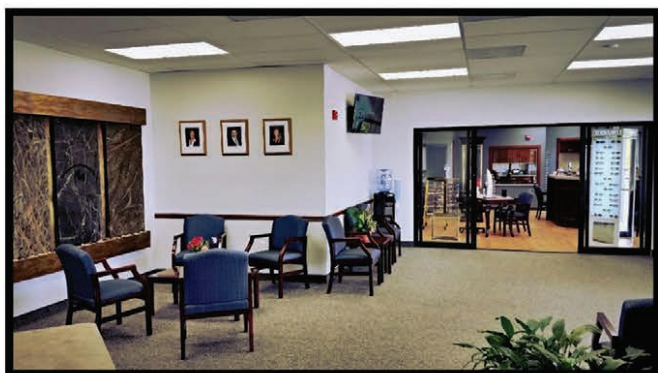
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# Sports

## Thunderbirds announce series of front office promotions

SPRINGFIELD – With Opening Night less than two months away, the Springfield Thunderbirds proudly announced that six veteran front office staff members will take on promotions to their roles for the 2024-25 season.

Last season, the team achieved multiple franchise milestones, including all-time Springfield hockey records in average attendance per game (6,321), sellout games (20), season ticket members, and group sales revenue. The team ended the 2023-24 season by posting an incredible 14 consecutive sellouts.

Jessica Hansen has been promoted to Senior Director of Finance and Human Resources. Hansen, an alumna of Western New England University and a native of Feeding Hills, Mass., has been on the Thunderbirds staff since 2017. In addition to her finance and HR responsibilities, she has been integral in growing the team's in-game charitable presence through 50/50, jersey raffle, and Chuck-a-Puck sales. She has also

served a supervisory role in the club's charitable foundation matters and merchandise.

Drew Supernor has been promoted to Senior Manager of Brand Development & Merchandise. A Springfield native and Springfield College alumnus, Supernor has grown the Thunderbirds' merchandise revenues each season since the club's inception in 2016 through many unique product lines, such as the team's various specialty night rebrands throughout the year. In 2023-24, the team generated six times greater revenue in merchandise when compared to the final season of the Springfield Falcons in 2015-16. In recognition of his customer service and dedication, Supernor was honored with a 2024 Howdy Award for hospitality excellence this past May.

Lauren Blanchard has been promoted to Senior Account Executive, Groups and Experiences. An Agawam, Mass. native, Blanchard joined the Thunderbirds in 2021 and has set multiple team records for group

tickets, including the most sold for a single game. Thanks to Blanchard's efforts and the entirety of the ticket sales department, the Thunderbirds' group sales revenue has grown 77% over the last six years. The department spearheaded the franchise to the 2021-22 President's Award for AHL Team of the Year. Blanchard was also nominated for a 2024 Howdy Award for hospitality excellence.

Shae Koharski has been promoted to Manager of Social Media & Digital Marketing. A Russell, Mass. native, Koharski has been with the Thunderbirds since 2021. She has exponentially grown Thunderbirds' social media accounts, as the club has eclipsed 80,000 followers across X, Facebook, and Instagram. Her acumen for social media trends has allowed the Thunderbirds' social media to not only provide fun content for fans, but grow the brand in the marketplace while evolving to current trends.

Lucas Armstrong has been promoted to Art Director. An East Amherst, N.Y. native,

Armstrong has been instrumental in creating and implementing the Thunderbirds' graphic design as a "keeper of the brand" since joining the organization in 2019. An industry veteran with over 20 years of experience across professional sports and nationally acclaimed brands, Armstrong's work alongside his creative colleagues was recognized with the AHL's Marketing Campaign of the Year award in 2022 for the club's "We Are 413" tagline.

Steve Brousseau has been promoted to Account Executive, Membership Sales & Service. A Springfield College alumnus and a native of Freeport, Maine, Brousseau joined the team full-time in 2021 after interning for the organization previously. An exemplary builder of relationships with his ticket members, Brousseau will specialize in servicing the Thunderbirds' season ticket members throughout the 2024-25 season as the organization looks to break its season ticket holder record for a ninth consecutive season.

## WSU to hold swimming clinics

WESTFIELD – Westfield State swimming and diving coach Matt Nodell will host a Nike Swim Clinic at the Ely Pool on campus on Sept. 7 and 8.

Saturday, Sept. 7 is for co-ed athletes aged 8-12 years old, while Sunday, Sept. 8 is for athletes in the 13-18 year old age groups.

"Participants can expect to learn and practice drills to help them swim easier and faster," said Nodell. "All is done in a fun and engaging environment with contests and competitions."

The clinics last from 9 a.m. to 12 noon each day, with check in at 8:45 a.m.

The fee for the clinic is \$125 and includes the morning training session, a

camp t-shirt and prizes.

For more information or to register online, visit <https://www.ussports-camps.com/swim/nike/westfield-state-swim-clinic>.

Ely Pool is the home of the Westfield State University Owls women's swimming and diving team. The pool has recently seen upgrades with new starting blocks, an updated team locker room and records board, and features 1 and 3 meter diving boards. Nodell is starting his second season as the head coach of the Owls. He led the team to a fifth-place finish at the Little East Conference championships and a 3-3 mark in dual meets.

## AHS Hall of Fame Committee announces latest inductees

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School Athletic Hall of Fame Committee is pleased to announce the Agawam High School Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2024. This year's class consists of four individuals and two teams.

**J. Bailey Cecchi '14:**  
*Volleyball, Skiing and Soccer*

**Alex "AJ" Efstratios '11:**  
*Football and Basketball*

**Al Ingham '85:**  
*Wrestling, Football and Track & Field*

**Jeff Peterson '88:**  
*Basketball, Football and Track & Field*

**1986 Western Mass Champion Boys Soccer Team**

**1994 Western Mass Champion Girls Basketball Team**

The banquet for this year's class will be held in the Agawam High School Gymnasium on Oct. 19 at 12 noon. Tickets are \$30 and may be purchased by contacting Rosemary Stratton, 120 Pineview Circle, Agawam (413-786-7692).

The Agawam High School Athletic Hall of Fame was created in 2016 to honor the achievements and contributions of Agawam High School athletes, coaches and contributors.

## Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League seeking to start fall league

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to start an eight-game fall program for the over-28 population. The league, which plays a spring/summer regular season with six teams for 15 games followed by playoffs, is hoping to continue the fun into the fall with a short eight-game schedule for interested players.

Preliminary details are still being worked on, but the league is looking to have four teams with six "regular season" games followed by a semifinal in the seventh week, and a final/consolation game in the eighth week.

The league will be a bit more informal than the regular spring/summer league with the goal being for players to have fun playing more baseball, work on field and batting skills through more innings in the field and extra at-bats, or poten-

tially working on or trying out pitching.

As has been traditional in other fall leagues, the Quabbin League will likely be wood-bat only for the fall.

There is an interest form and survey interested players can fill out at [www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org](http://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org). The league is open to all current Quabbin league players as well as players from other leagues who are age 28 and over during the calendar year of 2024.

The league will look to keep the cost very low for the league with preliminary indications having the league in the \$40-50 range to play eight games.

Games will likely be held in the West Springfield, Agawam, Southwick area and are likely to be held on Sunday mornings, though a few games may be held at alternate times. Games are scheduled to begin in September after Labor Day.

### CAMP | from page 10

said. "I also want to keep the kids active. I really don't want them standing around doing nothing. We also talked to the kids about mental health."

Brayden Pacifico, who lives in Wilbraham, had a lot of fun at the baseball camp.

"It's awesome being here with my friends at this baseball camp," said Pacifico, who's a centerfielder. "I've learned a lot about baseball from the coaches, who have a lot of experience. Baseball is my fa-


vorite sport."

Baseball was also Brisson's favorite sport growing up. He was also a swimmer and a wrestler.

"I always tell kids to play multiple sports," Brisson said. "My daughter, Natalie, who's six years old, plays soccer and is a swimmer. We want her to experience everything. A lot of kids who only play one sport get burned out very quickly."

Brisson and his staff are already looking forward to holding the baseball camp again next summer.

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## Heritage Woods to hold Open House Sept. 12

AGAWAM – Heritage Woods Senior Living will be holding an Open House during National Assisted Living Week on Thursday, Sept. 12 from 3 to 6 p.m. at 462 Main Street, Agawam. For more information call 413-786-9704.



## Feline Friends announce next fundraiser dates

AGAWAM – Feline Friends Inc. Cat Sanctuary of Feeding Hills will be holding food/supply drives at Smithland Pet & Garden Center. Our next two donation drives will be Sept. 7 and Oct. 5 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers will be accepting food, litter & monetary donations for our kitties. Opened bags/boxes will also be accepted. Gift cards from various pet stores or Costco would be appreciated.

Smithland, a valued sponsor, is stocked with Friskies Pate or Shreds canned food (single flavored cases preferred), many Fancy Feast varieties and unscented, clumping cat litter. All donations are gratefully accepted. Our donation bin is located near the cash registers.

Other Wish List items: Disinfecting wipes, paper towels, puppy pee pads, dry cat or dog food for strays & colonies.

Thanks to all of our community members who generously donated at our Aug. 3 event. We are so grateful to Joanne L, Cheryl and Carl K, David, Mike, Crystal M, Anna, Beth and Jetty Rose Alice, Ken K and Irene F, Linda K, Joel H, Mark H and Figaro, Esther, Jack and Brady.

We are excited to announce our October Fundraiser raffle entitled Catober Fun. We will be selling chances to win gift cards or baskets on September 7th. Tickets are \$20 each and there are 31 chances to win. Checks or cash will be gratefully accepted (Feline Friends, P.O. Box 174, Feeding Hills

01030) or Pay Pal (Feline Friends Inc) or Venmo (@Feline-Friends).

Just a reminder that we have collection bins at the Agawam Public Library as well as at Smithland in Agawam. Please add your contact information if you would like an acknowledgement.

Feline Friends Inc. is a community-based, nonprofit sanctuary that does not discriminate against any cat based on age, gender or disability.

More information about our sanctuary may be found on our website at [felinefriendsinc.org](http://felinefriendsinc.org) or our Facebook page at Feline Friends Cat Sanctuary. Contact us with questions at [info@felinefriendsinc.org](mailto:info@felinefriendsinc.org) or by phone at 413-786-5019.



Jennifer and Raymond Pronovost from Agawam Rocks set up a stand where kids could rock paint during the art show.



There was an auction for different art pieces so Agawam Community Artists and Artisans could raise funding for scholarships.



The Walking Through History tent had a collection of photos of different historic buildings and sites from Agawam and Feeding Hills.



Artist Shaaban Ndungo set up his own art display at the Agawam Community Artists and Artisans art show.



There was a variety of art displayed both in the hall and under the pavilion at the Polish American Club.



Agawam Rocks had some of their painted rocks, done by artists and kids, on display.



Artist Sarah Marquesen displayed her lovely art.

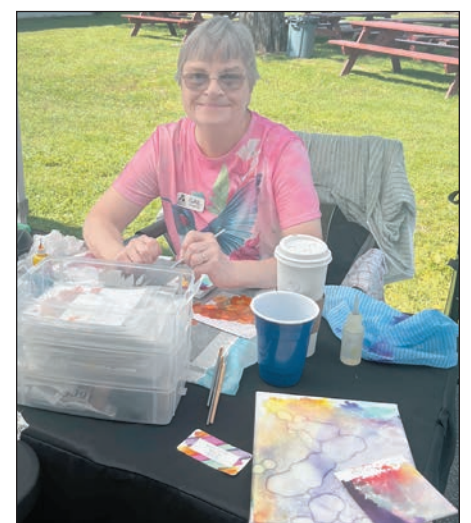
TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA



Artist Carl Thoresen displayed his stunning handmade miniature houses.



Joe and Elaine Toporowski displayed Joe's handmade wooden pieces.



Artist Gail Cortis displayed her lovely paintings for community members to admire and purchase.

### FESTIVAL ■ from page 1

anywhere from water colors to crocheted items. There were over 70 artists and artisans who displayed their work at the show.

"We like to be an inclusive organization and invite everybody, we don't just have fine art paintings," President of ACAA Ceil Rossi said.

There were artists of a variety of ages and cultures. Some artists displayed Moroccan items, others Turkish and there was even one artist that brought art from Tanzania.

"We have kids, we have a student booth," Rossi said. "Also, we're trying to include different cultures from around the world. It's important to have this inclusivity for community bonding."

Also, there was a tent displaying a walk-

through history.

"There are about 50 pictures in there from my artists," Rossi said. "They're all depicting an Agawam or Feeding Hills historical building or site."

The New England Mosaic was also on display at this show, where people could admire small pieces of art made by community members around them.

"The mosaic is the highlight of the show," Rossi said.

Additionally, Agawam Rocks was present so kids could have a chance to paint their own rocks.

Founder of Agawam Rocks Jennifer Pronovost has come to this art show for the past three years.

"When the kids come they can paint a rock pet and do other paint activities," Pronovost said. "We're just here to promote

kindness. We love to meet the artists, there are a lot of people who come to say hi and have fun."

Agawam Rocks is a community organization that supports kids and welcomes them to do activities, such as painting rocks.

They will often put on scavenger hunts where they invite people to try to find rocks that they have painted and were hidden around the community.

To keep up with Agawam Rocks, visit their facebook page Agawam Rocks.

Rossi enjoys putting on this show each year and seeing so many artists from the area come together to display their work.

ACAA donates funds made from this show to the community by way of scholarships to help young people interested in going into the arts.

The artists who attend this each year also love going to this show. They get a chance to display their work and to interact with their community.

"It's a nice place to bring out what you do," Artist Gail Cortis said. "It gives me a lot of pleasure to do this and make people smile."

This art show started at the Thomas Smith House before COVID. At that time it was a smaller show with only about 20 artists.

Then, one day Rossi was driving by the Polish American club and she thought it could be a great venue for the show.

She booked the club for the year of 2022 and since then the show has only grown.

"It has grown from about 50 artists to over 70," Rossi said. "It feels fantastic [to see the growth], absolutely fantastic."

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The Trustees of the Otis Library seek applicants for a **Library Director Position.** The position pays \$21-\$25 per hour commensurate with experience. The Director can expect to work between 25-30 hours per week. An application packet is available by emailing **otislibrary@cwmar.org** or at the **Otis Library at 48 North Main Road, Otis, MA 01253. (413) 269-0109.** The application deadline is September 13, 2024. The Otis Library Board of Trustees is an equal opportunity employer.

**TOWN OF WORTHINGTON HIGHWAY POSITION OPENING**  
The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest from qualified candidates to fill two full-time **Equipment Operator/General Laborer** positions in the Town Highway Department. Valid MA CDL operator, Hydraulic Hoister's licenses and OSHA-10 certification is preferred.

Further information can be found on the Town's website: **www.worthington-ma.us**

Questions will be answered by the Highway Superintendent at 64 Huntington Road, Monday - Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM; the telephone number is 413-238-5830.

Send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to: **worthingtonhighway@gmail.com** or to Worthington Highway Department, P. O. Box 643, Worthington, MA. This posting will remain pertinent until the position is filled. *The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

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**MAGICIAN** ■ from page 1

Saterial emphasized the importance of this kind of interaction throughout his show.

"It makes it more fun for everybody and it helps to hold the children's interest and keep them engaged," Saterial said. "The interaction brings families together. Families get to spend quality time with each other."

He kept kids and their families laughing with the different jokes and silly tricks he performed throughout his show. Saterial enjoys working with kids and their families as they are always so involved and enthusiastic.

"Kids are fun, they keep me on my toes," he said.

Throughout the performance Saterial did a variety of magical tricks, including making doves appear in a cage, placing a card inside a balloon, creating magic wands out of thin air and making a bowling ball appear out of a drawing.

"One of my favorite tricks is a space theme magic trick with astronauts and a space alien and I draw a picture that is animated and comes to life," Saterial said.

Saterial also levitated one of the children in the audience.

This is not Saterial's first time in Agawam, he has been coming to perform over the course of many years. He enjoys returning to this community for his shows.

"It's a friendly and warm community and we usually get a very good turnout from the

public," Saterial said. "It makes it fun."

Saterial has been involved in magic since he was about eight years old. A colleague of his father did magic as a hobby and taught Saterial's father some tricks.

His father showed him the tricks and Saterial gained his interest from there.

"I got bit by the bug and I've been doing it ever since," Saterial said.

Throughout school he would do shows on the weekend and worked to keep learning more and improving his skills. He kept growing and eventually decided to make this his occupation.

"It just kind of evolved to a full time operation," Saterial said.

Saterial offers a variety of performances for people of all ages and settings, both in person and virtually.

"I do everything from family shows like this up to resorts and hotels, private events as well," he said.

He goes to trade shows, holiday parties, schools, libraries and many more locations.

To learn more about Saterial's work, go to his website at <https://www.magic-bygeorge.com/>.

Saterial also has a Facebook page, under the name Magic by George. On this page he even teaches a couple different magic tricks.

This performance was the final one in the KidsFest summer performance series at School Street Park. All of the different shows throughout the summer were a lot of fun for children and their families.



Saterial made two doves appear inside of a previously empty cage.

TURLEY PHOTO BY QUINN SUOMALA

**PROJECT** ■ from page 1

Jim Blain said.

There will be no other areas in the high school impacted by project preparations this school year.

The project is currently in the design development phase, so the project team is working to nail down all of the details of the building plans.

"There are weekly meetings with the architects and school-based leadership along with specific user-groups in order to solidify floor plans for the budget," Blain said.

Different user groups in the building, such as choir and band teachers, the PE staff, classroom teachers, the manufacturing and carpentry shop teachers and the horticulture group.

"For instance, last week we met with our music, band and chorus teachers to go over classroom spaces," Blain said. "We went over basic square footage and what the classrooms would look like."

Each user group will meet throughout September so they can ensure their needs are met in the new building.

Throughout this phase there will also be student focus groups so that students at the high school can put forward their own input as to what they think would be best for the new building.

There will also be weekly meetings with a smaller project team, including the mayor, Blain and a teacher representation, as they bring in different contractors.

This group will report out their findings monthly with the larger MSBA and these meetings will be open to the public and will take place at Agawam Pub-

lic Library.

The user groups will come back in at the end of November or early December as the design development phase comes to a close.

From there the blueprints will be finalized so the project team can prepare to begin construction in June. Construction is estimated to begin a week or so after graduation.

There should not be much impact on the public as construction begins, however exact details are still up in the air.

Blain anticipates that there will be some traffic flow adjustments and some parking may shift.

The tennis courts, the basketball court adjacent to the tennis ball courts, the back baseball field and the main stadium will all remain in use throughout the project.

"There might be walkways or construction fencing to guide people but those will stay online," Blain said.

The softball fields and the practice football fields will go offline at some point throughout the course of construction.

The new community wing will be the first area of the new high school built.

Blain would like to remind community members that the students in the school will be able to remain on campus throughout the construction process, meaning there will be no module classrooms.

To keep updated on the project and to learn when meetings around it take place, go to the project website at <https://agawamhsproject.com/>.

# Public Notices

**AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., Agawam, MA., on **Monday, September 23, 2024 at 7:00PM** for all parties interested in the request of BBB Auto, Inc., who is seeking a Special Permit in accordance with the Town of Agawam Zoning Ordinances Ch. 180-44(D) and Chapter 114-5 to allow the petitioner to seek a Class II auto sales license at the premises identified as 266 Walnut Street.

Doreen A. Prouty  
Chairperson, ZBA  
08/29, 09/05/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD24P1744EA**  
Estate of:  
**Rita Ducharme**  
Also Known As:  
**Rita G. Ducharme,**  
**Rita Grassetti Ducharme**  
Date of Death:  
**May 14, 2024**

**INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Donna M. Ducharme of Agawam, MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

**Donna M. Ducharme of Agawam, MA** 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. 08/29/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758**  
Docket No. HD24P1752EA  
Estate of:  
**Ronald M. Hence**  
Date of Death: 06/28/2024  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Kayla M Duga of Westfield, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Kayla M Duga of Westfield, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your

attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/16/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: August 19, 2024  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**,  
Register of Probate  
08/29/2024

**Legal Notice**  
Notice is hereby given by Langanet 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.  
**2006 Mazda 3**  
VIN: JM1BK344161530126  
Juan Manuel Rucci-Lopez  
31 Dwight Street, Apt. 1  
New Britain, CT 06051  
08/15, 08/22, 08/29/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758**  
Docket No. HD24C0268CA

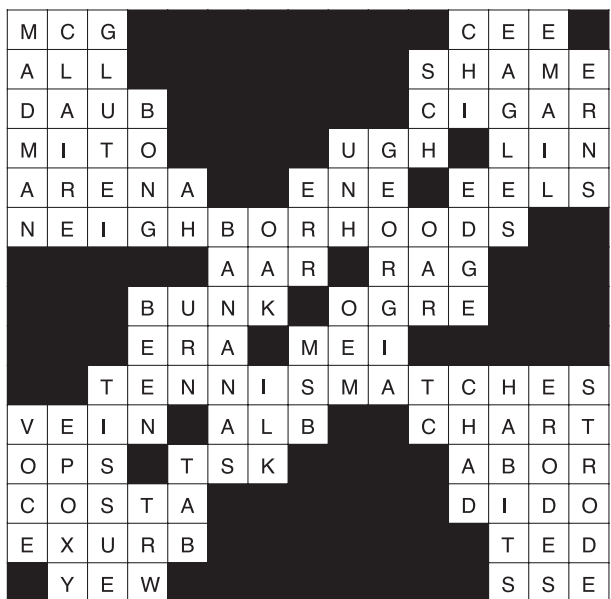
**In the matter of: Carla Michelle Nieves Rodriguez CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**  
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Carla Michelle Nieves Rodriguez of Agawam, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:  
**Carla Michelle Nieves De Diaz**  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/18/2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.  
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: August 20, 2024  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
08/29/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court**

**Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758**  
Docket No. HD24C0265CA  
**In the matter of: Franzuas Luz St. Peter CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**  
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Franzuas Luz St. Peter of Feeding Hills, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:  
**Franzuas Luz Madera**  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/18/2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.  
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: August 15, 2024  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
08/29/2024



## EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of Labor Day,  
**Public Notices & Classifieds**  
EARLY AD DEADLINE  
Place your public notice  
no later than 12 noon  
**Friday, August 30**  
- Thank you!

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